

CURRENT AFFAIRS



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2022**



HAPPY ACADEMY



PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of February 2022.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Events

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with the Daily Study of News Papers as well as your other sources.



Index

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

Page no 03 to 86

Important Days	Page 04
Agreements	Page 09
Appointments	Page 15
Awards	Page 22
Banking	Page 26
Books and Author	Page 29
Defence	Page 33
Economy	Page 36
International	Page 40
Miscellaneous	Page 44
National	Page 48
Obituaries	Page 52
Ranks & Reports	Page 58
Schemes and Committees	Page 63
Science & Technology	Page 69
Sports	Page 74
State	Page 78
Summit & Conferences	Page 83

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

Page no 87 to 115

Practice Questions	Page 88
Answers	Page 105

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important events

Page no 116 to 165

Economics	Page 117
Enviro & Diversity	Page 129
Governance	Page 133
History	Page 136
International Relation	Page 139
Polity	Page 141
Science, Tech, Art & Culture	Page 145
Security Issues	Page 160
Trivia	Page 164

SECTION 1



Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



1: Important Days



Indian Coast Guard Day : 01 February :-

Indian Coast Guard is celebrating its 46th Raising Day on 01 Feb 2022. Since its inception, ICG has grown into a formidable force with 156 ships and 62 aircraft in its inventory and it is likely to achieve targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025. As the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, the Indian Coast Guard has played a significant role in securing the Indian coasts and enforcing regulations within the maritime zones of India. Relevant to its motto "Vayam Rakshamah" meaning "We Protect", the service has to its credit saving over 10,000 lives and apprehending around 14,000 miscreants since inception in 1977.



World Wetlands Day : 02 February :-

World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2. It is celebrated to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet. This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. 2 February 2022 is the first year that World Wetlands Day will be observed as a United Nations international day, following its adoption by the General Assembly on 30 August 2021 in a resolution co-sponsored by 75 member states. The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2022 is 'Wetlands Action for People and Nature'.



World Cancer Day : 04 February :-

Annually, February 4 is observed as World Cancer Day in order to raise awareness about cancer and reduce the stigma that surrounds the disease that is the second leading cause of deaths globally. World Cancer Day was first established at the World Cancer Summit Against Cancer for the New Millennium held in Paris, on February 4, 2000. The observance of World Cancer Day is centred around reducing the global impact that cancer has and in providing support for cancer patients and survivors through catalysing personal, collective and government action. The theme of this year is 'Close the care gap'.



International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation : 06 February :-

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed on February 6, to spread awareness and educate people about the problems females faced due to genital mutilation. The main aim of the day is to end Female Genital Mutilation in one decade and it will require support from every quarter especially youth. This year, the theme of International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, is "Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation."



International Development Week :-

The goal of International Development Week (IDW) is to raise awareness about international development and to highlight the significant contributions that Canadians are making around the world through partnerships. IDW

honours Canadian contributions to poverty eradication and the creation of a more peaceful, inclusive, and affluent world through hundreds of activities around the country and overseas. Since 1991, IDW has been a distinctive Canadian event, taking place every year during the first full week of February. IDW will be held from February 6 to 12 this year.



Safer Internet Day : 08 February :-

Safer Internet Day is observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with an aim to provide safer and better internet, where every user gets to use the internet responsibly and without getting their data leaked. Safer Internet Day helps us to remind that Internet security is something that demands constant vigilance. This year marks the 19th edition of Safer Internet Day with actions taking place right across the globe. This year, the theme is "Together for a better internet".



International Day of Women and Girls in Science : 11 February :-

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed on February 11 every year. It was executed by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and UN-Women in collaboration institutions and civil society partners that aim to promote the participation of women and girls in science. The theme of the International day of women and girls in science 2022 is "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us".



Darwin Day : 12 February :-

Charles Darwin was a biologist and naturalist who is known for his theory of evolution. On 12 February, Darwin Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Charles Darwin and his significant contributions in the field of science and humanity. The Darwin day is celebrated to inspire people all over the world to reflect the importance of the scientific thinking, works, curiosity to find new things, hunger for truth etc. of Charles Darwin.



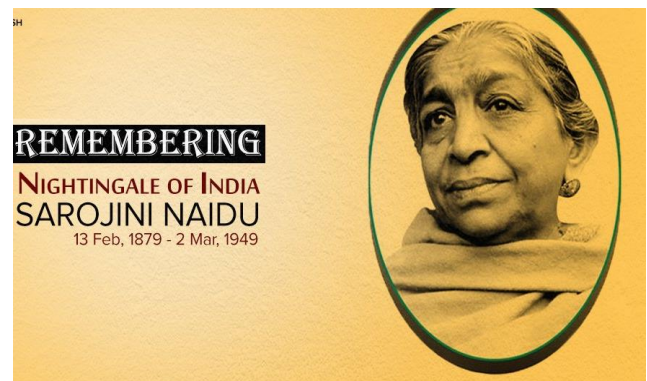
National Productivity Day : 12 February :-

National Productivity Day is observed on 12 February annually to increase the productivity culture in India. It is celebrated by the National Productivity Council (NPC). The main objective of the celebration is to encourage stakeholders in implementing productivity tools and techniques. It is a national-level organisation that promotes production in India. It is established in 1958 by the Ministry of Industry, Government of India.



World Radio Day : 13 February :-

World Radio Day is observed on February 13 every year to celebrate one of the oldest and most widely consumed mediums of communication. First proclaimed by the member states of UNESCO in 2011 and later adopted internationally by the UN General Assembly in 2012, the objective of World Radio Day is to promote the medium, increase accessibility, and encourage more people to use it.



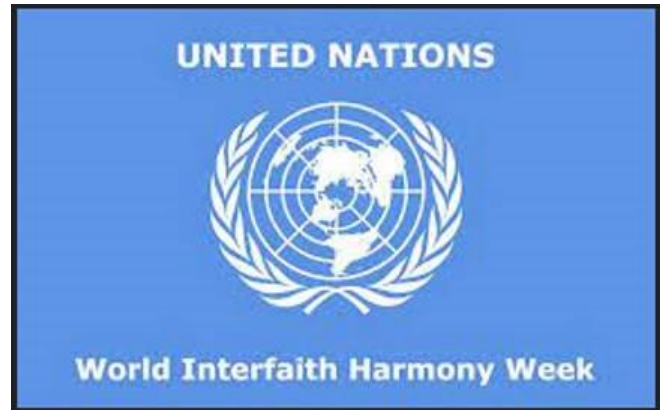
Sarojini Naidu Birth Anniversary : 13 February :-

One of the most prominent figures in India's freedom struggle, Sarojini Naidu was a political activist and poet. Sarojini was born in a Bengali family in Hyderabad on 13 February, 1879 and was eventually drawn towards Indian National Congress' movement to liberate India from the British. She went on to become a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and was subsequently appointed President of the Indian National Congress in 1925. After India gained independence in 1947, Naidu was appointed as the governor of the United Provinces, which is today known as Uttar Pradesh. With her appointment, she became India's first woman governor.



World Marriage Day : 13 February :-

World Marriage day is observed on the second Sunday of February each year. It is funded by World Marriage Encounter, an American organization, in association with Catholic Marriage Encounter. The purpose of World Marriage Day is to honor husband & wife as the backbone of a family, the basic building block of society. It celebrates the grace of their loyalty, sacrifice and bliss in their marital life.



World Interfaith Harmony Week: 1-7 February :-

World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February, after General Assembly designation in 2010. The General Assembly pointed out that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace and established World Interfaith Harmony Week as a way to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith. Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people, the General Assembly encourages all Member Countries to spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world.



World Day of Social Justice : 20 February :-

World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on 20 February to encourage people to see how social justice affects poverty eradication. The main aim of this day is to achieve full employment and support for social integration. This day tackle issues like poverty, exclusion, and unemployment. The theme this year of the World Day of Social Justice is "Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment".



International Mother Language Day : 21 February :-

International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on the 21st of February and the purpose of this day is to raise awareness of language, cultural diversity and multilingualism around the world. The reason why International Mother Language Day falls on 21st February is that, in 1952, four young students were killed in Bangladesh during a protest because of a Bengali and Urdu language controversy. After this unfortunate incident and many years of unrest, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) decided to make International Mother Language Day an annual event, celebrated around the world.



Central Board of Excise and Customs

Central Excise Day : 24 February :-

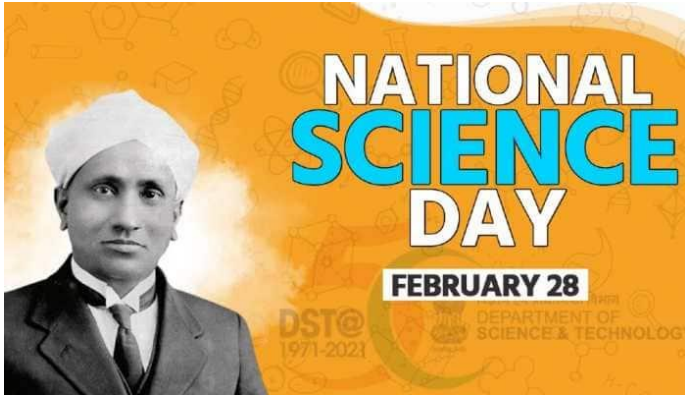
Central Excise Day is celebrated on February 24th every year across India. Central Excise Day is celebrated every year to commemorate the legislation of the Central Excise and Salt act on 24 February 1944. The Central Excise Day is being celebrated to honour the service of the Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC) officers to the country. Central Excise Day is celebrated annually to honour the immense contribution of the CBEC to the nation's revenue as a whole.



World NGO Day : 27 February :-

World NGO Day is annually observed on February 27 to celebrate, commemorate and collaborate with various NGOs around the world. The day aims to inspire people to become actively involved with NGOs, both in the public and private sectors. It also aims to educate individuals worldwide on NGOs and their impact. This day provides an opportunity to honour and remember

NGO founders, employees, volunteers, members and supporters.



National Science Day: 28 February :-

National Science Day is celebrated to commemorate the discovery of Raman Effect by Nobel laureate, physicist CV Raman on this day in 1928. In 1986, the National Council for Science & Technology asked the Government of India to designate February 28 as National Science Day. Since 1987, the event is now celebrated all over the country in schools, colleges, universities and other academic, scientific, technical, medical and research institutions. The theme of National Science Day 2022 is 'Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future'.

2: Agreements



MobiKwik launches 'ClickPay' in collaboration with NBBL :-

MobiKwik, one of India's largest mobile wallets and Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) Fintech companies launched 'ClickPay' for its customers, in collaboration with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India. This feature enables MobiKwik customers to pay recurring online bills (such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance, and loan EMIs) with ease by eliminating the need to remember individual bill details and due dates.



Yes Mutual Fund Renamed As White Oak Capital Mutual Fund :-

The names of YES Mutual Fund schemes have been changed to WhiteOak Capital schemes as YES AMC is now a WhiteOak group company. The White Oak Capital group provides investment management and advisory services for Indian equity investors. Aashish P Somaiyaa, CEO of WhiteOak Capital tweeted: "Effective Jan 12, 2022, the YES Asset Management name stands changed to WhiteOak Capital Asset Management and YES Mutual Fund will now be called WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund."



Jio tie-up with Finland's University of Oulu to accelerate 6G research :-

Finland's University of Oulu and Jio Estonia will collaborate for exploring opportunities in 6G and beyond extending digitization through unique capabilities such as cell-free MIMO, intelligent surfaces and higher capacities through Terahertz frequencies. The university and Reliance Jio said in a statement 20 January, that the collaboration will foster entrepreneurship by bringing together a world-class pool of expertise from both industry and academia.



Fullerton India partners with Paytm to expand digital lending to MSMEs :-

Paytm and non-banking financial company Fullerton India have announced a partnership to expand digital lending to MSMEs and consumers from smaller cities and towns. With this partnership, the fintech users will get

Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later) feature on the Paytm platform. Besides, the partnership is set to offer lending products like merchant loans. Further, the two companies have promised to expand their products offering by including instant personal loans.



Himachal Pradesh and Haryana govts tie-up for construction of Adi Badri Dam :-

The governments of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh has entered into an agreement to build a dam at Adi Badri in Yamunanagar district, which, among others, will rejuvenate the mythical Saraswati river. Adi Badri, situated in Haryana near the Himachal Pradesh border, is believed to be the river's origin point. Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal and Himachal Pradesh Chief Secretary Ram Subhag Singh signed the MoU on behalf of the respective state governments for the construction of the Adi Badri Dam.



TerraPay tie-up with NPCI International to boost cashless transactions :-

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said its international payments arm NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has signed a memorandum of

understanding with TerraPay, Netherlands-based global payments infrastructure company to allow Indians with an active UPI ID to receive real-time, international payments into their bank accounts via TerraPay's secure payments technology. In December last year, NIPL had tied up Western Union to enable real-time bank account payout in India.



Meta tie-up with FICCI to support 5 lakh women-owned SMBs across India :-

Meta said that it has partnered with FICCI to enable and support 5 lakh women-led small businesses across India under its #SheMeansBusiness programme. The announcement was made during Meta's inaugural National Women Entrepreneurship Summit to encourage industry dialogue around supporting the MSMEs across sectors. Access to capital and relevant digital tools remain the leading issues faced by women led businesses, the company said.



India tie-up with Israel to convert 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' :-

India and Israel will work together to create 150 'Villages of Excellence' that will help farmers to adopt latest

technology in the farm sector. The 150 villages that are located around Centres of Excellence (CoEs) will be converted into 'Villages of Excellence, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said in a statement. "Out of which, 75 villages are being taken up in the first year to commemorate the 75th year of India's Independence, where both countries will work together," Tomar said.



SBI Tie-Up With Tata Power For Financing Solar Projects :-

State Bank of India (SBI) said it has entered into an agreement with Tata Power Solar Systems for financing of solar projects. The lender has also set up a dedicated centralized processing cell - 'Surya Shakti Cell', at the Ballard Estate in Mumbai, a press release said. The cell will process all the loan applications for solar projects (capacity up to 1 MW) sourced from across the country, for installation by business entities as well as households.



Vedanta tied up with Union Bank of India to take over syndicated facility :-

Metal and mining giant Vedanta Ltd said it has tied up a facility of ₹8,000 crore with Union Bank of India to take over majority of the syndicated facility after discussions with lenders. Vedanta Limited, in its normal course of business, conducts proactive liability management exercise to achieve optimal capital structure, it said, adding that in this direction, the company continues to explore all options to increase its debt maturity profile and reduce its interest cost.



Kotak General Ins. partners CARS24 to offer Motor Insurance for used cars :-

Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company has entered into a Corporate Agency agreement with Cars24 Financial Services Private Limited (CARS24 Financial Services), the financial arm and subsidiary e-commerce platform for pre-owned vehicles, Cars24. Through this association, Cars24, as a Corporate Agent of Kotak General Insurance, will extend Motor insurance services to its consumers that will fully insure their vehicles with Kotak General Insurance's comprehensive motor insurance plans.



SBI tie-up with Ministry of Culture for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design :-

A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between State Bank of India, Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts and National Culture Fund for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, Delhi. NCF approached State Bank of India to support the project, SBI has agreed to sponsor the project under CSR with a contribution of Rs. 10 crore for the implementation of ABCD Project. Through this initiative, Economic Value Addition to GI products is envisioned and can pave way for GI products from India towards a success story of Atmanirbhar Bharat.



LIC tie-up with Policybazaar for digital distribution of life insurance :-

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has tied up with insurance aggregator Policybazaar.com for distribution of its products. This is LIC's first association with an insurance aggregator, and otherwise relies heavily on its

large agency force of 1.33 million agents for distributing its products. In a statement, Policybazaar.com said they have joined hands with LIC to offer a wide range of term and investment products to consumers.



ICICI lombard tie-up with Airtel Payments Bank for Cyber Insurance :-

Digital payments bank Airtel Payments Bank has joined hands with private insurer ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company to provide cyber insurance solutions to customers on its platform in a bid to check online frauds related to banking and other similar processes. In a statement released, the companies said that the move will benefit those who are engaged in online payments, which have seen a surge over the past few years.



Sonata Software tie-up with Microsoft for its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud' :-

Sonata Software, a global IT Services and Technology Solutions Company, partners with Microsoft in its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail', further strengthening its offerings to the retail industry. For over three decades,

Sonata Software has been a partner with Microsoft, delivering high quality products and services based on Microsoft's offerings. The 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' collaboration is expected to further strengthen that relationship.



Reliance Jio Ties Up With SES For Satellite-Based Broadband Service :-

Reliance Jio has announced its venture in satellite-based broadband communication with a tie up with Luxembourg-based firm SES. The partnership will enable Jio to offer next generation affordable and scalable broadband services in India leveraging satellite technology, it said. The two companies will form a joint venture with Jio Platforms Ltd and SES owning 51 per cent and 49 per cent stake, respectively.



RBL Bank Tie-Up With Creditas Solutions For 'Neo Collections' Platform :-

Private sector lender RBL Bank has announced a partnership with Creditas Solutions, a global technology company in the field of delinquency management, for its 'Neo Collections' platform. RBL Bank will utilise the SaaS-based (software as a service) platform to accelerate efficiency in collections across the loan cycle. It will enable the bank to offer its customers a convenient, seamless and a non-intrusive repayment experience.



Paisabazaar & RBL Bank Joined Hands To Offer 'Paisa On Demand' Credit Card :-

Paisabazaar.com, a digital consumer lending platform, has partnered with RBL Bank to offer "Paisa on Demand" (PoD), a credit card. The credit card will only be available on the Paisabazaar platform. According to a press release, RBL Bank's credit card will be free for life with a digital onboarding process. In addition to the features of a credit card, the product offers customers the opportunity to use personal loans from RBL Bank, using the same credit limit at normal personal loan interest rates.



Tata Power Collaborated With RWE To Develop Offshore Wind Projects :-

Tata Power said it has collaborated with Germany-based RWE Renewable GmbH to explore potential for a joint development of offshore wind projects in India. A corresponding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Tata Power, which is one of India's largest integrated power companies, and RWE Renewables GmbH, one of the world's leaders in offshore wind, a Tata Power statement has said.



India And France Sign Roadmap On Blue Economy :-

To enhance their bilateral exchanges on the blue economy and forge a common vision of ocean governance based on the rule of law and cooperate on sustainable and resilient coastal and waterways infrastructure India and France have inked a roadmap. The roadmap scope will encompass maritime trade, marine biodiversity, marine eco-tourism, inland waterways, cooperation between competent administrations on civil maritime issues, marine spatial planning as well as international law of the sea and related multilateral negotiations. The agreement was signed during External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's three-day visit to France which began on February 20 with bilateral talks with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian.

3: Appointments



Youtuber Prajakta Koli become India's first UNDP Youth Climate Champion :-

Content creator and actress Prajakta Koli has become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion under her partnership with the organisation. The title has been conferred to her following her contribution towards mental health, women's rights and girl child education through various global social campaigns. UNDP aims to eliminate poverty, achieve sustainable growth and scale up human development in countries where it is required the most.



Govt appoints Vinodanand Jha as new chairperson to PMLA Adjudicating Authority :-

Vinodanand Jha, a 1983-batch retired IRS officer has been appointed as the chairperson of the PMLA Adjudicating Authority located in the national capital, an official order said. Jha has been serving as the Member (Finance and Accounts) in the Authority since September 2018. He was appointed to this post after he retired from service as the principal chief commissioner of Income Tax in Pune. An order issued by the Union Finance Ministry on January 20 said Jha's appointment to the post of chairperson will be till the completion of his tenure on June 22 next year.



Govt appoints Anantha Nageswaran as chief economic advisor :-

Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran, an academic and former executive with Credit Suisse Group AG and Julius Baer Group, has been appointed as the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Government of India. He succeeds former CEA KV Subramanian who returned to academia at the end of his 3-year tenure in December. His appointment comes at a time whilst India's financial system is showing signs of recovery, however faces a few fresh demanding situations because of the effect of the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Pushp Kumar Joshi named to be new chairman and MD of HPCL :-

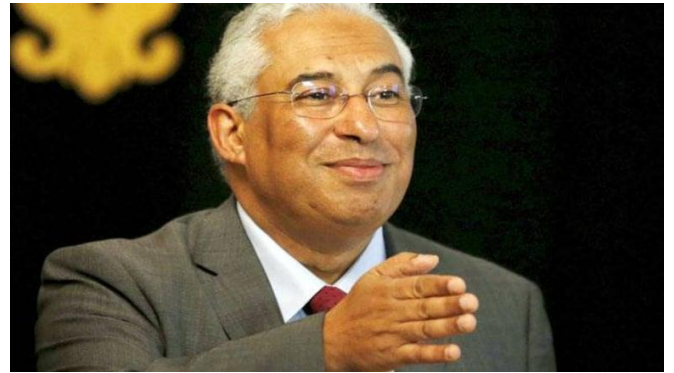
Pushp Kumar Joshi has been picked by government headhunter PESB to be the new chairman and managing director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), the nation's third largest oil refining and fuel marketing company. Joshi, who is currently Director - Human Resources at HPCL - was picked after PESB interviewed 10 candidates, the headhunter said in a notice.



NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg to head Norway central bank :-

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg will become Norway's new central bank chief, the government said, despite opposition worries that the appointment of the former prime minister could weaken Norges Bank's independence. While the job is open from March 1, Stoltenberg has said he would first serve out his term at

NATO, which runs until September 30. Norges Bank separately said it expects the new governor to take over on or around December 1 this year. Stoltenberg will be in charge of setting interest rates and manage financial stability as well as overseeing Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest with assets of \$1.4 trillion.



Antonio Costa re-elected as Prime Minister of Portugal :-

Portugal has voted for the ruling Socialists' as they secured a majority by winning 117 seats in the 230-seat parliament. The win gives ruling Portuguese prime minister Antonio Costa an absolute majority to govern solo. His government called a snap election where many expected that Costa's party could gain an absolute majority. According to Portuguese news agency, Costa's party received 42% of the votes out of the 99.13% of the votes counted.



Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi Joins As Director General, NIELIT :-

Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi has joined as Director General of National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT). National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. Before joining NIELIT, Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi was working as Professor with Delhi Technological University (DTU), New Delhi. In DTU he also worked as Director Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Coordinator of Intellectual Property Rights Cell.



JNU Vice-Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar named as new Chairman of UGC :-

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar was appointed as chairman of higher education regulator University Grants Commission (UGC). In a notification, the Union education ministry said that Kumar has been appointed for five years from the date of the assumption of charge or until he turns 65 or till further orders, whichever is the earliest. The appointment comes amid changes in the higher education sector with the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.



Ravi Mittal named as new Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India :-

Ravi Mittal, former secretary at the Department of Sports, is likely to take over as the chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), according to a note privately circulated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The IBBI is a regulatory institution set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for enforcing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. The board regulates corporate insolvency and resolution processes. It also regulates insolvency professionals and information utilities.



GoI named Sonali Singh as Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on add. charge :-

The centre has given the charge the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance to Sonali Singh, Additional Controller General

of Accounts, after superannuation of Dipak Dash. An office memorandum from the finance ministry said that Singh shall function as head of the organization of Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in the same capacity as Additional Controller General of Accounts with effect from 01.02.2022.



IndiGo's co-founder Rahul Bhatia named as first MD of the company :-

InterGlobe Aviation-run IndiGo has appointed its co-founder and promoter Rahul Bhatia as the company's managing director with immediate effect. The board of directors, during its meeting, unanimously approved the appointment of Bhatia as the managing director with immediate effect, subject to the approval of the shareholders, according to a statement.



Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani named as new NCERT director :-

Professor of history, Dinesh Prasad Saklani has been appointed as the new director of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). "The Central government has appointed Dinesh Prasad Saklani as director of NCERT for a period of five years or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is the earliest," said a senior MoE official. Saklani is a professor with the department of history, ancient Indian history, culture and archaeology at HNB Garhwal University, Uttarakhand. He is also the director of the Chauras Campus of the university.



Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit named as first woman Vice Chancellor of JNU :-

The Ministry of Education has appointed Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit as the vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, making her the first woman to hold the post. She is currently a political science professor at the Department of Politics and Public Administration at Savitribai Phule University in Maharashtra. The 59-year-old Pandit is also an alumna of JNU where she pursued her MPhil as well as PhD in International Relations.



S R Narasimhan takes additional charge as CMD POSOCO :-

S. R. Narasimhan, Director (System Operation) has assumed the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) with immediate effect on 1st February 2022 at New Delhi. Narasimhan has a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and Master's in Business Administration (MBA) in Finance. He has over three decades' experience in Power System Operation spread across CEA, POWERGRID and POSOCO after an initial stint with BHEL.



Dr Unnikrishnan Nair Named As New Director Of VSSC :-

Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair has been appointed as the new director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC). He will be replacing S Somanath, who has taken over as chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro). Unnikrishnan Nair is currently the director of the Human Space Flight Centre. He will continue to hold this charge too. A native of Kothanalloor, Kottayam, Unnikrishnan Nair is a B.Tech (Mechanical Engg) from Kerala University. He has also acquired M.E (Aerospace Engg) from IISc, Bangalore and is a PhD holder of IIT Madras, Chennai.



Munishwar Nath Bhandari Took Charge As The New Chief Justice Of Madras High Court :-

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi administered oath of office to Madras High Court Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Raj Bhavan. Hailing from Rajasthan, he is the 32nd Indian Chief Justice of the High Court and 43rd Chief Justice if the 11 British Chief Justices since August 15, 1862 are also taken into consideration. After the swearing in ceremony, Advocate General R. Shunmugasundaram welcomed the Chief Justice at an official function organised by the Registry on the High Court campus and said the latter had achieved a very high distinction in his legal career by becoming the Chief Justice of the second oldest High Court.



N Chandrasekaran Reappointed As Chairman Of Tata Sons :-

The board of Tata Sons Ltd, the holding company and promoter of \$110 billion Tata group companies, has reappointed Natarajan Chandrasekaran as Executive Chairman for another five years. "At its meeting on February 11, 2022, the board of Tata Sons reviewed the last five years and considered the reappointment of its Executive Chairman N Chandrasekaran," it said in a statement. Tata Trusts, headed by Ratan Tata, holds a majority 66 per cent stake in Tata Sons.



Germany Re-Elects President Frank-Walter Steinmeier For Second Term :-

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was re-elected for a second term of five years by a special parliamentary assembly. Steinmeier had been endorsed by most mainstream political parties ahead of the

election for the largely ceremonial head of state. The president was elected with a big majority by a special assembly made up of the members of parliament's lower house and representatives of Germany's 16 states.



Ilker Ayci Named As MD And CEO Of Air India :-

The Tata Group has appointed Ilker Ayci — former Turkish Airlines Chairman — as Air India's Managing Director and CEO effective on or before April 1. The development is in line with the Tata Group's plans to appoint an expatriate chief to run the airline it took over from the Indian government last month. Ilker Ayci was chairman of Turkish Airlines since 2015, and his resignation from the post was announced by the airline on January 27 this year — the same day Tatas were handed over Air India by the Centre.



Gita Mittal Appointed As Chairperson Of Committee Of Administrators To Run TTFI :-

The Delhi High Court has appointed former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal as the

chairperson of the Committee of Administrators to discharge the functions of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI). Justice Rekha Palli, in its detailed order, appointed former Jammu and Kashmir High Court judge justice Gita Mittal as chairperson and Chetan Mittal, Senior Advocate and SD Mudgil, a renowned athlete as a member of the committee.



IAS Officer Vineet Joshi Named As Chairman Of CBSE :-

Vineet Joshi, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Education, has been assigned the post of CBSE Chairman, officials said. The development comes after former CBSE chairman Manoj Ahuja resigned from his post after being appointed OSD at the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Joshi, an IAS officer from the 1992-batch Manipur cadre, previously served as Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). He is also Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA).



Institute Of Economic Growth Named Chetan Ghate As Its New Director :-

The Institute of Economic Growth has appointed Chetan Ghate as the brand new director succeeding Ajit Mishra. Ghate, who became a member of the Reserve Bank of India's first monetary policy committee between 2016-2020, is the winner of the 2014 Mahalanobis Memorial gold medal for the best research economist in the country below the age of 45. He has a Ph.D in economics from Claremont Graduate University, California in 1999. His studies areas include macroeconomics, monetary economics, economic growth and the Indian macro-economy.



Takuya Tsumura Appointed As New President & CEO Of Honda Cars India :-

Japanese auto major Honda said it has appointed Takuya Tsumura as the new President and CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) with effect from April 1, 2022. The appointment comes as part of the management changes announced annually by Honda Motor Co Ltd. Tsumura, 54, will take over from Gaku Nakanishi, who moves from India to regional headquarters in Asia and Oceania region - Asian Honda as General Manager, Automobile Business for the region.



Centre Nominates Sanjay Malhotra As A Director Of Central Board Of RBI :-

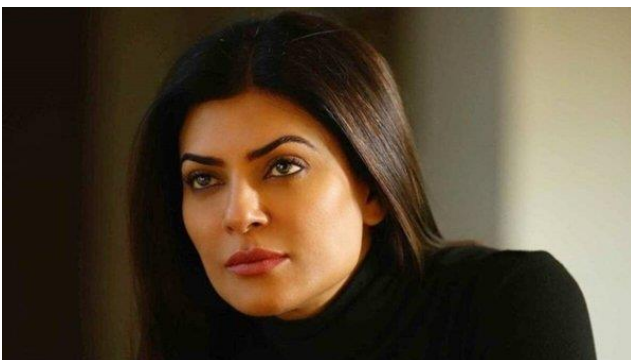
The Centre has nominated Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The nomination of Malhotra, a 1990 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, is effective from February 16, 2022 and until further orders, RBI said in a statement. This position fell vacant just a day ahead of the presentation of the Union Budget following Debashish Panda failed to get an extension after completing his tenure.



K.N. Raghavan Named As New Chairman Of International Rubber Study Group :-

In a significant achievement, K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Indian Rubber Board, has been elected the new Chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG), an intergovernmental organisation of natural and synthetic rubber producing and consuming countries. Mr.Raghavan will officiate as Chairman of the group for the next two years. He will preside over the meeting of the heads of delegation scheduled for March 31 at Singapore. India, being both a producer and a consumer of rubber, will be in a good position to protect the interests of both producers and consumers in the IRSG.

4: Awards



Sushmita Sen wins International Association of Working Women Award :-

Sushmita Sen-starrer Aarya Season 2 is currently streaming on Disney+ Hotstar. Directed by Ram Madhvani, the series has garnered rave reviews from fans and critics alike. Sushmita Sen reprised the role in the sequel to the action-drama and has been praised for her performance. Now, the actress has earned global recognition by winning the International Association of Working Women Award for outstanding performance by a female actor in a television series presented by DC South Asian Film Festival 2021.



Former Japan PM Shinzo Abe Given Netaji Award 2022 :-

Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by Netaji Research Bureau on 23 January. Consul General of Japan in Kolkata Nakamura Yutaka received the honour on behalf of Abe at a function at the Elgin Road residence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary. Japanese Ambassador to India Satoshi Suzuki addressed the programme virtually from New Delhi.



International Cricket Council Announced ICC Awards 2021 :-

On 23 January, the International Cricket Council (ICC) named the winners of their yearly awards. Notably, these awards honour players for their performances for their respective national side in a year. The apex international cricket governing body has named the winners in the different categories such as: Emerging Cricketer of the

Year, T20I Cricketer of the Year and Associate Cricketer of the Year for both men's and women's cricket. Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan was named the Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year. Similarly, England star Tammy Beaumont bagged the Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year award.



29 Children Awarded Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022 :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24 January interacted with the winners of Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022 and presented digital certificates to them in a virtual event. A total of 29 children have been conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar this year for their achievements in innovation (7), social service (4), scholastic (1), sports (8), art and culture (6) and bravery (3). There are 15 boys and 14 girls among the awardees belonging to 21 states and union territories.



India's Koozhangal gets the best film award at Dhaka International Film Festival :-

During the recently concluded 20th Dhaka International Film Festival in Dhaka, Indian movie Koozhangal won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition category. The film was helmed by P S Vinothraj. Apart from this, four more Indian entries were included among the 17 awards given away for the films during the concluding session of the film festival. Indian actor Jayasurya won the best actor award for the Ranjith Sankar-directed film 'Sunny'. Further, the best script writer award was given to Indranil Roychowdhury and Sugata Sinha for India-Bangladesh film Mayar Jonjal. The movie was directed by Indranil Roychowdhury.



Assam government awarded 'Asom Baibhav Award' to Ratan Tata :-

Assam Government has conferred the highest civilian award of the state, 'Asom Baibhav' to industrialist Ratan Tata on January 24 in Guwahati. Assam Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi, Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma were present at the ceremony. Expressing his gratitude, Tata in a statement thanked Assam Chief Minister for the honour and said, he have been an admirer of Sarma's personal commitment to the wellbeing of the Assamese.



Ministry Of Home Affairs Padma Awards 2022 Announced :-

The Union ministry of home affairs announced the Padma awards on the eve of the country's 73rd Republic Day on 25 January. Among the notable names, India's first chief of defence staff (CDS) – the late General Bipin Rawat – was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan, while Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra was among Padma Shri recipients. Key names from Big Tech, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai, were named as Padma Bhushan recipients, according to the Padma awards list issued by the government.



J&K Police Bags Highest 115 Police Medals For Gallantry :-

The Centre on 25 January introduced 939 police medals at the eve of the Republic Day 2022. According to the Union Home Ministry's announcement, out of 939 medals, 189 had been granted for gallantry that is Police

Medal for Gallantry (PMG), 88 for Distinguished Service (PPM) and 662 for Meritorious Services (PM). The Jammu & Kashmir Police has bagged the best wide variety of medals. Out of 189, a hundred and fifteen Police Medals for Gallantry had been provided to the Jammu & Kashmir Police for their braveness and valour.



Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve Bags TX2 Award :-

Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) in Erode district has been given the distinguished TX2 award after its tiger numbers doubled to eighty since 2010. Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuary became declared a tiger reserve in 2013. The reserve is spread across 1,411.60 sq km and is an crucial link among the Nilgiris and Eastern Ghats landscape. The initiative is funded via way of means of the Union Govt. of India and administrated under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.



PR Sreejesh Wins World Games Athlete Of The Year Award 2021 :-

Veteran Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who was a part of the men's team that claimed a bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics, received the distinguished World Games Athlete of the Year for his 2021 performances, becoming only the second Indian to acquire the accolade. Sreejesh became the first man and second hockey player to win the award, following in the footsteps of compatriot and India women's captain Rani, who took the 2019 prize, the FIH said in a release.



NHRC Short Film Award Scheme

Telugu short film 'Street Student' wins NHRC's Short Film Award Competition :-

A Telugu short film depicting the story of a street boy with a strong message on right to education has bagged the first prize in a competition organised by the National Human Rights Comments (NHRC), the rights body said. In a statement, the NHRC said it had received a "record 190 entries" from people from various parts of the country. 'Street Student' by Akula Sandeep has been selected for the first prize worth Rs 2 lakh in the seventh Short Film Award Competition. It is in Telugu with subtitles in English, the statement said.



Rishabh Pant Won ESPNcricinfo 'Test Batting Award' 2021 :-

India's keeper-batter Rishabh Pant won top 'Test batting' award for his series-winning knock of 89 against Australia in Brisbane last year while New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was adjudged 'Captain of the Year' at the 15th Annual ESPNcricinfo awards. The Test bowling award went to Kyle Jamieson for his 5 for 31, which helped New Zealand become the first World Test champions. Pant steered India to an unlikely victory in the dying moments of play in the final Test, taking them to a 2-1 series win.



Coal India Gets 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' Award :-

Coal India Limited, a Maharatna company of the Government of India, has been awarded the 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award. Coal India received this honor at the "Energy Meet and Excellence Award" function organized by Industry Chamber "ASSOCHAM" in Kolkata. The company has got this honor at a time when Coal India has not allowed the situation of power crisis in the country by significantly increasing coal production and supply in the last few months to meet the increased demand for coal for the power sector.

5: Banking



Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched 'Platina Fixed Deposit' Scheme :-

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched Platina Fixed Deposit, which offers interest of 15 basis points in addition to the regular Ujjivan SFB term deposit rates. The general FD for 990 days tenure gives 6.75% for general citizens and 7.50% for senior citizens, but Platina FD offers 15 bps over and above these interest rates, as per the company. However, it comes with certain conditions. The minimum FD amount is ₹20 lakh and the maximum amount is less than ₹2 crore.



Govt notifies amalgamation of PMC Bank with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd :-

The central government has approved the proposed merger of debt-ridden Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank with Unity Small Finance Bank (USFB), stated the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 24 January. "The Government of India has today sanctioned and notified the Scheme for the amalgamation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Ltd. (PMC Bank) with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd. (USFBL)," the central bank said in a statement. All the branches of the PMC Bank will function as branches of Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd. with effect from this date, January 25, 2022, RBI further stated.



City Union Bank launches fitness watch debit card in tie-up with GOQii :-

City Union Bank, in association with GOQii, the smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform, and powered by the National Payments Corporation of India

(NPCI) has announced the launch of Rupay on-the-go payment solution through their debit card in a fitness watch. Customers need to hold this wristwatch in front of the PoS device during payment like tapping the card on PoS. For payments above ₹5000, customers need to tap and enter their PIN.



Pencilton Launches Teen-Focused Debit and Travel Card :-

Pencilton, a teen-targeted fintech startup, has released PencilCard, a debit card with NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) for teens. It has been released in partnership with Transcorp. This debit card works for online & offline bills much like some other debit card and additionally doubles up as a metro card, and bus card - an all-in-one card. The debit card can already work as a metro card for tour in Delhi (Airport line) & as a bus card in Goa (throughout KTC buses). It is likewise scheduled to be regular for metro tour in Pune, Chennai & Mumbai in addition to in BEST buses (Mumbai) very soon.



SBI listed the maiden issue of \$300 million Formosa bonds on India INX :-

The State Bank of India's recent fundraising of \$300 million through issuance of Formosa Bonds is a testimony of the confidence reposed by the overseas investors in the country's growth story, its Chairman Dinesh Khara said. He said the issuance is a step further in the direction of the globalization of the world, when a bank could raise money for those markets which have remained untapped for several years. The lender is the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond, which is a bond issued in Taiwan.



PNB launches co-branded contactless credit cards with Patanjali :-

Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) have launched co-branded contactless credit cards in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The co-branded credit cards are offered on the NPCI's RuPay Platform and are available in two variants—PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select. PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select card-holders will receive a welcome bonus of 300 reward points on activation. Platinum and Select cards come with an attractive insurance cover of 2 lakh and 10 lakh, respectively for Accidental Death and Personal Total Disability.



RBI imposed restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd :-

The Reserve Bank stated it has imposed numerous restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Lucknow, including a cap of Rs 1 lakh on withdrawals. The restrictions came into force from closure of business hours on January 28, 2022 (Friday). In a statement, RBI said the Lucknow-based co-operative bank will not, without its prior approval, grant or renew any loans and advances, or make any investment.



Banks to transfer 15 NPA accounts worth Rs 50,000 crores to NARCL in FY22 :-

The two arms of India's bad bank – National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) and India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL) – have received all the requisite approvals, including from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Dinesh Khara said. The banking sector will transfer 15 assets worth Rs 50,000 crore to NARCL in FY22, he said. NARCL will acquire and aggregate the identified non-performing asset (NPA) accounts from the banks, while the IDRCL, under an exclusive arrangement, will handle the debt resolution process.



RBI cancels the licence of Nashik's Independence Co-operative Bank Limited :-

The licence of Independence Co-operative Bank, Nashik has been cancelled as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects, the RBI said. Independence Co-operative Bank has ceased to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business hours on February

3, 2022 (Thursday), the RBI said in a statement. On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).



भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड
Securities and Exchange Board of India

Sebi Reconstitutes Advisory Panel For Alternative Investment Policy :-

Sebi has reconstituted its alternative investment policy advisory committee, which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the AIF space. The committee has now 20 members, as per an update by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The panel, constituted by Sebi in March 2015, earlier had 22 members. Till now, the committee has submitted three reports on the AIF (Alternative Investment Fund) industry. The committee is chaired by Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy.

6: Books and Author



Meenakshi Lekhi launches pictorial comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes' :-

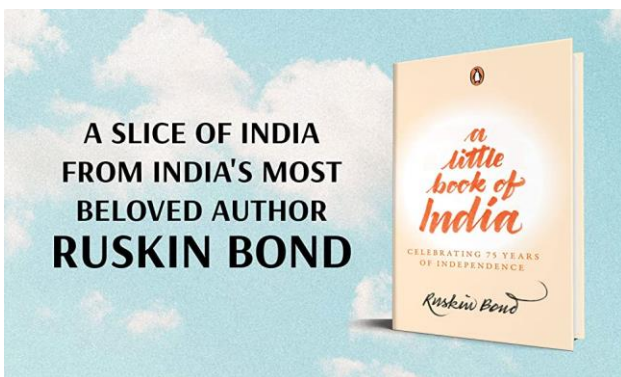
Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi has launched the pictorial comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes' in New Delhi. The book has been organized through Culture Ministry in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha. The book portrays the tales of valour

of our forgotten women freedom fighters. Ms. Lekhi stated that the book is a fitting tribute to the forgotten heroes of our freedom war as it celebrates the lives of women who lit the flame of revolt throughout the country.



A new book titled “The \$10 Trillion Dream” author by Subhash Garg :-

Recently, the previous Finance Secretary of India, Subhash Chandra Garg has introduced the publication of his first book titled "The \$10 Trillion Dream". This book will be published through the end of February 2022. The book throws light at the important policy problems that India is dealing with these days and shows reforms to make it a USD 10 trillion economies through the middle of 2030. This book is published through Penguin Random House India (PRHI). A member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) for over 36 years, Garg has held numerous key positions for each the central government and the Rajasthan government. He was named Finance Secretary in March 2019.



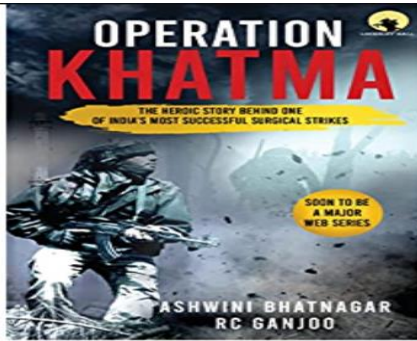
‘A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence’ authored by Ruskin Bond :-

Drawing on his own memories and impression of India, celebrated author Ruskin Bond in his latest book, “A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence”, pays homage to the country that has been his home for 84 years. The book, an amalgamation of the “physical and spiritual” attributes of India, promises to take readers on a journey filled with nostalgia and devotions. It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).



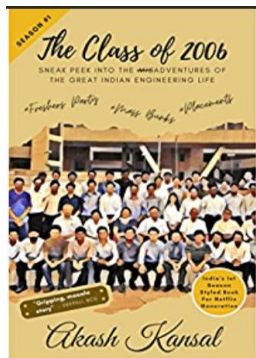
A book titled “Fearless Governance” authored by Kiran Bedi :-

Based on the ground-realities of nearly five years of service as the 24th Lt Governor of Puducherry, Kiran Bedi has penned down her journey of governance in the book ‘Fearless Governance’. It was launched by Indra Nooyi (former chairperson & CEO of PepsiCo) and Prof Debashis Chatterjee (director, IIM Kozhikode). The book captures Bedi’s ‘fearless’ moments, administrative acumen and innovative initiatives in Puducherry. Published by Diamond Books, the title will be translated in all major Indian languages.



A book titled ‘Operation Khatma’ authored by R C Ganjoo & Ashwini Bhatnagar :-

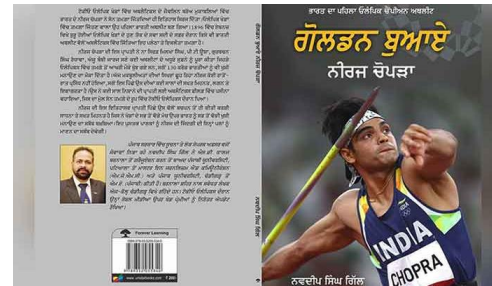
A book titled ‘Operation Khatma’ has been launched and authored by reporters RC Ganjoo and Ashwini Bhatnagar. The book is based upon the operation by the Special Operations Group of Jammu & Kashmir Police which caused the killing of twenty-two terrorists of the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).The book is published by LOCKLSEY HALL PUBLISHING LLP.



India’s 1st-ever season style book written by Akash Kansal :-

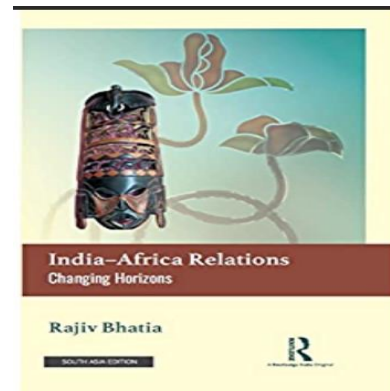
India’s first-ever season style book ‘The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life’, written by management professional Akash Kansal, was launched virtually amidst one of the biggest book launch ceremonies of the year at IIT Kanpur & Delhi Technological University. The book was released on Amazon Kindle by talented Indian film actor, writer, director, and producer R. Madhavan, who has starred in

hit movies like 3 Idiots, Rehna Hai Tere Dil Mein, and recently seen in Decoupled streaming on Netflix.



A book titled ‘Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra’ by Navdeep Singh Gill released :-

A short biography ‘Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra’ penned by sports author Navdeep Singh Gill was released in a ceremony held at Punjabi Bhawan. The biography on Tokyo Olympics-2021 gold medalist Neeraj Chopra was released by chairperson of Punjab Kala Parishad Surjit Patar and president of Punjabi Sahit Akademi Lakhwinder Singh Johal, amid the presence of the author and his family members. It is the seventh book written by Navdeep and the sixth placing focus on the sports as well as the sportspersons. The book brought out by Lokgeet Prakashan is from the genre of children’s literature.



A New Book Titled “India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons” Authored By Rajiv Bhatia :-

Former India's High Commissioner to Kenya, South Africa Rajiv Bhatia has authored a new book titled “India-Africa

Relations: Changing Horizons". This book explores the emergence and assertion of Africa as a significant actor and stakeholder in global affairs and the transformation of the India–Africa relationship. Beginning from this strategic perspective, the book presents an in-depth exploration of India–Africa partnership in all its critical dimensions.



A Book Titled 'How To Prevent The Next Pandemic' By Bill Gates :-

Technologist, business leader, philanthropist Bill Gates has authored a new book titled 'How To Prevent The Next Pandemic'. 'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic' by Bill Gates will be published by Allen Lane, Imprint of Penguin Books, in the UK, India, Australia, and South Africa on May 3, 2022 the publisher announced. Sharing more details about the book, Gates further wrote, "In the book, I lay out the specific steps we can take to not only stop future pandemics but, in the process, provide better health care for everyone around the world."



A Book Titled 'A Nation To Protect' Authored By Priyam Gandhi Mody :-

A book has been published highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in India's fight against COVID19 over the past two years. The book, titled A Nation To Protect, is the third book by author Priyam Gandhi Mody. This book was launched by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in the presence of other senior officials from the Ministry of Health. He said there had been fewer deaths during the third wave due to large-scale vaccination, except for those who died due to co-morbidities and the elderly.



Jimmy Soni Authored A Book Titled 'The Founders: The Story Of Paypal' :-

"The Founders: The Story of PayPal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley," written by Jimmy Soni and published by Simon & Schuster, is set to be released soon. It tells the tale of PayPal, a multinational digital-payments corporation, and how it grew from a small start-up to become one of the most successful companies of all time, with a market capitalization of over USD 70 billion today. It also includes amusing anecdotes about celebrities such as Elon Musk, Peter Thiel, and Reid Hoffman.

7: Defence



Iran, China and Russia hold naval drills in north Indian Ocean :-

China, Russia and Iran will hold joint naval drills on 21 January, a public relations official from Iran's armed forces told 20 January. The "2022 Marine Security Belt" exercise will take place in the north of the Indian Ocean and is the third joint naval drill between the three countries, Mostafa Tajoldin added. The three countries started joint naval drills in 2019 in the Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman. The drills will include various tactical exercises such as rescuing a burning vessel, releasing a hijacked vessel, and shooting at air targets at night.



Indian Armed Force selected 'Saab' for supply of Anti-Armour weapon :-

Swedish defence company Saab on 20 January said it has been awarded a contract to supply single-shot anti-armour weapon AT4 to the Indian armed forces. The

company has been awarded the contract for the lightweight and fully disposable weapon after going through a "competitive programme", a statement issued by Saab said. "AT4 will be used by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force," it said.



Russia delivers all the contracted 70,000 AK-203 assault rifles to India :-

The armed forces have received the first batch of 70,000 rifles from Russia as part of a larger contract to manufacture the AK 203 assault rifles in India. The initial batch has been delivered at a fast pace as requested by India, despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Sources said that the first batch is likely to be used by the air force, while the rifles to be manufactured at the Amethi factory will be delivered to the army, which is the main customer with a requirement of over 600,000 AK 203s.



Russia-China-Iran conducts joint naval exercise CHIRU-2Q22 :-

China said it has sent its naval missile destroyer Urumqi to the Gulf of Oman as part of CHIRU-2Q22 joint drills with the Russian and Iranian navies. The Chinese regime also sent helicopters and marines for the exercise, the country's foreign ministry said as the three countries look to "deepen practical cooperation". Russia sent its Pacific Fleet's task force which included Nakhimov missile cruiser Varyag and anti-submarine warfare ship Admiral Tributs including a sea tanker.



North Korea successfully tests fire most powerful Hwasong-12 ballistic missile :-

North Korea confirmed that it had tested a Hwasong-12 "mid-range ballistic missile", according to state news agency, and released photos purporting to show a successful test launch. North Korea said the missile was launched toward the waters off its east coast and on a high angle to prevent it from flying over other countries. State news agency reported that the purpose of the test was to verify the overall accuracy of the missile.



Western Naval Command conducts Joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022) :-

A joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022) conducted by the Indian Navy off the West Coast was concluded on 25 January 2022. The exercise was conducted over a duration of 20 days with an objective to validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard. The exercise was conducted under the aegis of FOC-in-C, Western Naval Command. The intra-theatre exercise included mobilisation and participation of over 40 ships and submarines of the Indian Navy.



Lt Gen GAV Reddy named as new Defence Intelligence Agency Head :-

Lieutenant General GAV Reddy, SC was appointed as the new head of the Defence Intelligence Agency. He would be succeeding Lieutenant General KJS Dhillon who got retired. Lt Gen KJS Dhillon was awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal on the 73rd Republic Day. The Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency is the head of the organisation and is among the principal advisors

on intelligence to the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff.



Senior scientist GA Srinivasa Murthy appointed director of DRDL :-

G A Srinivasa Murthy has been appointed director of Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Hyderabad. According to Defence Wing, Telangana, consequent to the superannuation of Dr Dashrath Ram, Murthy, a scientist and programme director of Advanced Naval Systems Programme was appointed as director of DRDL, a premier laboratory of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex.



Sea Trials of 1st Sea Sortie of 5th Scorpene Submarine 'Vagir' begins :-

The Indian Navy's brand-new submarine, the fifth of six French-designed Scorpene-class submarines, sailed out on its first sea sortie and will now undergo rigorous trials

before being delivered to the Navy later this year. The submarine-designated "Yard 11879" during its construction by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in collaboration with the Naval Group of France- will be named "Vagir" after it is commissioned into service.



India's Goa Shipyard Ltd Delivered The 5th Vessel ICGS 'Saksham' :-

India's Goa Shipyard Ltd delivered the 5th and final vessel of the 5 Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle (CGOPV) Project ahead of contractual schedule. The vessel was named ICGS 'Saksham'. Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) is an Indian Government owned shipbuilding company. Goa Shipyard Ltd is the first DPSU Shipyard to formulate and adopt Make-in-India Policy with aim to increase indigenisation level from existing 60% to 70% of the material value in forthcoming Projects.



Israel Successfully Tests Fire 'C-Dome' New Naval Air Defence System :-

The Israel Defense Forces said they had successfully tested the CDome, the naval configuration of the Iron Dome missile defense system. The CDome system for intercepting advanced threats was developed by the

military in cooperation with the Israeli Ministry of Defense and the Israel-based defense company Rafael. This live-fire test is a major milestone and demonstrates the Israel Navy's operational capability to defend the State of Israel's strategic assets and vital interests against current and evolving threats.

8: Economy



JIO becomes 1st telecom company to roll-out UPI AUTOPAY :-

Telecom major Reliance Jio on January 06 announced rolling out UPI AUTOPAY feature for both its prepaid and postpaid users in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). With this, the company becomes the first in the telecom industry to roll out the autopay feature. What this means is that all Jio users can now set standing instructions on the MyJio App using UPI AUTOPAY for their tariff plans and recharging. "Jio's integration with UPI AUTOPAY has made it the first player in the telecom industry to go live with the unique e-mandate feature that was launched by NPCI," said an official statement.



RBI Paper: Optimal Hedge Ratio For ECBs Is At 63% :-

The optimal hedge ratio for the External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) raised by firms in India is estimated at 63 per cent for the periods of high volatility in the foreign exchange (forex/FX) market, according to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Working Paper. An optimal hedge ratio is a ratio that implies the percentage of total asset or liability exposure that an entity ought to hedge against exchange rate fluctuations.



Swiggy Turns Decacorn With Valuation Of \$10.7 Billion :-

Food-delivery giant Swiggy has raised \$700 million in Invesco-led new funding, which, according to sources, has made the outfit a decacorn, almost doubling its valuation to \$10.7 billion. Swiggy's latest valuation is almost double that of Zomato before the latter went for its initial public offering. Zomato was valued at \$5.4

billion before its IPO. Bengaluru-based Swiggy has overtaken budget hospitality company Oyo, whose valuation dropped to \$8 billion in 2020 from \$10 billion in 2019, and then increased to \$9 billion in 2021.



AIIB invests USD 150 million in data center development to serve emerging Asia :-

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has committed USD150 million to invest in the development of data centers that mostly serve emerging Asia through the Keppel Data Centre Fund II (KDCF II), a closed-end private equity vehicle managed by Alpha Investment Partners Limited (Alpha). This is AIIB's first data center project. Multilateral development banks have been investing in digital infrastructure in the past, but such investments are becoming more essential nowadays with the acceleration of 5G technology and other high-speed/supercomputing digital infrastructure due to the pandemic.



Air India Formally Handed Over To Tata Group :-

The Tata Group reclaimed control of Air India on January 27, 69 years after the Mumbai-based company gave up its stake in the airline to the government. Air India was officially turned over to the Tata group by the government. The Tata Group now owns the renowned 'Maharaja' completely. It is significant, according to Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, that the disinvestment process of Air India was completed successfully and on time.



Google To Invest Upto \$1 Billion In Bharti Airtel :-

Aiming to construct 5G particular use-cases and produce lower priced phone services to the market, cellular services organization Bharti Airtel and Google introduced a long-term agreement that would entail the American internet giant investing \$700 million for 1.28 per cent stake in the Delhi-based company, in addition to up to \$300 million towards potential multi-year commercial agreements.



Tata Group choose SBI, BoB and HDFC Bank to finance Air India's old debt :-

The Tata Group have chosen State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank as preferred bankers for Air India, the country's largest international airline that it took over from the government, people aware of the matter said. Tata Sons availed of a Rs 10,000-crore loan from SBI and a Rs 5,000-crore loan from Bank of Baroda. The loans sanctioned by banks were in response to Tata Group seeking Rs23,000-crore one-year loan, as reported earlier.



Chennai Super Kings becomes India's First Unicorn Sports Enterprise :-

Ahead of the fifteenth version of the Indian Premier League (IPL), one of its maximum a hit franchises, Chennai Super Kings (CSK), has emerge as the country's first sports Unicorn with its market cap having touched a high of Rs 7,600 crores and its share in the grey market trading in the Rs 210-225 price band. The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led CSK, which gained its fourth IPL title in Dubai last year, now has a market cap greater than its parent entity, India Cements. Two key motives that have led CSK's marketplace cap to go beyond its parent entity are the team winning its fourth IPL title in Dubai, and new franchises being added to the upcoming season at record prices.



Tata group acquires Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd for Rs 12,100 crore :-

The government has accepted Tata Steel Long Products Ltd as the strategic buyer for Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) with the highest bid of ₹12,100 crore. "Government approves strategic buyer for Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd located in Odisha. The highest bid of ₹12,100 crore by Tata Steel Long Products Ltd is accepted," Tuhin Kanta Pandey, secretary of the department of investment and public asset management (DIPAM) said in a statement.



Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited

HPCL Launches Non-Fuel Retail Store 'HaPpyShop' :-

In an official statement, the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., announced the opening of two more Convenience Stores under its brand name 'HaPpyShop'. 'HaPpyShop' is the non-fuel retail sector of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. HPCL has decided to set up its own chain of multi-channel Retail Stores under the brand name HaPpyShop for making available the products of daily need to its customers.



Govt Setting Up National Land Monetisation Corporation :-

The government is setting up the National Land Monetisation Corporation with an initial authorized share capital of ₹5000 crores and subscribed share capital of ₹150 crores, to carry out the monetization of the land and other non-core assets, the Economic Survey said. It added that central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) have referred nearly 3400 acres of land and other non-core assets to the government for monetization.



ADB Lends Record USD 4.6 Bn Loans To India In 2021 :-

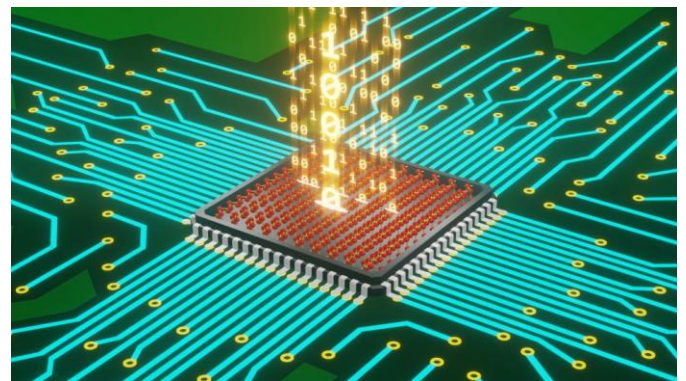
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it provided a record USD 4.6 billion loans to India in 2021, including USD 1.8 billion towards coronavirus response. "The Asian Development Bank committed a record USD 4.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2021 for 17 loans, including USD 1.8 billion for the country's coronavirus disease

(COVID-19) pandemic response," the multilateral funding agency said in a statement.



Govt of India has done a Switch Operation of Rs. 1,19,701 crores :-

The Government of India to smoothen its liability profile has done a conversion transaction with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 28, 2022 for an amount of ₹1,19,701 crore (face value). "The transaction involved buying back securities maturing in FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 from the Reserve Bank and issuing fresh securities for equivalent market value, to make the transaction cash neutral," the RBI said in a statement.



Indian Mining Major Vedanta To Manufacture Semiconductors In India :-

Anil Agarwal's Vedanta group and Hon Hai Technology Group ("Foxconn") have entered into a pact to form a

joint venture company that will manufacture semiconductors in India. According to the MOU signed between the two companies, Vedanta will hold the

majority of the equity in the JV, while Foxconn will be the minority shareholder. Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal will be the Chairman of the joint venture company.

9: International



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley wins second consecutive term :-

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley was sworn in for a second term on 20 January after her party appeared to have swept every legislative seat in the first elections the island nation held as a republic since casting off the British monarchy. Mottley's Barbados Labor Party seemed to have secured all 30 seats in the House of Assembly, the lower house of the island's Parliament, giving the island's first female leader a second term as prime minister. A majority of 16 seats was required for a win.



Apple retained the title as world's valuable brand in Brand Finance 2022 :-

Apple has retained the title of the world's most valuable brand in 2022, with a valuation of a whopping \$355.1 billion (roughly Rs. 26,72,600 crore), according to a report. The valuation of the Cupertino company increased 35 percent — thanks to the growth of its recognition in the market. Following Apple, Amazon and Google have been named among the top-three most valuable brands in the year. TikTok, on the other hand, has emerged as the world's fastest-growing brand, with its valuation increasing 215 percent in 2022.



Indonesia names new capital Nusantara, replacing sinking Jakarta :-

The Indonesian Parliament has passed legislation to rename Nusantara as the country's capital. This is the biggest step forward for a notion that the country's leaders have been playing with for years. After the bill was passed into law, Planning Minister Suharso Monoarfa informed parliament, "The new capital has a

central function and is a symbol of the nation's identity, as well as a new centre of economic gravity."



India pays \$29.9 million in UN regular budget assessments for 2022 :-

For the year 2022, India has paid USD 29.9 million in UN regular budget assessments. 24 Member States had paid their regular budget assessments in full as of January 21, 2022. India is a non-permanent member of the 15 nation UN Security Council, with a two-year membership ending on December 31, 2022.



World's-Largest Canal Lock Unveiled In Netherlands :-

The world's largest canal lock has been inaugurated at Ijmuiden, a small port city, in the Port of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The sea lock was inaugurated by Dutch King Willem-Alexander on January 26, 2022. The Ijmuiden sea lock is 500-meter (1,640-feet) long and 70-meter wide.

The overall cost of constructing the project was \$338 million.



Xiomara Castro sworn in as first female President of Honduras :-

Leftist Xiomara Castro was sworn in as the first female president of Honduras, vowing to reform the crime- and poverty-afflicted country into a "socialist and democratic state." Castro, 62, took the oath at a massive ceremony attended by international dignitaries after an embarrassing week of infighting in her Libre party that challenged her authority. Castro's election last November delivered an end to twelve years of right-wing National Party (PN) rule that followed the ousting of her president husband Manuel Zelaya in a 2009 coup.



Samsung Surpasses Intel as World's top semiconductor company in 2021 :-

Semiconductor industry went thru great structural modifications in 2021 after entity lists have been

announced by both China and the US. The overall 2021 semiconductor revenue rankings also varied from the previous year. Samsung took the first position from Intel thanks to its solid growth momentum in both logic IC and memory segments. Memory vendors continued to lead the industry with SK Hynix and Micron taking the third and fourth positions, followed by IC design vendors, including Qualcomm and NVIDIA.



Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel quits as Britannia's Additional Director :-

Ex-governor of the Reserve Bank of India Urjit Patel has quit as the non-executive and independent director of Britannia Industries Ltd. His resignation came ahead of his joining at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Patel, who served as the 24th RBI governor from September 2016-December 2018, was appointed as the vice-president for investment operations in South Asia at Beijing-based bank, AIIB, recently.



Sony Buys 'Destiny' Game Developer Bungie :-

Sony Group Corp. is purchasing Bungie Inc., the U.S. video game developer behind the popular Destiny and Halo franchises, for \$3.6 billion to bolster its stable of game-making studios. Sony is a regular acquirer of video game studios, though Bungie is by far its largest of the past decade. The Japanese entertainment and technology giant typically buys less established studios and enhances them with marketing and development resources. Sony also holds minority stakes in some bigger game companies, such as Epic Games Inc..



US Regains Top Spot As India's Trade Partner In 2021 :-

The government said during the April-October period this fiscal, the US has once again emerged as the largest trading partner of India with bilateral merchandise trade of USD 67.41 billion. The US has been the largest trading partner of India with respect to merchandise trade since 2018-19, except in 2020-21, when trade with America declined marginally on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.



Exim Bank Extends A \$500 Million Credit Line To Sri Lanka :-

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) said it has, on behalf of the government of India, extended a line of credit of \$500 million to the government of the socialist republic of Sri Lanka for financing purchase of petroleum products. The agreement to this effect, was signed by S. R. Attygalle, secretary, ministry of finance, government of the socialist republic of Sri Lanka and Gaurav Singh Bhandari, chief general manager, Exim Bank, in the presence of the minister of finance of Sri Lanka, Basil Rajapaksa and the high commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay, in Colombo.



India To Help Sri Lanka Launch Its Version Of Aadhaar Card :-

India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on the Aadhaar card. The Rajapaksa government will "prioritise" the implementation of the Framework as a national level programme, Sri Lanka's Cabinet decided. "Under the proposed UDIF, it is expected to introduce a personal identity verification device based on biometric data, a digital tool that can represent the identities of individuals in cyberspace, and the identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in digital and physical environments by combining the two devices," according to a media statement released by the Department of Government Information.



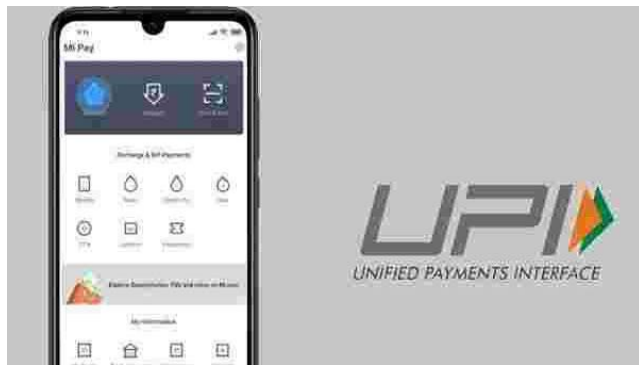
India announces diplomatic boycott of opening and closing ceremony of Winter Olympics :-

India has announced a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics. By doing so, India has joined a growing list of countries that will not send government delegations to the Chinese capital for the Winter Olympics. In December, the United States had announced a diplomatic boycott of the event. The United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the Netherlands, among others, followed the US's lead and made a similar decision.



Israel Became First Country To Allow Drones In Civilian Airspace :-

Israel's Ministry of Transport and Road Safety has introduced the country's first certification for unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs) to perform in civilian airspace. The certification was issued through the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to the Hermes Starliner unmanned system, which was developed and manufactured through Elbit Systems, an Israeli defense electronics company.



Nepal Will Become 1st Country To Deploy India's UPI Platform :-

Nepal will be the first country to adopt India's UPI system, which will play a crucial role in transforming the neighboring country's digital economy, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has joined hands with Gateway Payments

Service (GPS) and Manam Infotech to provide the services in Nepal. GPS is the authorized payment system operator in Nepal and Manam Infotech will implement the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) in that country.



France Announces Military Withdrawal From Mali After Nine Years :-

France and its allies in a European force will withdraw their troops from Mali after nearly a decade, President Emmanuel Macron has announced. The troops have been involved in fighting Islamist militants in the country since 2013. Macron said the decision to withdraw had been carried out in a severing of diplomatic relations amid growing hostility from Mali's ruling military junta. The armed forces are being moved to other parts of Africa's Sahel.

10: Miscellaneous



TCS Becomes Title Sponsor Of Toronto Waterfront Marathon:-

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on 18 January announced that it has partnered with the Canada Running Series (CRS) as the new title sponsor and official IT services and technology consulting partner of the Toronto Waterfront Marathon and Virtual Race through November 2026. The partnership is aimed to modernise

marathon running in Canada through a new official race app.



India's First Para-Badminton Academy Launched In Lucknow :-

With the aim to improve India's medal prospects at the 2024 Paralympics, the country's first state-of-the-art, high-performance para-badminton academy with advanced equipment and facilities has been set up in Lucknow. The centre has been launched by Dronacharya awardee and head national coach of Indian para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance.



GoodDot ropes in Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador :-

Plant-based meat company GoodDot has signed up Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador. The athlete, the company said, will be a key part of its mission to create awareness about the category of plant-based meats to encourage people to make compassionate food choices.



Jai Bhim & Marakkar Shortlisted For The Oscars 2022 :-

Suriya's Jai Bhim, directed by TJ Gnanavel, premiered directly on Amazon Prime Video in November 2021 and went on to create a lasting impact among film buffs. The film has now been shortlisted and is eligible for Best Feature Film at the Oscars 2022. Along with Jai Bhim, Mohanlal's Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham has been shortlisted as well. Suriya's Jai Bhim, which talks about the injustice and police brutality meted out to the members of the Irular tribe, is one of the best Tamil films in 2021.



Lucknow IPL Team To Be Called Lucknow Super Giants :-

The Lucknow franchise of the Indian Premier League will be called Lucknow Super Giants after its owners announced the name chosen by its fans. The official IPL team of Lucknow, owned by RPSG Group, decided to take public opinions from its fans and the name was shared by owner Sanjiv Goenka in a video message on 24

January. Last year, the franchise was purchased by the Sanjiv Goenka-owned of the RPSG group for an amount of Rs 7090 Crores.



Gol approved renaming of three places in Madhya Pradesh :-

The Centre has permitted renaming of three places in Madhya Pradesh namely Hoshangabad Nagar as "Narmadapuram", Shivpuri as "Kundeshwar Dham" and Babai as "Makhan Nagar". Babai has been renamed after the renowned journalist and poet Makhanlal Chaturvedi , officials stated. According to officials,the proposals were obtained from Shivraj Singh Chouhan authorities in 2021. Located on the south bank of River Narmada, Hoshangabad was named after Hoshang Shah, the first ruler of Malwa, more than six hundred years ago. Officials said renaming of Babai and Shivpuri has been pending with the Centre since 2020-21 due to clearances from central agencies.



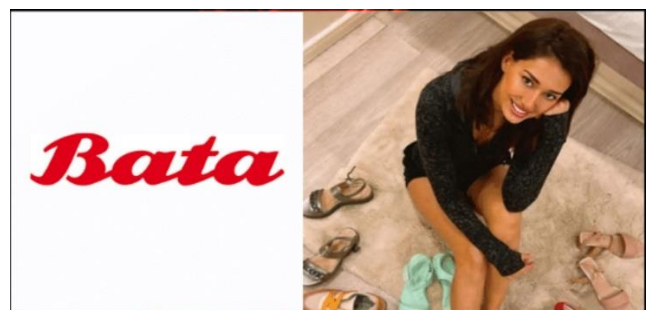
Tata Sky Rebrands Itself As Tata Play :-

Tata Sky has rebranded itself as Tata Play as it looks to expand its television-cum-OTT (over-the-top) services in combined packages. The direct-to-home (DTH) platform has added Netflix to thirteen OTT services, along with Amazon Prime Video and Disney+Hotstar, as a part of its so-called Binge packs. Starting at ₹399 per month, the new combination packs are effective from 27 January and will be promoted thru a national campaign featuring actors Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan in country wide markets, and R. Madhavan and Priyamani in the South.



KVIC cancels license of oldest Khadi Institution "Khadi Emporium" :-

The nearly seven-decades-old 'Khadi Emporium' has been banned for selling fake Khadi products by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statement said. The commission, which is under the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, has adopted a "zero tolerance" policy against sale of spurious or non-Khadi products in recent years and took the action against the "oldest Khadi institution", the official statement said.



Disha Patani Named As Brand Ambassador Of Bata India :-

Footwear maker Bata India Limited has on-boarded Bollywood actor Disha Patani as the new brand ambassador, the company said. Patani will be seen promoting various popular labels under the Bata umbrella. The move comes as Bata aims to appeal younger shoppers and position itself as a "fashion forward" brand. "We are happy to have Disha on board as the new face of Bata. At Bata, we have been on a quest to transform the brand imagery and deliver on the aspirations of the youth of the country." said Gunjan Shah, CEO, Bata India Limited.



Krishi Network App Named Pankaj Tripathi As Its Brand Ambassador :-

Krishi Network has appointed film actor Pankaj Tripathi as a brand ambassador in order to attract farmers to its Agritech platform. The actor has also made an investment in the company. The startup stated that the new funds would be used to rapidly expand their AI-based technology platform across India. The start-up, founded by IIT Kharagpur alumni Ashish Mishra and Siddhant Bhomia, provides farmers with relevant information to clear their doubts on a variety of issues and help them generate more income.



Amitabh Bachchan named as brand ambassador of MediBuddy :-

MediBuddy, one of India's largest digital healthcare platforms, has signed legendary Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan as official brand ambassador in a two-year deal. As part of the deal, Bachchan will be seen endorsing various services available on the platform, while highlighting the need to prioritise one's health. With the deal in place, MediBuddy is looking at further amplifying its reach across India



Central Jail In Madhya Pradesh Gets Own FM Radio Channel :-

In its bid to keep jail inmates abreast about ongoing in the outside world, Central Jail of Indore has got its own radio channel 'Jail Vaani-FM 18.77'. Through the radio

channel, prisoners are hopeful of catching entertainment, while also becoming aware of the happenings around the world. The radio channel will also provide the jail inmates with information on health

issues. "The administration wants jails to be like correctional facilities. Through this radio channel the jail inmates will get to know what is happening in the world," said Alka Sonkar, Jail Superintendent.

11: National



PM Modi to unveil 216-foot statue of saint Ramanujacharya :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi would will unveil a 216-foot statue of Ramanujacharya, an 11th century saint and a social reformer, in Hyderabad on February 5. The statue, described as the 'Statue of Equality', is located in a 45-acre complex at Shamshabad on the outskirts of the city. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate the Statue of Equality to the world on February 5, 2022. It is a 216 feet tall statue of Sri Ramanujacharya, an 11th century Bhakti saint, and a revolutionary social reformer," a press release from the organisers said on 20 January.



PM Narendra Modi unveils hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose :-

On the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a hologram statue of the freedom fighter at India Gate in New Delhi. The hologram statue is a placeholder until a granite statue is installed at the site. The government announced earlier that Republic Day celebrations in the country would begin on January 23 every year to incorporate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. His birth anniversary is celebrated every year as Parakram Diwas.



Former India Footballer Subhas Bhowmick Passes Away :-

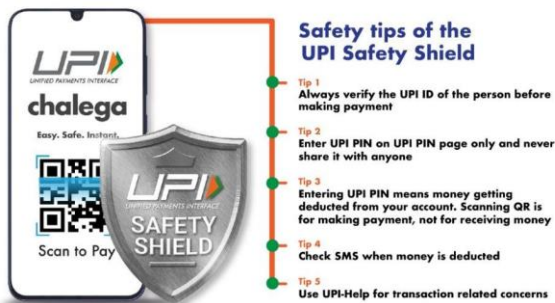
Former India footballer Subhas Bhowmick passed away at the age of 72 after a prolonged illness, sources in the medical establishment said. Bhowmick (72), popularly known as 'Bhombolda' was hospitalised with diabetic problems and kidney ailments and died at around 3.30 am on January 22, they said. Bhowmick was a striker and played for East Bengal and Mohun Bagan and

represented India in several international tournaments. He was a successful football coach and had coached clubs like East Bengal, Mohun Bagan, Mohammedan Sporting, Salgaocar and Churchill Brothers.



SPMCIL opens new bank note printing lines at Nashik and Dewas :-

Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) under its modernization initiatives has set up New Bank Note Printing Lines each at Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press, Dewas. Meera Swarup, Special Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Finance inaugurated the new bank note printing line at CNP Nashik virtually in the presence of Member of Parliament Hemant Tukaram Godse from Nashik constituency, whereas the new bank note printing line inaugurated at Bank Note Press, Dewas was done by Shashank Saksena, Senior Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, a statement said.



Safety tips of the UPI Safety Shield

- Tip 1 Always verify the UPI ID of the person before making payment
- Tip 2 Enter UPI PIN on UPI PIN page only and never share it with anyone
- Tip 3 Entering UPI PIN means money getting deducted from your account. Scanning QR is for making payment, not for receiving money
- Tip 4 Check SMS when money is deducted
- Tip 5 Use UPI-Help for transaction related concerns

NPCI Announces UPI Safety And Awareness Week :-

In a bid to create awareness among consumers, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the UPI ecosystem has introduced the UPI Safety and Awareness initiative. NPCI and the ecosystem comprising leading banks and fintech has observed February 1 to 7 as UPI Safety and Awareness Week, stated a statement. Further, the complete month of February will be UPI Safety and Awareness Month.



Prime Minister Modi launches Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the World is entitled to benefit from Indian music like they have from Yoga. Mr Modi said that like Yoga, Indian music too has the capacity to stir the depth of human mind and the world is entitled to be benefited from it. The Prime Minister was addressing a function via video conferencing after launching the Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation. Paying his tribute to Pandit Jasraj on the occasion of the Jayanti of the doyen of Indian Classical Music, Mr Modi lauded Durga Jasraj and Pandit Shaarang Dev for keeping alive the glorious legacy of the maestro.



Sanctuaries In Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh Listed As Ramsar Sites :-

The Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh have been listed as Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. The announcement by the Ramsar secretariat in Iran came on the eve of International Wetlands Day (February 2). With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 48.



Khelo India 2022 Scheme Allocation Increases by 48% in Budget :-

The allocation in Khelo India Scheme has increased by 48 percent in Budget 2022-23. Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving the continuation of the Khelo India Scheme for another five years. The Khelo India Scheme is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It aims at infusing sports culture and achieving sporting excellence in the country.



IUCN designates Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram 2022 :-

The Union Ministry of environment, forest and climate change announced Aravalli Biodiversity Park as India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site on the occasion of World Wetlands Day. The proposal to declare Aravalli Biodiversity Park an OECM site was sent by the National Biodiversity Authority to the IUCN in December 2020. The Aravalli Biodiversity Park is spread across 390 acres and has semi-arid vegetation, with around 300 native plants, 101,000 trees, 43,000 shrubs, and several species of birds.



Uttar Pradesh wins best state tableau of Republic Day parade 2022 :-

Uttar Pradesh has been selected as the best state tableau at the Republic Day parade this year and the Indian Navy marching contingent has been adjudged as

the best marching contingent among the three Services, the Ministry of Defence said. Three panels of judges were appointed for assessing the performance of the marching contingents from the three Services, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), other Auxiliary forces and tableaux from various states and Union Territories (UTs) and Central Ministries and Departments.



President Ram Nath Kovind Inaugurates New Darbar Hall At Raj Bhavan :-

The President of India Ramnath Kovind has inaugurated newly built Darbar Hall at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai. In his speech he said that transparency is the most important aspect of good governance in a democratic system. "The modern concept of the Darbar promotes transparency. The method of connecting with the people through the Janta Darbar by the public authorities is becoming popular. Thus, this Darbar Hall, in a new context, is a symbol of our new India, new Maharashtra and our vibrant democracy," he noted.



CBI Finds India's Biggest Bank Fraud Of Rs 22,842 Cr, Books ABG Shipyard :-

In its biggest bank fraud case, the CBI has booked ABG Shipyard Ltd and its former chairman and managing director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal along with others for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks led by State Bank of India of over Rs 22,842 crore, officials said. Besides Agarwal, the agency has also named the then executive director Santhanam Muthaswamy, directors Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Ravi Vimal Nevetia and another company ABG International Pvt Ltd for alleged offences of criminal conspiracy.



India To Replace Diesel By Renewable Energy In Agriculture By 2024 :-

The Central government has set the goal for changing diesel with renewable energy in the agricultural sector by 2024. The Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable energy, R K Singh stated this is in line with the government's dedication to boom the percentage of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net zero emitter by 2070. "India will replace diesel with renewables to acquire the goal of zero diesel use in the agricultural sector by 2024," said a statement by the ministry of power.



Corbevax Gets Emergency Approval For 12-18 Age Group By DGCI :-

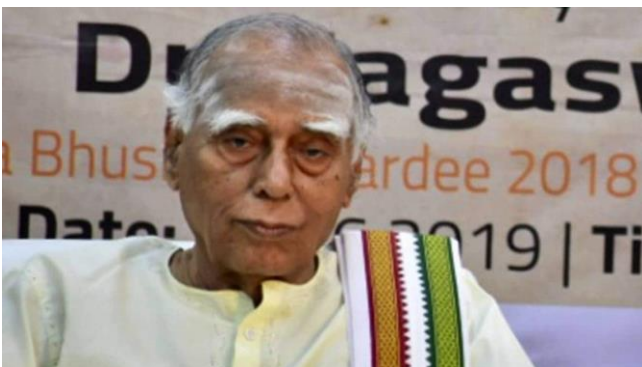
The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) gave the emergency use nod to Hyderabad-based Biological E's Covid-19 vaccine Corbevax for the 12-18 age group. Currently, India only administers Bharat Biotech's Covaxin to those in the 15-18 age group. The government's expert panel on vaccine administration is expected to meet soon to decide on expanding the Covid-19 vaccination coverage till the age of 12.



Gurugram Sisters Chosen As 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' Brand Ambassadors :-

Tanishka Kotia, an international FIDE chess player, and her sister Riddhika Kotia have been announced as Gurugram brand ambassadors for the center's "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" programme. Haryana State Chess Association Secretary Naresh Sharma congratulated both the sisters and wished them a bright future. Both the sisters thanked the administration for selecting them for the cause. They said they will always be at the forefront of education, chess, as well as for doing work related to uplifting of the society.

12: Obituaries



Eminent Archaeologist Thiru R. Nagaswamy Passes Away :-

Renowned archaeologist, art historian and Padma Bhushan awardee R Nagaswamy, who was the first director of Tamil Nadu government's Department of Archaeology died on 23 January. He was 91. Nagaswamy was an expert witness in a London court in the famous Pathur Nataraja case and played a key role in bringing back the Chola-era bronze Nataraja to Tamil Nadu. Former Director of Archaeology, Kerala and the Archaeological Survey of India, T Satyamurthy said, Nagaswamy's death is an irreparable loss to the field of archaeology.



Noted Kathakali dancer and Padma Shri Recipient Milena Salvini Passes Away :-

Milena Salvini, an Italian-born dancer and active supporter of Indian traditional art, particularly Kathakali, died in France on January 25, 2022. The 84-year-old dancer had established Centre Mandapa, a school of Indian dance styles in Paris, which prospered as a learning center, after arriving in Kerala in 1965 to learn Kathakali. She supported Kerala Kathakali troupes and organized theatrical performances in a number of European locations. This contributed to the western adoption of Indian classical dance. India had honoured her with Padma Shri in 2019.



Former Indian Hockey Team Captain Charanjit Singh Passes Away :-

On January 27, Charanjit Singh, the hockey icon whose captaincy led the Indian hockey team to gold at the 1964 Tokyo Summer Olympics, died at his home in Una. He was 90 years old and suffering from a variety of age-

related ailments. At 5 a.m., he breathed his last breath. On February 3, 1931, Charanjit Singh was born in Mairi, Amb subdivision, Una, Himachal Pradesh (then part of undivided Punjab). He was an alumnus of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. In 1960, Charanjit Singh was a member of the team that won silver at the Rome Olympics, as well as silver at the Asian Games in 1962.



Legendary Singer Lata Mangeshkar Passes Away :-

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar passed away on 06 February at the age of 92. The veteran singer was admitted to a city hospital in early January this year after she tested positive for Covid-19 and was also diagnosed with pneumonia. Around January 28, she was taken off the ventilator, after she showed slight signs of improvement. However, on February 5, Lata Mangeshkar's condition deteriorated and she was back on ventilator support.



Educationist/social leader Baba Iqbal Singh Ji passes away :-

Padma Shri [Baba Iqbal Singh](#), who was 96-year-old passed away at [Baru Sahib](#) in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh (HP). Recently, the name of Baba Iqbal Singh was listed for receiving the Padma Shri award under the Padma Awards 2022 by the government of India, for his social work. Baba Iqbal Singh was president of Kalgidhar Society/Trust and Chancellor of Eternal University, run under the Baru Sahib Organisation headquartered at Baru Sahib.



Veteran Marathi author and social activist Anil Awachat passes away :-

Marathi writer and social activist Anil Awachat, better known as Baba, died. He was 78. Awachat was the founder-director of the Muktangan Rehabilitation Centre in Pune and associated with numerous social causes. Known for his books including Purnia, Awachat frequently wrote for Marathi magazines and different publications. He also had a stint as a journalist and was known for his reportage.



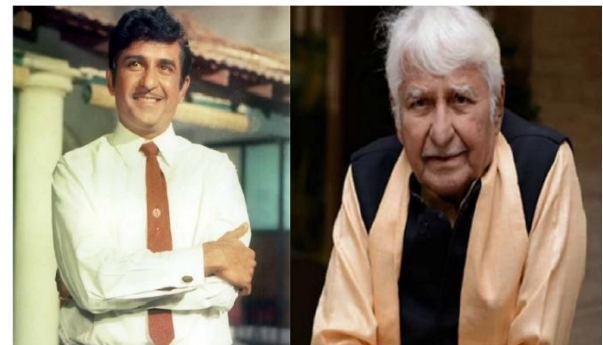
Senior advocate & Additional Solicitor General Rupinder Singh Suri passes away :-

Senior advocate and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Rupinder Singh Suri has passed away, family sources said. Suri was appointed the ASG in June 2020. Suri was designated as senior advocate in 2009 and also served as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association. He served as standing counsel in the Supreme Court for Punjab for about 15 years.



Actor & Filmmaker Amitabh Dayal Passes Away :-

Actor and filmmaker Amitabh Dayal has died at the age of 51. His wife and producer Mrinalini Patil confirmed the news of his unfortunate demise. Amitabh Dayal passed away after suffering a major heart attack. Amitabh Dayal shared screen space with Amitabh Bachchan in Virrudh. Besides that movie, he worked with late actor Om Puri in Kagaar: Life On The Edge. He also featured in Raj Babbar's Dhuaan and a Bhojpuri movie called Rangdari.



Veteran Actor And Producer Ramesh Deo Passes Away :-

A veteran Bollywood and Marathi cinema actor, director, and producer Ramesh Deo, best known for his appearances in films like 'Anand' and 'Mere Apne,' died of a heart attack. Deo was 93 years old and had been ill for a few days, according to his son, well-known Marathi actor Ajinkya. Deo appeared in nearly 250 films, produced more than a dozen, and directed a few more. He was the recipient of a number of honours, including the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the 11th Pune International Film Festival in 2013.



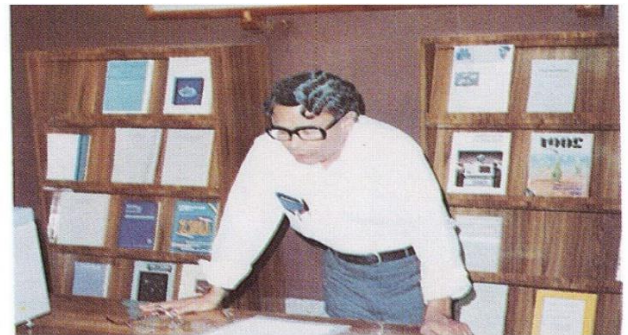
BJP's first torchbearer in Lok Sabha, C Janga Reddy passes away :-

Chandupatla Janga Reddy (87), the first Lok Sabha MP for the BJP from south India passed away. Reddy was one of the only two BJP Lok Sabha MPs elected in the 1984 general elections, conducted after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The other BJP MP was A K Patel, who was elected from Mehsana in Gujarat. In the 1984 election, Reddy defeated P V Narasimha Rao, a minister in the Indira Gandhi cabinet, from the Hanumakonda constituency in the then united Andhra Pradesh and now Telangana.



Former President of Greece Christos Sartzetakis passes away :-

Former Greek president Christos Sartzetakis has died aged 92. Sartzetakis, who was president from 1985 to 1990, died of acute respiratory failure, the Athens hospital treating him said. Born in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, Sartzetakis studied law and joined the judiciary in 1955. He was fired from the judicial branch in 1968 during the military dictatorship, arrested, tortured and imprisoned without trial.



R Rajamohan, who led the 1st Asteroid Discoveries In Independent India, passes away :-

Professor R Rajamohan, who was an astronomer at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, for decades, passed away. He led the 1st Asteroid Discoveries In Independent India. He is best known for his Kalki Project. The project aimed to discover asteroids using the 48-cm Schmidt telescope in Kavalur VBO and

discovered a new asteroid, number 4130, from India. This was the first asteroid discovered in India in 104 years.



'Kabir Of Karnataka' Ibrahim Sutar Passes Away :-

Ibrahim Sutar, polyglot folk singer, who toured India spreading the message of Hindu-Muslim unity, died in Mahalingpur in Bagalkot district on February 5. He suffered a massive heart attack around 6.30 in the morning. He died a few minutes later, family sources said. He was 82. The recipient of Padmashri award for communal harmony had earned the sobriquet of 'Karnataka's Kabir'. The founder of 'Bhavaikyate Bhajana Mela' began his career as a Harikathe bhajan singer going around villages and towns. He regaled audiences with stories from Hindu and Islamic scriptures always leaving with a message of harmony, and need for ethics in personal life.



Legendary singer and music composer Bappi Lahiri passes away:-

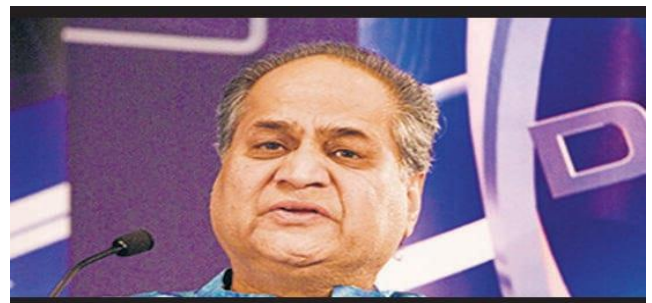
Legendary composer-singer Bappi Lahiri died at Mumbai's CritiCare Hospital on 16 February, following

multiple health issues, a doctor treating him said. He was 69. Known as the 'Disco King', Lahiri popularised disco music in India in the 80s and 90s. He started his music career in the early 70s and composed music till 2020. The 69-year-old had a huge influence on many music directors in India and abroad. Portions of many of his songs have even been included by international artists. He also held a Guinness World Record for recording over 180 songs for 33 movies.



Nobel-Winning Co-Discoverer Of H.I.V Luc Montagnier Passes Away :-

Luc Montagnier, the French virologist credited as a co-discoverer of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), has died aged 89. Montagnier was jointly awarded the 2008 Nobel Prize for his work in isolating the virus that causes Aids. He was lauded for this work, but later criticised for unscientific claims about autism and Covid-19. The virologist first began working on the virus in the early 1980s while at France's Pasteur Institute, a non-profit research foundation.



Former Chairman Of Bajaj Auto Rahul Bajaj Passes Away :-

Veteran industrialist and the former chairman of Bajaj Auto, Rahul Bajaj passed away at 83. The industrialist had pneumonia and also a heart problem. He was admitted to the Ruby Hall Clinic a month ago. Rahul Bajaj is credited for making Bajaj a household name in India. An alumnus of Harvard Business School and St Stephens, the Chairman Emeritus of Bajaj Group was known for his strong, independent voice and philanthropy. Rahul Bajaj was suffering from pneumonia and heart-related problems and had been in hospital for almost a month. He was 83.



Senior Journalist Ravish Tiwari Passes Away :-

Ravish Tiwari, senior journalist and head of Indian Express' national office, has died after a two-year battle with cancer. He was 40 years old. Tiwari was also the national political editor for The Indian Express. He previously worked at India Today and The Economic Times. He had done his schooling from the government-run Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and then he completed his BTech at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.



Football Legend Surajit Sengupta Passed Away :-

Legendary soccer player Surajit Sengupta died on February 17 from complications related to COVID-19. Admitted in a Kolkata hospital on January 23, he was on ventilation for the past week and was aged 71 at the time of his death. He was among the rare talents to have distinguished himself at Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting and was in the national squads for the 1974 and 1978 Asian Games.

Freedom Fighter And Gandhian Social Worker Shakuntala Choudhary Passes Away :-

Shakuntala Choudhary, a 102-year-old Gandhian social worker and freedom fighter, passed away on 21 February. Hailing from Assam's Kamrup, she worked for the wellbeing of villagers, especially women and children, and was popularly known as 'Shakuntala Baideo'. Earlier this year, she was named a Padma Shri award recipient by the Government of India. Her noble

work at the Sarania Ashram positively impacted many lives. The Sarania Ashram is located in Guwahati in Assam.



Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy Passes Away :-

Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy passed away following a heart attack on 21 February morning at a private hospital in Hyderabad. He was 50. Reddy had tested COVID-19 positive in April last year and again, just about a month ago. The Andhra government has declared a two-day state mourning as a mark of respect for the minister. Reddy had just returned after spending a week at Dubai Expo, promoting Andhra Pradesh as an investment destination, and had inked MoUs worth over ₹ 5000 crores.

13: Ranks & Reports



UNCTAD Report: FDI Flows To India Falls By 26% In 2021 :-

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India dropped 26 per cent in 2021 as compared with the previous year as large mergers and acquisitions deals recorded in 2020 were not repeated, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) data showed. "FDI flows to India were 26 per cent lower, mainly because large M & A deals recorded in 2020 were not repeated," according to UNCTAD's Investment Trends Monitor published on 19 January. Global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows showed a strong rebound in 2021,

up 77 per cent to an estimated \$1.65 trillion, from \$929 billion in 2020, surpassing their pre-COVID-19 level.



India's First "District Good Governance Index" Launched :-

Union home minister Amit Shah on 22 January launched the District Good Governance Index (DGGI) in Jammu and Kashmir, which is the first Union Territory to have such an index. Shah launched the index in the presence of Union minister Jitendra Singh and Jammu and Kashmir's lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha. Shah said the beginning of this index in Jammu and Kashmir will

slowly expand to all other states and a good governance competition will start in every district of the country.



NITI Aayog & RMI India releases report 'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India' :-

NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India on 21 January released a report, titled 'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India', which outlines the importance of priority-sector recognition for retail lending in the electric mobility ecosystem. The report provides considerations and recommendations to inform the inclusion of EVs in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) priority-sector lending (PSL) guidelines. Banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in India have the potential to achieve an electric vehicle (EV) financing market size of Rs 40,000 crore (USD 5 billion) by 2025 and Rs 3.7 lakh crore (USD 50 billion) by 2030.



Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021: India Ranks 85th :-

India's rank improved one place to 85 among 180 countries in a corruption perception index (CPI) of 2021, according to a new report by Transparency International which, however, raised concern over the country's democratic status. The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. Journalists and activists are particularly at risk and have been victims of attacks by the police, political militants, criminal gangs and corrupt local officials, the report based on the index said.



IMF Down India's FY22 Growth Forecast To 9% From 9.5% :-

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's economic growth forecast to 9 per cent for the current fiscal year ending March 31, joining a host of agencies which have downgraded their projections on concerns over the impact of a spread of new variant of coronavirus on business activity and mobility. In its latest update of World Economic Outlook on 24 January, the Washington-based international financial institution, which had in October last year projected a 9.5 per cent GDP growth for India, put the forecast for the next fiscal FY23 (April 2022 to March 2023) at 7.1 per cent.



WGC: Global Gold Demand Rises 10% To 4,021 Tonnes :-

Global gold demand rose 10 per cent to 4,021.3 tonnes in 2021 on account of a massive 50 per cent surge in year-on-year demand — a 10-quarter high — during the December quarter, a report by the World Gold Council (WGC) said. The overall gold demand during 2020, which was impacted following Covid-19 related disruptions, stood at 3,658.8 tonnes, the WGC said in its 'Gold Demand Trends 2021' Report. The demand for the gold was mainly driven by Central bank buying during the fourth quarter of 2021, recovery in jewellery consumption, mainly in India and China.



Economic Survey 2022 :-

The Economic Survey 2021-22, tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament, projected the economy to grow by 8-8.5% in the fiscal beginning April 1 and said it is well placed to meet the future challenges on the back of widespread vaccine coverage, supply-side reforms and easing of regulations. The

Survey expects the economy to grow by 9.2% during the current financial year, indicating a recovery to the pre-pandemic level. The economy had contracted by 7.3% in 2020-21 on account of impact of pandemic and subsequent nationwide lockdowns to check the spread of coronavirus.



Maharashtra Has Highest Number Of SC Entrepreneurs :-

Maharashtra tops India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes with as many as 96,805 enterprises. Tamil Nadu with 42,997 enterprises and Rajasthan with 38,517 units occupy the second and third slots, according to the data furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Union Ministry of MSME regarding the number of SC-owned enterprises covered under the Udyam system of registration.



Brand Finance report: LIC 10th most valued insurance brand globally :-

Life Insurance Corporation, which is bound for the nation's largest share sale by March, is the strongest and the largest brand in the country with a valuation of USD 8.656 billion (around Rs 64,722 crore), which also makes it the 10th strongest insurance brand globally, according to a brand valuation report. According to the London-based Brand Finance, which is a brand consultancy, the market value of LIC will become Rs 43.40 lakh crore or USD 59.21 billion by 2022, and Rs 58.9-lakh crore or USD 78.63 billion by 2027.



CRISIL Report: India's GDP Expected To Grow 7.8% In FY23 :-

Domestic rating agency CRISIL has estimated FY23 real GDP growth at 7.8 per cent as compared with the 8.5 per cent projected in the Economic Survey. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget proposals focused on loosening the purse strings by boosting capital expenditure and going slow on fiscal consolidation are aimed in the right direction, the rating agency said.



NSO First Revised GDP estimates FY21: Indian economy contracts by 6.6% :-

India's economic growth in financial year 2021-22 (FY22) may dip to 8.8 per cent from the 9.2 per cent estimated earlier as the statistics office said the coronavirus pandemic had a lesser debilitating effect on the economy in FY21 than what was estimated earlier. The first revised estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) data for FY21 released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed GDP contracted 6.6 per cent, against the 7.3 per cent dip estimated earlier.



CMIE Report: India's unemployment rate in January 2022 stood at 6.57% :-

India's unemployment rate has dropped to 6.57 per cent, lowest since March 2021, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. India's unemployment rate has fallen to 6.57 per cent in January, which is the lowest since March 2021, as the country gradually recovers with the easing of restrictions following a decline in Omicron cases, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). Telangana reported the lowest unemployment rate at 0.7 per cent in January, followed by Gujarat (1.2 per cent), Meghalaya (1.5 per cent) and Odisha (1.8 per cent).



India Press Freedom Report 2021 :-

Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura topped the list of States and Union Territories where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021, a report by a New Delhi-based rights group said. At least six journalists were killed, 108 attacked and 13 media houses or newspapers targeted across the country, according to the India Press Freedom Report 2021 by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) said.



Salesforce Global Index: India Leads In Digital Skills Readiness :-

Salesforce, a leading player in Customer Relationship Management (CRM), said that according to its global digital skills Index, India leads in digital skills readiness and has the highest readiness score amongst 19 countries it surveyed. The survey examined global employee sentiments and readiness to acquire the key digital skills needed by business today and over the next five years. According to Salesforce, in India, 72 per cent

of respondents say they are very actively learning digital skills . 66 per cent of respondents in India also said they feel very equipped with resources to learn digital skills.



India Ranked 46th In EIU's Democracy Index :-

The Indian government's failure to crack down on the persecution of religious and other minorities by some groups continues to weigh on the country's democracy score, which has declined significantly in recent years, as per the EIU's 2021 Democracy Index. In India, which registered a small improvement in its score, year-long protests by farmers eventually forced the government to repeal the farm laws that it had introduced in 2020. The victory of the protesters, as well as some disappointing defeats for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), showed that there are mechanisms and institutions in place to allow government accountability to the electorate between national elections, it said.



In 9th US Green Building Council India Ranks 3rd :-

The US Green Building Council (USGBC) annual list ranked India third in the world for LEED certified green buildings in 2021. China and Canada occupy the first two places. The United States is not included in the list, but it is still the largest in the world's market for LEED. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the world's most widely used green building rating system. Available for virtually all types of buildings, LEED provides a framework for healthy, highly efficient and economical green buildings. The analysis used to develop the list ranks countries in terms of LEED certified space as of December 31, 2021.



Hurun India Wealth Report: India's Millionaire Households Rose 11% In 2021 :-

Dollar millionaires or those with personal wealth greater than Rs 7 crore rose 11 per cent to 4.58 lakh households in India by the end of the pandemic in 2021, according to a survey. The Hurun India Wealth Report 2021 estimates that the Households of Indian millionaires (USD) will

increase by 30% over the next five years to reach 6,00,000 households by 2026. The Hurun Report findings on the dollar millionaires come at a time when there is rising concern about the growing inequality in the country with a population of over 130 crore.

**India Ratings
& Research**
A Fitch Group Company

India Ratings Decrease GDP Growth At 8.6% For FY22 :-

India Ratings has revised downwards its GDP growth forecast for 2021-22 to 8.6 per cent from the consensus 9.2 per cent projected earlier. According to an India Ratings analysis, NSO is likely to peg the FY22 real gross domestic product growth at Rs 147.2 lakh crore. This translates into a GDP growth rate of 8.6 per cent, down from 9.2 per cent forecast in the first advance estimate released on January 7, 2022. The major reason for the likely downward revision is the upward revision of FY21 GDP to Rs 135.6 lakh crore in the first revised estimate of national income for FY21, which was released on January 31, 2022, the agency said.

14: Schemes & Committees



'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ki Ore' programme launched by PM Modi :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 20 January inaugurated the launch of 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ki Ore'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is delivered the keynote address at the national launch ceremony of 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim

Bharat Ke Ore' via video conferencing. The program unveiled yearlong initiatives dedicated to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by the Brahma Kumaris, which include more than 30 campaigns and over 15000 programs and events.



Govt announces 40-100 per cent subsidy to popularise drone in agriculture :-

To promote the use of drones, the Government on 22 January offered a 100 percent grant up to the cost of Rs 10 lakh to Agricultural Institutes for purchase of drones for Farming and its allied activities. In addition, the Government has also provided a grant of 75 percent of the cost of drone to the farmers producers organizations (FPOs) for displaying on the farmers' fields, according to a senior officer of the Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Ministry.



India unveils 5-year roadmap to becoming \$300-billion electronics powerhouse :-

India has released a roadmap for becoming a \$300-billion electronics manufacturing centre. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in

association with India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA), released its vision document, 'USD 300 bn Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026.' The five-part strategy will focus on both broadening the base of manufacturing while also deepening the manufacturing capabilities for electronics in India.



Ministry of Defence begins Home Delivery of medicines under SeHAT scheme :-

In a brand new initiative, the defence ministry has roll out the home delivery of medicines for veterans and serving army employees in Delhi, seeking healthcare services under an online medical consultation platform. The home delivery of medicines under Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT) has started with the Base Hospital in Delhi Cantonment and the scheme would be extended to more and more stations in the future, the ministry said. It is a tri-services teleconsultation service designed for "all entitled personnel" and their families, the ministry said, adding that it was launched in May last year.



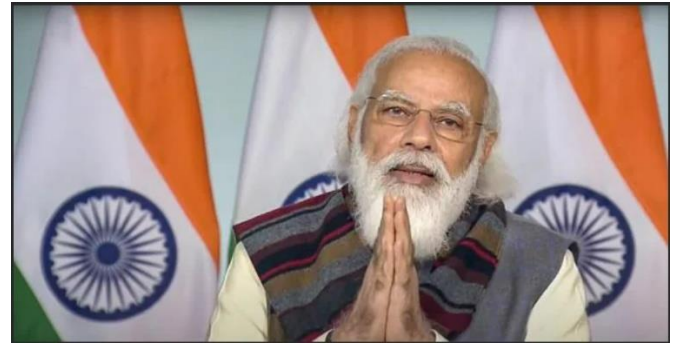
West Bengal launch open-air classroom programme 'Paray Shikshalaya' :-

The West Bengal government (February 7) launched 'Paray Shikshalaya' – an open-air classroom in the neighbourhood programme – for students from class 1 to 7. The aim of this initiative is to encourage students who dropped out of schools during the Covid-19 pandemic to continue their education. A section of doctors and parents were in favour of reopening of schools. In view of the rising demand for physical classes, the state government reopened schools and also launched this neighbourhood classes initiative.



RPF launches nationwide "AAHT operation" to curb human trafficking :-

Railway Protection Force has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking. As part of "Operation AAHT", special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers. The Railways, which operate about 21,000 trains across the country daily, is the most reliable mode of transportation for the traffickers who often moved their victims on long-distance trains. The National Crime Records Bureau registers about 2,200 cases of Human Trafficking cases on an average each year.



PM CARES Fund corpus triples to Rs 10,990.17 crore in FY 2020-21 :-

The PM CARES Fund, set up to deal with emergencies such as the Covid pandemic, saw its corpus grow nearly three-fold to Rs 10,990 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal, while the disbursement rose to Rs 3,976 crore, according to the latest audited statement. The disbursement included Rs 1,000 crore for migrant welfare and over Rs 1,392 crore for procurement of Covid vaccine doses. The fund recorded nearly Rs 494.91 crore as foreign contributions and over Rs 7,183 crore as voluntary contributions during the fiscal.



NITI Aayog and USAID announces tie-up under SAMRIDH initiative :-

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative, which aims to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions. A release issued by NITI Aayog said that in 2020, USAID, IPE Global, and stakeholders

from the Indian government, academia, and the private sector developed the innovative SAMRIDH blended finance facility to combine public and philanthropic funds with commercial capital to create and rapidly scale market-based health solutions.



PMKSY extended till March 2026 with an allocation of Rs 4,600 crore :-

The food processing ministry said its flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till March 2026 with an allocation of Rs 4,600 crore. In a tweet, the ministry said PMKSY has been extended for a period of 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Central government has allocated Rs 4,600 crore for the scheme, the ministry tweeted. PMKSY is a comprehensive package which will lead to creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.



Kerala signed an MoU with Social Alpha to develop clean energy tech :-

The Kerala government signed an MoU with Social Alpha, a joint initiative of Tata Trust and the Indian government, through its Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC). The Energy Management Centre (EMC) and Kerala Development and Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC) are part of the project. They will work together to support innovative and clean energy technology programmes and initiatives by the state government. The focus is on clean energy technologies promoting smart grids, transition to renewables, and climate action by setting up a joint incubation centre. The incubation centre will have labs and infrastructure by the agencies. The initiative focuses on the country's commitment to climate change.



NABARD Launched 'JIVA Programme' To Promote Natural Farming :-

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched an agroecology-based programme JIVA that will promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states. "JIVA is a culmination of several projects under the watershed programme and will be implemented on our existing completed (or near completed) watersheds and wadis in 11 states covering five agroecological zones, which are in ecologically fragile and rain-fed areas,"

NABARD Chairman G R Chintala said in the virtual launching event.



SEBI Restructured Advisory Committee On Investor Protection And Education Fund :-

Capital markets regulator SEBI has restructured its advisory committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF). The panel is mandated to recommend investor education and protection activities that may be undertaken directly by the markets regulator, or through any other agency, for utilisation of the SEBI Investor Protection and Education Fund. The eight-member committee will now be chaired by G Mahalingam, former Whole Time Member of SEBI, according to the latest update with the markets watchdog.



Maharashtra's Health Minister Announces "Hope Express" To Prevent Cancer :-

Maharashtra's Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced that "Hope Express" will be launched in the state to prevent cancer. He was speaking at the launch of a state-

of-the-art Mosaic-3D radiation machine at a private hospital in Kolhapur. This is the first such machine in India. The State Health Minister also promised to take initiative to start Hope Express in every district of the state through district planning. He also inaugurated the Oncoprime Cancer Center online at the Hattarki Hospital in Gadchिंगलज. The center will benefit patients in rural areas.



GoI Approves Continuation Of Modernization Of State Police Forces Scheme :-

The Indian government has approved the continuation of a mega police modernisation scheme for five years up to 2025-26 with a financial outlay of Rs 26,275 crore. The Union Home Ministry said the scheme includes security-related expenditure in Jammu and Kashmir, northeastern states and Maoists-affected areas, for raising new battalions, developing high-tech forensic laboratories and other investigation tools.



J&K Governor Launched QR Code-Based Mechanism For Certification :-

Jammu and Kashmir lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha has launched a QR code-based mechanism for certification and labelling of handmade carpets of the union territory. With the QR-based application, which is the first of its kind in the country, customers can check and verify the authenticity and other requisite details of carpets produced in Jammu and Kashmir, read an official statement from the administration.



Amit Shah launched 'Shastra App' and 'Smart Card Arms License' of Delhi Police :-

To offer tech-friendly digital services to the nation's capital's citizens, Delhi Police has become the country's first police force to introduce 'Smart Card Arms License' officials said. The Delhi Police License Unit has decided to replace the existing bulky gun license booklet with a 'Smart Card Arms License'. The smart card and Shastra App were officially launched by Union Interior Minister Amit Shah to mark the 75th anniversary of the Delhi Police Force.



GoI To Launch 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' To Deliver Crop Insurance Policies :-

As Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) enters its seventh year of implementation in the upcoming Kharif season, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare will launch "Meri Policy Mere Hath", a campaign to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers' doorstep. The campaign aims to ensure that all farmers are well-informed and equipped with all information about their policies, land registration, application process and how to resolve complaints under PMFBY.



Government approved continuation of RUSA scheme till 2026 :-

The Ministry of Education has approved the scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for continuation till 2026. RUSA is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for funding the state government universities and colleges to achieve the aims of equity, access and excellence. The proposal entails an expenditure of Rs 12,929.16 crore out of which the central share is Rs 8,120.97 crores and the state share is of Rs 4,808.19 crores. It has been envisaged to support around 1,600 projects under the new phase of the scheme.

15: Science & Technology



Scientists name new species of rainfrog after Greta Thunberg :-

A new species of rainfrog, discovered in the Panama jungle, has been named after Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg. The species has been named as *Pristimantis gretathunbergae*, or popularly known as the Greta Thunberg Rainfrog. The frog was originally discovered in 2012, and was thought to be part of already categorised *Pristimantis* family. However, recent DNA analysis confirmed that the frog is a new species, according to scientific journal *Zookeys*.



ISRO Successfully Tests Vikas engine in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully fired the high-thrust Vikas engine that would

power the nation's first man mission -- Gaganyaan. As reported by ISRO, the Vikas engine underwent a qualification test for a duration of 25 seconds at the ISRO Propulsion Complex that's located in Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu. According to the space agency, the two engines have undergone tests under nominal operating conditions for a total duration of 480 seconds.



CDRI Develops Omicron Testing Kit Named "OM" :-

The CSIR – Central Drug Research Institute's scientists have developed an indigenous RT-PCR kit called 'Om' for testing the omicron variant. The kit, a first by any government institution for the omicron variant, will also make India self-reliant in RT-PCR diagnostics. Om enables quick and cost-effective detection of omicron variant over genome sequencing for a large population. It was made within two months and will cost around Rs 150.



Lok Sabha Secretariat Launches Digital Sansad App :-

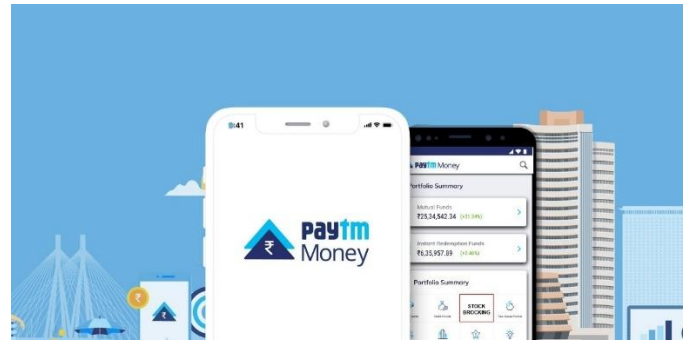
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The Lok Sabha secretariat has released a brand new app, Digital Sansad, with the intention to make it simpler for people to observe proceedings in Parliament, and additionally their very own lawmakers. In addition, it'll additionally assist contributors of parliament access services such as checking personal updates like status of their notices, House bulletins, etc. As MPs are barred from the usage of laptops in the House, the app comes handy for parliamentary information for MPs during a debate in the House.



India's Largest EV Charging Station Opened At Gurugam:-

India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station Alektify hub has opened in Gurugram at the Delhi-Jaipur National Highway. With a capacity of 100 four-wheeler vehicles, the charging station is the largest in the country by a large margin. The previous largest EV station was in Navi Mumbai which has 16 AC chargers and four charging ports. The government has been trying to encourage the adoption of EVs through various state and national level subsidies and schemes.



Paytm Money launches "India's first" intelligent messenger called 'Pops' :-

One97 Communications Limited which owns digital payments and financial services platform Paytm has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Money has introduced "India's first" intelligent messenger called 'Pops'. With 'Pops', users can receive specific information related to their stocks, analysis about their portfolio, market news, and important market movements, all in one place, claims the company.



Tata Steel Chess 2022: Magnus Carlsen beats Fabiano Caruana :-

World Champion Grand Master Magnus Carlsen has secured his victory in Wijk Aan Zee (Netherlands) with a round to spare. The global champion defeated GM Fabiano Caruana and now leads the 2022 Tata Steel Chess Tournament by a complete point. It was his 8th win, a unique achievement. Erigaisi Arjun (India) has won

the Tata Steel Challengers. By doing so he has earned a spot in the Tata Steel Masters next year.



Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy launched in IIT Dharwad :-

Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation (HHSIF), the philanthropic arm of Honeywell, a Fortune 100 company, has announced it has established the Global Center of Excellence for Affordable and Clean Energy (GCoE-ACE) at IIT Dharwad to boost research in affordable and clean energy (ACE), the backbone of the country's development. This multi-year project seeks to establish physical infrastructure, incubate technologies, and identify avenues for adoption of clean energy solutions that are developed to improve the lives and livelihoods of rural communities.



Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy launched in IIT Dharwad :-

Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation (HHSIF), the philanthropic arm of Honeywell, a Fortune

100 company, has announced it has established the Global Center of Excellence for Affordable and Clean Energy (GCoE-ACE) at IIT Dharwad to boost research in affordable and clean energy (ACE), the backbone of the country's development. This multi-year project seeks to establish physical infrastructure, incubate technologies, and identify avenues for adoption of clean energy solutions that are developed to improve the lives and livelihoods of rural communities.



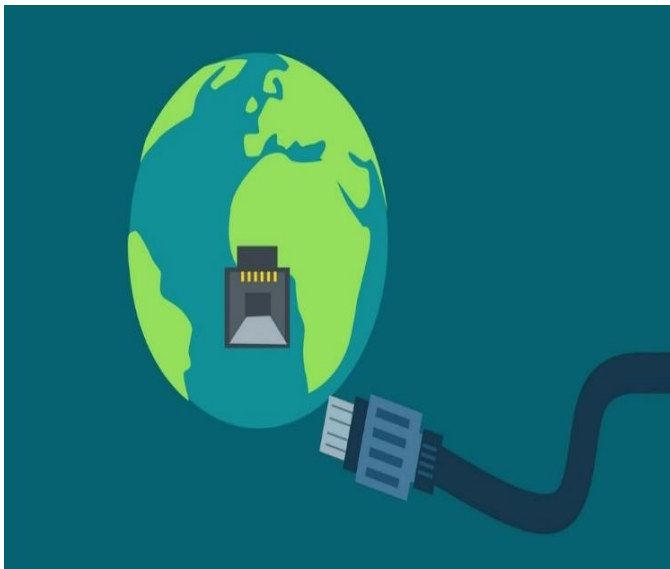
Dubai will launch World's first Hydrogen-powered Flying Boat 'The Jet' :-

World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat is all set to be manufactured and launched in Dubai. Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission has signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based DWYN to manufacture and operate 'The Jet'. "World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat, 'THE JET', set to be manufactured and launched in Dubai," the Government of Dubai Media Office tweeted.



IISc. commissions one of India's most powerful supercomputers 'Param Pravega' :-

Param Pravega, a supercomputer that is touted to be one of the most powerful in the country, has been installed at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), the premiere academic establishment said in a statement. According to IISc, Param Pravega has a total supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops (1 petaflop equals a quadrillion or 1,015 operations per second).



Swarajability: India's first AI-based job platform for persons with disabilities :-

Swarajability, India's first AI-based job portal for persons with disabilities, was launched to widen their opportunities with tech applications. Developed in both web and mobile app versions for maximum reach, the platform aids people with disabilities like visual, hearing impairment, and locomotive disorders seeking employment. Principal Scientific Adviser to the government of India, Prof K Vijay Raghavan had soft-launched (beta-version) Swarajability. While IIT-Hyderabad provided expertise for the Artificial Intelligence component, Visual Quest India is the

developer and Youth4Jobs offered its experience in skilling, disability, and job linkages. The project is funded by Kotak Mahindra Bank.



India becomes first country to administer COVID-19 DNA vaccine :-

India has become the first country to administer DNA-based vaccines against COVID-19. Zydus Cadila's painless and needleless ZyCoV-D has been launched in Bihar's Patna. Civil surgeon Dr Vibha Singh said that three doses of the vaccine will be given at intervals of 28 days and 56 days. "This program has been started at three vaccination centres. It is good for people who are afraid of needles," Singh said. Meanwhile, Zydus Cadila said it is planning to soon roll out its vaccine for the age group between 12 to 18.



NASA Will Retire International Space Station In 2031 :-

The International Space Station (ISS), the world's largest habitable artificial satellite in space being managed by five countries, will continue its service until 2030 and will then plunge into an uninhabited area of the Pacific Ocean in January 2031, US space agency Nasa has confirmed in a new transition plan. In an official report, Nasa said the ISS would crash into a part of the Pacific Ocean known as Point Nemo. This is the point furthest from land on Earth, also known as spacecraft cemetery. Many old satellites and spacecraft, including Russian space station Mir, and other space debris had crashed there in 2001.

cent and 49 per cent stake, respectively. It will have availability of up to 100 Gbps capacity from SES and will leverage Jio's premiere position and sales reach in India to unlock this market opportunity.



ISRO Successfully Launched Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-04 :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the earth observation satellite EOS-04, along with two other satellites, on the PSLV-C52 mission. This is ISRO's first launch of the year, and follows the failed launch of the EOS-03 satellite in August last year. The EOS-04, formerly known as RISAT-1A, is a land-based earth observation satellite that images using radar. It functions in all weather conditions and is used for agricultural and forestry applications like terrain mapping and soil moisture monitoring. EOS-04 was inserted into a sun synchronous orbit at an altitude of 529 km from the surface. EOS-04 is the sixth satellite to be launched under the RISAT (Radar Imaging Satellite) programme in the last decade.



Reliance Jio Ties Up With SES For Satellite-Based Broadband Service :-

Reliance Jio has announced its foray in satellite-based broadband communication with a tie up with Luxembourg-based firm SES. The partnership will enable Jio to offer next generation affordable and scalable broadband services in India leveraging satellite technology, it said. The two companies will form a joint venture with Jio Platforms Ltd and SES owning 51 per

16: Sports



PV Sindhu Wins Title At Syed Modi Badminton 2022 :-

PV Sindhu ended her title drought after 29 months on 23 January, winning the women's singles at the Syed Modi India International BWF Super 300 tournament. India's ace shuttler, whose previous title had been the 2019 world championships triumph, defeated compatriot Malvika Bansod in the final in Lucknow. Sindhu, the world No 7, had not won a title since the world championship at Basel, Switzerland in August 2019, the pandemic situation and disruption in the schedule had also contributed to the long wait.



Ladakh team wins 9th Women National Ice Hockey Championship 2022 :-

The Ladakh women's team has won the ninth national women's ice hockey championship organised by the Ice

Hockey Association of India in Himachal Pradesh, an official spokesman said on 21 January. The championship was held in Kaza area of Himachal Pradesh from January 15 – 21. Six teams from Delhi, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Telangana and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police participated in the championship, he said.



Olympian Neeraj Chopra honoured with Param Vishisht Seva Medal :-

Olympian Neeraj Chopra will be honoured with Param Vishisht Seva Medal on the eve of Republic Day. Neeraj Chopra is the first track and field athlete to win a gold medal for India at the Olympics. After joining the Army, Neeraj Chopra was selected for training at the 'Mission Olympics Wing' as well as at the Army Sports Institute, Pune. The Mission Olympics Wing is an initiative by the Indian Army to identify and train promising sportspersons in 11 disciplines for various national and international competitions.



Women's Asia Cup Hockey 2022: India beat China to win Bronze :-

Last edition champions India defeated China 2-0 to win a consolation bronze medal at the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament Muscat. The Indians left behind the disappointment of their semifinal defeat to Korea and controlled the proceedings in the first two quarters, scoring two goals in the process, to go into half time with a 2-0 lead against China. They, however, failed to score any more goals in the second half.



Australian Open 2022: Rafael Nadal beats Daniil Medvedev :-

Rafael Nadal beats Daniil Medvedev in Australian Open 2022 to become 1st man to clinch 21 Grand Slam titles. Rafael Nadal defeated Daniil Medvedev 2-6, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in the men's singles final. Rafael Nadal became the first man to win 21 Grand Slam titles. It was the second-longest Australian Open final after Novak Djokovic beat Nadal in five sets in 5 hours and 53 minutes in 2012.



6th Pan Am Women Cup Hockey Championship: Argentina beat Chile :-

Argentina defeated Chile, 4-2 to win its 6th women's field hockey championship title at the 2022 Women's Pan American Cup. The Women's Pan American Cup is the quadrennial international championship of the Americas organized by the Pan American Hockey Federation. The 2022 Women's Pan Am Cup was the sixth edition of the championship. It was held from January 19 to 29, 2022 in Santiago, Chile. With this win both Argentina and Chile have sealed automatic qualification spots at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup, Spain and Netherlands 2022.



Unnati Hooda and Kiran George wins 2022 Odisha Open :-

Unnati Hooda have become the youngest Indian to win a Super one hundred tournament as she beat compatriot Smit Toshniwal in straight games to claim the women's singles title while unseeded Kiran George emerged victorious in men's singles final of Odisha Open badminton tournament. Producing an excellent performance to emerge triumphant in her event, the 14-year-old Unnati won 21-18, 21-11 to be crowned champion in the inaugural edition of the \$75,000 Odisha Open.



New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell named the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award 2021 :-

New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell has been named the recipient of the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award after his gesture in the 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup semi-final against England in Abu Dhabi. As a result, Mitchell has become the fourth New Zealand player to win the award, following the footsteps of Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson.



Neeraj Chopra nominated for Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award :-

Neeraj Chopra, India's first ever winner of an Olympic athletics gold medal, has been nominated for the 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award. He is only the third Indian athlete to be nominated for a Laureus Award, after wrestler Vinesh Phogat in 2019 and cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, who won the Laureus Sporting Moment Award 2000-2020. Besides him, five others have been nominated for the award – Emma

Raducanu, Daniil Medvedev, Pedri, Yulimar Rojas, Ariarne Titmus.



U19 World Cup 2022: India beat England in final to win 5th title :-

India lifted a record-extending fifth ICC U19 World Cup title after defeating England in the final at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua. The Yash Dhull-led side defeated the England in the summit clash by four wickets. Earlier, India had won the U19 World Cup in 2000, 2008, 2012, and 2018.



IOC approves proposal to include new sports at 2028 Olympics :-

The International Olympic Committee has approved the initial sports programme for the 2028 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles with 28 sports on the schedule including skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing. The initial sports programme, which has a strong focus on youth, was approved by the 139th Session of the IOC in

Beijing. While inclusion in the 'core' sports is a big boost for these news sports, doubts persist over the inclusion of embattled sports boxing and weightlifting that are in trouble because of governance issues highlighted by the IOC.



China wins AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 Football Tournament :-

China PR beat Korea Republic by a scoreline of 3-2 in the final of the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup. Korea Republic were making their first ever appearance in an Women's Asian Cup final facing eight time winners China PR. With this win China PR have extended their Women's Asian Cup record. Having won it in 1986, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2006 and 2022, they now have six more titles than any other nation. The win also reintroduces China to the top of women's Asian football after 16 years.



Sri Lankan Fast Bowler Suranga Lakmal Announces Retirement :-

Sri Lanka fast bowler Suranga Lakmal will retire from international cricket after their upcoming tour of India, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said in a statement. SLC said that Lakmal has informed the board of his decision. Lakmal made his debut in an ODI against India in December 2009. He has taken 168 wickets in 68 Test matches and 109 in 86 ODIs. The 34-year-old played only 11 T20Is, taking eight wickets.



Africa Cup Of Nations 2022: Senegal Beat Egypt :-

Senegal won its first African Cup of Nations title by beating Egypt 4-2 in a penalty shootout. Sadio Mané scored the winning spot kick to start the celebrations and make up for missing a penalty in the seventh minute of the game. The final had ended 0-0 after extra time. Senegal had lost two finals previously, including at the last African Cup in Egypt in 2019, when Mané was left inconsolable. This time he delivered the winning moment.



Indian Railways Planning to set up country's biggest Wrestling Academy :-

In a bid to satisfy the commitment to set up a state-of-art wrestling academy in Indian Railways, work has been sanctioned through the ministry to set up the same at Kishanganj, Delhi. The wrestling academy will be set up at an estimated cost of Rs 30.76 crores. According to the Railway Ministry, this wrestling academy will be the largest in India, ready with superior training facilities. It will offer an opportunity for many budding wrestlers to become champions in the coming time, the ministry stated. According to the ministry, the national transporter has played a key role in promoting wrestling in the country and maximum of the elite wrestlers in India are from Indian Railways.



Bihar's Sakibul Gani Became 1st Player To Hit Triple Century On First-Class Debut :-

Bihar's Sakibul Gani waltzed into the record books, becoming the first player in the history of the game to score a triple century on his first-class debut. Gani, son of a farmer from Bihar's Motihari district, scored 341 off 405 balls, hitting 56 fours and two sixes, in the Plate Group Ranji Trophy fixture against Mizoram at the Jadavpur University Campus ground in Kolkata.



India's R Praggnanandhaa becomes youngest player to beat World No 1 Magnus Carlsen :-

Young Indian grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has defeated world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in the eighth round of the Airthings Masters, an online rapid chess tournament. Praggnanandhaa won with black pieces in 39 moves in a Tarrasch variation game to halt Carlsen's run of three straight wins. The Indian GM lies in joint 12th spot after eight rounds with eight points. His spectacular win over Carlsen comes after a moderate run in the earlier rounds, which included a solitary victory over Lev Aronian, two draws and four defeats.

17: State



Tripura Celebrated 44th Kokborok Day :-

Kokborok Day (Tripuri Language Day) is a festival celebrated in the Indian state of Tripura to celebrate the development of the Kokborok language. It is observed on the 19th of January every year. Kokborok is the official language of Tripura. This day was chosen to commemorate its early recognition as an official

language in 1979. These activities include cultural programs and writing activities. This year 19th of January 44th Kokborok Day celebration program were held at Rabindra Satabarsiki in presence of CM Blplab Kumar Deb.



Himachal Pradesh CM Launched 'Apna Kangra' App :-

With a view to provide a hassle-free experience for tourists and simultaneously boosting sale of local handicrafts, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on 20 January launched 'Apna Kangra' app and hampers handcrafted by self help groups at Dharamsala in the district. He said the motive of 'Apna Kangra' was to empower rural women and provide job opportunities to youth through tourism, while facilitating hospitality services such as hotels, homestays and transport to travellers.



Karnataka became India's first state to launch AVGC Center of Excellence :-

The state government on 20 January launched a centre of excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming &

Comics (AVGC), positioning it as a pioneering high technology digital media hub. The AVGC centre located in Mahadevapura is an initiative of Innovate Karnataka, a state-funded programme, IT/BT Minister C N Ashwath Narayan said. Karnataka was the first Indian state to introduce an AVGC policy in 2012. The state is now home to the country's first to set up such a centre, which is also said to be the biggest in Asia, the government said in a release.



Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary set to be notified as 4th tiger reserve of Rajasthan :-

Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, which is among the proposed five sites in the country, is expected to be formally notified as tiger reserve (TR) soon before the Global Tiger Summit, which is to be held at Vladivostok, Russia. The Centre also announced the development during the 4th Asia ministerial conference on tiger conservation. It was said that the Centre has already given its approval of granting tiger reserve status to Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, along with MM Hills in Karnataka, Guru Ghasidas National Park in Chhattisgarh.



Kerala Got Its First-Ever Scientific Bird Atlas :-

The Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA), the first-of-its-kind state-level bird atlas in India, has created solid baseline data about the distribution and abundance of various bird species across all major habitats giving an impetus for futuristic studies. Conducted as a citizen science-driven exercise with the participation of over 1000 volunteers of the bird watching community, KBA was prepared based on systematic surveys held twice over 60 days a year during the wet (July to September) and dry (January to March) seasons between 2015 and 2020. KBA accounted for nearly three lakh records of 361 species, including 94 very rare species, 103 rare species, 110 common species, 44 very common species, and 10 most abundant species.



India's first graphene innovation center to be established in Kerala :-

The Kerala government will set up India's first Graphene Innovation Centre, a joint mission of Digital University Kerala and Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) with Tata Steel Limited as the enterprise partner, informed Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on 02 February. The Centre can be referred to as India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG) in Ernakulam.



Jerri Hamlet Declared As First 'Milk Village' Of J&K :-

The administration of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has designated Jerri village in Reasi district as the Union Territory's first 'Milk Village,' and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms for the hamlet under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS). The community, which has 73 individual dairy units with 370 cows, would provide financial security to the local farmers. The IDDS has sanctioned a total of 57 units for the town after it was designated as a "Milk Village." Dairy units with five animals are eligible for a 50% subsidy under the IDDS.



Spitik Gustor Festival Celebrated In Ladakh 2022 :-

Spitik Gustor Festival, a two-day annual celebration of Ladakhi way of life and traditional history celebrated on 30th & 31st January 2022 in Leh and Ladakh Union Territory (UT). It is a celebration of peace and prosperity that is celebrated at the Spitik Monastery in Leh and Ladakh UT. The main attraction of the festival was the colourful masks dance locally called Chams performed by the monks of the monastery in their best robes depicting different deities.



India's first geological park will be built in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh :-

The first geological park of India will be set up at Lamheta village on the banks of the Narmada river in the Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh. The approval for geopark has been granted by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), under the ministry of mining, with an estimated cost of Rs 35 crore. GSI had sanctioned Rs 1.30 crore to design a detailed project report of the geological rock formations in five acres in the Lamheta village. It is located 20 km away from the Jabalpur district, where the geopark will be built.



Punjab Chief Electoral Officer unveiled its mascot named 'Shera' :-

In a bid to spread voter awareness among voters on the importance of their votes ahead of Punjab Assembly elections 2022 in a creative manner, the office of Punjab Chief Electoral Officer unveiled its poll mascot Shera depicting a lion through a Facebook live event. Speaking on the launch, Punjab CEO S Karuna Raju said that dressed in traditional Punjabi attire, the election mascot

represents the rich cultural heritage of Punjab. Promoted under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) project, the mascot aims to increase voter awareness and participation in the elections to increase voter turnout and promote ethical voting.



Torgya Festival Celebrated In Arunachal Pradesh 2022 :-

The three days long Torgya Festival celebrated by Monp tribe of Arunachal Pradesh in January every year was celebrated in Tawang Monastery. It is believed that celebrating the festival chases out evil spirits which usher in diseases and misfortunes. Monastic masked dances are performed in Cham-lang, courtyard of the Tawang Monastery. In the three-day festival, costumed dances are very popular and held in the courtyard of the monastery with the objective of removing evil spirits and usher all round prosperity and happiness to the people in the ensuing year.



Sourav Ganguly laid the foundation stone of world's third-largest cricket stadium :-

The world's third-largest cricket stadium is going to be built in Jaipur, and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly laid the foundation stone of the project virtually. RCA president Vaibhav Gehlot said a target has been set to complete the construction in three years. It will be the second-largest cricket stadium in India and the third-largest in the world, he said, adding that it would seat 75,000 spectators.



Kanchoth festival celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir :-

Braving heavy snowfall and extreme cold wave conditions, people of Bhandarwah celebrated the ancient Kanchoth festival, a symbol of ancient Nag culture. Dressed in traditional fineries, local residents, including women who observed fast, thronged temples to offer prayers and hoped that the deity can help end the pandemic. The age-old festival is celebrated by Hindus, mainly Nag followers, who believe that on this day of Gouri tritiya, Lord Shiva and goddess Parvati got married and the latter insisted on a throne made of snow as her wedding gift.



Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates Long Rail-Cum-Road Bridge Over River Ganga In Bihar :-

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated the 14.5 km long rail-cum-road-bridge over the Ganga river at Munger in Bihar through video conferencing. The bridge has been constructed on NH 333B at the cost of 696 crore rupees. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, one of the major tourist and pilgrimage sites of Bihar, the city of Munger is known for its rich ancient history, culture, education and commerce. He said, with the construction of this bridge, the distance from Munger to Khagaria will be less than 100 km and the distance from Munger to Begusarai will be less than 20 km. The Minister said, this rail-cum-road-bridge will get rid of traffic jams, fuel will be saved and traffic will accelerate.



Rajasthan Tops Saubhagya Scheme :-

Rajasthan has the maximum households electrified through the solar-based standalone system, while hill states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had nil beneficiaries under the initiative. Under the Saubhagya scheme, as many as 1,23,682 households were electrified through solar-based standalone system in Rajasthan, followed by Chhattisgarh (65,373), Uttar Pradesh (53,234), Assam (50,754), Bihar (39,100), Maharashtra (30,538), Odisha (13,735), Madhya Pradesh (12,651), Power Minister R K Singh told the Lok Sabha.



Himachal Pradesh Gets 1st Biodiversity Park At Mandi :-

The first biodiversity park of Himachal Pradesh has been established at a cost of Rs 1 crore at Bhulah in Janjehli Valley of Mandi district, which would prove to be a boon for researchers and tourists and also help conserve endangered Himalayan herbs. With this park, the valley of Bhulah is ready to make its contribution towards conservation of the endangered Himalayan herbs.

18: Summits & Conferences



PM Narendra Modi Hosted First India-Central Asia Virtual Summit :-

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hosted the first India-Central Asia Summit in virtual format, which was attended by Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. This first India-Central Asia coincided with the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries. During the Summit, Prime Minister Modi and the Central Asian Leaders discussed the next steps in taking India-Central Asia relations to new heights. In a historic decision, the Leaders agreed to institutionalize the Summit mechanism by deciding to hold it every 2 years.



India and ASEAN nations approves Digital Work Plan 2022 :-

The 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India held on a virtual platform. Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications (MoSC) and Admiral Tin Aung San, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar co-chaired the meeting. The Ministers meeting approved the India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022. The workplan includes system for combating the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, WiFi Access network interface for nationwide public internet, the capacity building and knowledge sharing in emerging areas in the field of Information and Communication Technologies.



India- Bangladesh Webinar on solid waste management :-

The municipalities of Indore and Dhaka North held a virtual dialogue to share best practises in solid waste management. The webinar was facilitated by the High Commission of India and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India. During the webinar, Indore Municipal Corporation officials shared their waste collection methods, innovative practises and technologies adopted by them for efficient waste management. The municipal corporation of Indore detailed the 100 percent door-to-door segregated waste collection system, biometric attendance system for municipal cleaners and GPS-tracked waste collection vehicles.



RBI observed Financial Literacy week 2022: February 14-18 :-

As part of a nationwide campaign to promote financial literacy, the RBI has launched an awareness programme on digital banking in a secure manner. The RBI has

observed 'financial literacy week' during February 14-18 in order to propagate financial education messages among the public across the country. RBI, Delhi held an event to propagate financial education messages on the theme of "Go Digital Go Secure", the central bank said in a statement. This theme is one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025.



PM Narendra Modi addressed high-level segment of One Ocean Summit :-

Prime Minister Narendra had addressed the high-level segment of the One Ocean Summit through a video message on 11 February, his office said. The high-level segment of the summit was also addressed by several other heads of states and governments including Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan and Canada, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement. The summit was organised by France from February 9-11 in Brest in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.



45th International Kolkata Book Fair to start from February 28 :-

The 45th International Kolkata Book Fair will start from February 28 and will go on till March 13. The focal theme country this year is Bangladesh. Addressing the press conference, general secretary of Publishers and Booksellers Guild Tridib Chatterjee said that in order to celebrate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh Independence, the theme of Kolkata Book Fair is Bangladesh. Chatterjee also said poets like Sanjib Chattopadhyay and KL Khalid will be present during the celebration.



17th Edition Of Mumbai International Film Festival To Be Held Form May :-

Much awaited by film makers and cineastes in India and abroad, the 17th edition of Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation films (MIFF-2022) will be held from 29 May to 4 June, 2022 at the Films Division complex, Mumbai. Online entry is open from 15 February 2022 to 15 March 2022 for entering in different categories. Films completed between 1st September, 2019 and 31st December, 2021 are eligible for entry in MIFF-2022. The Best Documentary of the Festival will receive a Golden Conch and Rs 10 lakhs cash award.



Singapore Air Show 2022: IAF To Display Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas :-

The Singapore Air Show is a biennial event which provides a platform for the global aviation industry to showcase their products. The IAF has pitched the indigenous Tejas MK-I ac alongside participants from across the world. The Tejas fighter jets has fascinated the audience with its display of low-level aerobatics displaying its superior handling characteristics and maneuverability. In the past, the Indian Air Force had participated in similar air shows like LIMA-2019 in Malaysia and Dubai Air Show-2021 to exhibit indigenous aircraft and formation aerobatic teams.



Indian Army Conducted Hackathon Named "Sainya Ranakshetram" :-

Indian Army conducted a first-of-its-kind 'Hackathon', giving yet another shot in the arm for proficiency and expertise in the use of emerging technologies, and to delineate the technological side of the armed force. The

hackathon was conducted in the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow under the overall guidance of the Shimla-based Army Training Command (ARTRAC), one of the seven commands of the Indian Army. The event was conducted from 01 October 2021 to 31 December 2021 under the name of “Sainya Ranakshetram”, in collaboration with the Rashtriya Raksha University. The virtual event witnessed the participation of over 15,000 participants and comprised a number of challenges based on Secure Coding, Software Defined Radio exploitation and Cyber Offensive skills.



Maru Mahotsav Or Jaisalmer Desert Festival Celebrated In Rajasthan :-

The world famous Maru Festival, which shows the rich and colorful desert life of Rajasthan, started here on February 13th and ended on February 16th. The four-day festival began with a procession at Pokaran, where various tableaux showcased the uniqueness of Maru or desert culture and tradition. Shale Mohammad, Minister

of Minority Affairs of Rajasthan, flagged off the event organized near Salamsagar pond in Jaisalmer. BSF soldiers riding decorated camels, a march by the troop's women's contingent, Mangal Kalash Yatra of girls and women, and various tableaux were the center of attraction on the first day.



Mumbai To Host International Olympic Committee Session In 2023 :-

Mumbai was officially chosen as host of the meeting of 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC), which may possibly see the election for the host country for the 2030 Winter Olympics and sports programme for LA 2028 Olympic Games. The session will be held in May or June next year. An IOC session is the annual meeting of the members of the IOC, comprising 101 voting members and 45 honorary members. It discusses and decides on the key activities of the global Olympics movement including adoption or amendment of the Olympic Charter, the election of IOC members and office bearers and election of the host city of Olympics.

SECTION 2



Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. What is the Oxford University Press (OUP) children's Word of the Year 2021?

- A) Isolate
- B) Anxiety
- C) Vax
- D) Well-being

2. Vinod Rai was appointed by which of the following bank as its Independent Director?

- A) AU Small Finance Bank
- B) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- C) Jana Small Finance Bank
- D) Unity Small Finance Bank

3. According to the Morning Consult Political Intelligence report who among the following topped the list of most popular world leaders?

- A) Fumio Kishida
- B) Joe Biden
- C) Justin Trudeau
- D) Narendra Modi

4. Who was named as the captain of the ICC T20I Women's Team of the Year 2021?

- A) Amy Jones
- B) Marizanne Kapp
- C) Nat Sciver
- D) Smriti Mandhana

5. S. Ranganathan has passed away in January 2022. What was his profession?

- A) Politician
- B) Social Worker
- C) Writer
- D) Former Supreme Court judge

6. Mia Mottley was re-elected by which of the following country as its Prime Minister?

- A) Serbia
- B) Lithuania
- C) Kazakhstan
- D) Barbados

7. Which of the following State/UTs village Jerri Hamlet was declared as a milk village?

- A) Kerala
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Jammu and Kashmir
- D) Punjab

8. Independent Director of _____ Rama Bijapurkar has resigned from the post.

- A) Axis Bank
- B) Bandhan Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) ICICI Bank

9. Jahnvi Dangeti of which state became the first Indian to complete the prestigious NASA programme?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Andhra Pradesh

- C) Maharashtra
- D) Madhya Pradesh

10. _____has won the International Association of Working Women Award.

- A) Alia Bhatt
- B) Deepika Padukone
- C) Priyanka Chopra
- D) Sushmita Sen

11. When the International Day of Education 2022 was observed?

- A) 23 January
- B) 19 January
- C) 16 January
- D) 24 January

12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveil a hologram statue of Subhas Chandra Bose at _____.

- A) Chennai
- B) Mumbai
- C) New Delhi
- D) Pune

13. A fixed deposit scheme named Platina fixed deposit was launched by which of the following bank?

- A) AU Small Finance Bank
- B) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- C) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- D) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

14. Who among the following was honoured with the Netaji Award 2022?

- A) Joe Biden
- B) Justin Trudeau
- C) Narendra Modi
- D) Shinzo Abe

15. Who among the following was appointed as the India's first UNDP youth climate champion?

- A) Akaash Banerjee
- B) Prajakta Koli
- C) Gaurav Sharma
- D) Virat Kohli

16. Veteran _____player Subhas Bhowmick has passed away in January 2022.

- A) Hockey
- B) Football
- C) Basketball
- D) Badminton

17. When the National Tourism Day is observed annually?

- A) 24 January
- B) 25 January
- C) 17 January
- D) 14 January

18. Union Government launched the _____portal to share key performance indicators of the Coal sector.

- A) Urja Darpan

- B) Indhan Darpan
- C) Koyla Darpan
- D) Bhoomi Darpan

19. India's first AVGC Centre of Excellence was launched by which of the following state?

- A) Kerala
- B) Karnataka
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Andhra Pradesh

20. President Armen Sarkissian has resigned from his post. He was the President which of the following country?

- A) Guinea
- B) Egypt
- C) Barbados
- D) Armenia

21. In the Dhaka International Film Festival which of the following film got the Best Film Award?

- A) Paava Kadhaigal
- B) Koozhangal
- C) Jai Bhim
- D) Connect

22. In terms of technological breakthroughs and funding in artificial intelligence which country topped among the countries in the world?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) United Kingdom

- D) United States of America

23. D. N. Patodia has passed away in January 2022. What was his profession?

- A) Singer
- B) Politician
- C) Author
- D) Actor

24. _____ was named for the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy as the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2021.

- A) Babar Azam
- B) Joe Root
- C) Mohammad Rizwan
- D) Shaheen Afridi

25. _____ was named for the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy as the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021.

- A) Andrea-Mae Zepeda
- B) Lizelle Lee
- C) Smriti Mandhana
- D) Tammy Beaumont

26. Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has received which of the following gallantry award?

- A) Ati Vishisht Seva Medal
- B) Param Vishisht Seva Medal
- C) Shaurya Chakra Medal
- D) Yudh Seva Medal

27. For trade and industry who among the following has received the Padma Bhushan?

- A) Cyrus Poonawalla
- B) Satya Narayana Nadella
- C) Sundararajan Pichai
- D) All the above

28. For the newly-launched Microsoft Cloud for Retail which firm has partnered with Microsoft?

- A) Tata Consultancy Services
- B) Google
- C) Cognizant
- D) Apple

29. In Sukanya Samridhi Yojana how much minimum yearly investment is required?

- A) ₹250
- B) ₹200
- C) ₹150
- D) ₹100

30. Observed on 27 January what is the theme of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2022?

- A) Holocaust education and remembrance for global justice
- B) Holocaust remembrance: Demand and defend your human rights
- C) Memory, dignity and justice
- D) Remembrance and beyond

31. According to the report by Transparency International what is the rank of India in the Corruption Perception Index of 2021?

- A) 86

- B) 85
- C) 84
- D) 82

32. According to the report by Brand Finance which of the following companies became the world's second most valuable IT services brand?

- A) Accenture
- B) Infosys
- C) Tech Mahindra
- D) Tata Consultancy Services

33. Where did the Indian Navy conduct a twenty-day joint maritime exercise 'Paschim Lehar'?

- A) Arabian Sea
- B) Arctic Ocean
- C) Bay of Bengal
- D) Indian Ocean

34. In the Gulf of Oman which of the following countries' navies participated in the joint naval drill exercise named 'CHIRU-2Q22'?

- A) China
- B) Iran
- C) Russia
- D) All (A), (B) and (C)

35. _____ is the name of the world's fastest artificial intelligence (AI) supercomputer built by Meta (Facebook).

- A) RSC
- B) MSC
- C) HSC

D) ASC

36. In New Delhi a pictorial comic book titled 'India's Women Unsung Heroes' was released by_____.

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Jitendra Singh
- C) Meenakashi Lekhi
- D) Narendra Modi

37. To help people beat COVID-19 stress the 'Brain Health Initiative' was launched by which of the following state?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Telangana

38. As per the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin Phase II guidelines which village became Mizoram's first ODF (Open Defecation-Free) plus village?

- A) Zawlnuam
- B) West Bunglemun
- C) South Maubuang
- D) North Thingdawl

39. The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology set to achieve \$300 billion from electronics manufacturing and exports within which of the following year?

- A) 2030
- B) 2027

C) 2026

D) 2025

40. In the United Nations regular budget assessments for 2022 \$29.9 million was paid by which of the following country?

- A) Canada
- B) France
- C) India
- D) United States

41. TX2 award was won by which of the following tiger reserve for doubling the tiger population?

- A) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
- B) Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve
- C) Nagarjunsagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve
- D) Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve

42. A book titled 'A Little Book of India' is written by which of the following author?

- A) Arundhati Roy
- B) Chetan Bhagat
- C) Ruskin Bond
- D) Sudha Murty

43. Noted Kathakali dancer Milena Salvini of which country has passed away in January 2022?

- A) Germany
- B) France
- C) Canada
- D) Belgium

44. Veteran _____ player Charanjit Singh has passed away in January 2022.

- A) Hockey
- B) Football
- C) Cricket
- D) Basketball

45. _____ state government is planning to erect a statue of Colonel John Pennycuik in the United Kingdom.

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Karnataka
- D) Gujarat

46. Fitness watch debit card powered by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was launched by which of the following bank?

- A) ICICI Bank
- B) City Union Bank
- C) Bank of Maharashtra
- D) Bank of India

47. Xiomara Castro was elected by which of the following country as its president?

- A) Seychelles
- B) Israel
- C) Honduras
- D) Barbados

48. _____ was appointed as the Chief Economic Advisor of the Indian Government.

- A) Anand Muralikrishnan
- B) Anand Srinivasan
- C) Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran
- D) Krishnamurthy Subramanian

49. SBI is the first Indian issuer to raise \$300 million Formosa bonds on the India International Exchange Limited (India INX).

- A) State Bank of India
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) Axis Bank

50. Pushp Kumar Joshi was appointed by which of the following public sector undertaking (PSU) firm as its Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)?

- A) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- B) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)
- C) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
- D) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

51. Who among the following addressed the 30th National Commission for Women's foundation day programme?

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Ramnath Kovind
- C) Smriti Irani
- D) Venkaiah Naidu

52. To make live proceedings accessible to citizens which application was launched by the Lok Sabha Secretariat?

- A) Digital Sabha

- B) Lok Manyata
- C) Digital Sansad
- D) Digital Lokpal

53. _____ is set to provide consultancy to Goa Shipyard for the rooftop solar project.

- A) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- B) Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)
- C) THDC India Limited
- D) Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

54. _____ state is not among the top five in the highest number of Scheduled Castes entrepreneurs.

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Punjab

55. To protect the Great Barrier Reef a billion-dollar package was announced by which of the following country?

- A) Australia
- B) Canada
- C) The United Kingdom
- D) The United States

56. In the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2022 which of the following country has won gold medal?

- A) South Korea
- B) Japan
- C) India

- D) Belgium

57. Who among the following became the first-ever male to win 21st grand slam titles and won the men's singles in the Australian Open 2022?

- A) Daniil Medvedev
- B) Novak Djokovic
- C) Rafael Nadal
- D) Roger Federer

58. Which of the following sports enterprise became the first Indian sports enterprise to gain unicorn status?

- A) Chennai Super Kings
- B) Goa FC
- C) Kerala Blasters
- D) Mumbai Indians

59. Who among the following has won record eighth Tata Steel Masters title?

- A) Garry Kasparov
- B) Hikaru Nakamura
- C) Magnus Carlsen
- D) Viswanathan Anand

60. _____ has become the youngest Indian to win the women's singles title in the 2022 Odisha Open.

- A) Kiran George
- B) Priyanshu Rajawat
- C) Smit Toshniwal
- D) Unnati Hooda

61. Which bank has partnered with Tata Power to launch a dedicated centralised processing cell?

- A) State Bank of India
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Canara Bank
- D) Bank of Baroda

62. Who among the following was re-elected as the President of Italy for a second term?

- A) Sergio Mattarella
- B) Sadyr Japarov
- C) Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou
- D) Mark Rutte

63. In partnership with NCPI which of the following bank has launched a co-branded credit card with Patanjali?

- A) State Bank of India
- B) Punjab National Bank
- C) Canara Bank
- D) Bank of Baroda

64. In January 2022 GST collections crossed the _____ mark for the 4th straight month.

- A) ₹ 1.3 lakh crores
- B) ₹ 2.3 lakh crores
- C) ₹ 3.8 lakh crores
- D) ₹ 4.4 lakh crores

65. Who among the following was appointed as the new head of the Defence Intelligence Agency?

- A) G. A. V. Reddy

- B) K. J. S. Dhillon
- C) Ranbir Singh
- D) Yogesh Kumar Joshi

66. Along with which of the following country the European Union recently hold the second virtual maritime security dialogue?

- A) India
- B) Germany
- C) France
- D) Canada

67. GAIL has started India's first-ever project of mixing hydrogen into the natural gas system at_____.

- A) Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- B) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- C) Hyderabad, Telangana
- D) Gurugram, Assam

68. When the World Wetlands Day was observed?

- A) 01 February
- B) 02 February
- C) 03 February
- D) 04 February

69. Saudi Arabia's first-ever Yoga festival was hosted by which of the following city?

- A) Dhahran
- B) Jeddah
- C) Makkah
- D) Riyadh

70. _____ is the world's first hydrogen-powered flying boat set to be launched in Dubai, UAE.

- A) Air Boat
- B) Flying Jet
- C) Jet Boat
- D) The Jet

71. A new book titled 'Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention' is written by which of the following authors?

- A) Johann Hari
- B) Kiran Kumar
- C) Manish Kapoor
- D) Ruskin Bond

72. Which among the following State/UT is not the top 5 state/union territory in the attacks on journalists in 2021?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Tripura
- D) Uttar Pradesh

73. Rupinder Singh Suri has passed away in February 2022. What was his profession?

- A) Advocate
- B) Author
- C) Journalist
- D) Singer

74. According to the International Cricket Council (ICC) Who among the following has topped the Women's ODI Batting Rankings?

- A) Alyssa Healy
- B) Mithali Raj
- C) Smriti Mandhana
- D) Tammy Beaumont

75. When the Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day was observed?

- A) 3 February
- B) 2 February
- C) 1 February
- D) 31 January

76. According to the CRISIL what is India's GDP growth projection for 2022-23?

- A) 7.8%
- B) 7.5%
- C) 7.3%
- D) 7.1%

77. _____ has become the Vice-Chief of the Indian Army.

- A) Lieutenant General Raj Shukla
- B) Lieutenant General Pramod Chandra Mohanty
- C) Lieutenant General Manoj Pande
- D) Lieutenant General Amardeep Singh Bhinder

78. Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi was appointed by which of the following organisation as its Director-General?

- A) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- B) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- C) National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology
- D) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

79. According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) what is the GDP growth projection of India for financial year 2021-22 (FY22)?

- A) 6.6%
- B) 6.2%
- C) 6%
- D) 5.6%

80. Who authored India's first-ever season style book titled 'The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life'?

- A) Kunal Prakash
- B) Akash Kansal
- C) Akash Gupta
- D) Abhilash Gupta

81. To offer a wide range of term and investment products to its consumers which of the following firm has tied up with Policybazaar.com?

- A) Employees Provident Fund Organisation
- B) Employees' State Insurance Corporation
- C) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- D) State Bank of India

82. _____country topped the Global Digital Skills Readiness Index according to Salesforce.

- A) Australia
- B) Bangladesh
- C) India
- D) Pakistan

83. Ravi Mittal was appointed by which of the following financial regulator as its new Chairperson?

- A) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- B) Reserve Bank of India
- C) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- D) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

84. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)?

- A) Gautam Kapoor
- B) Pranav Agarwal
- C) Rishi Kapoor
- D) Tarun Kapoor

85. To provide the buyers of used cars with motor insurance which of the following general insurance company partnered with CARS24 Financial Services Private Limited?

- A) Aditya Birla General Insurance
- B) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- C) Bharti AXA General Insurance
- D) Kotak Mahindra General Insurance

86. Aravalli Biodiversity Park of which state was declared as India's first OECM site?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Haryana
- C) Karnataka
- D) Tamil Nadu

87. _____ has topped the Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021 by Forbes.

- A) Elon Musk
- B) Jeff Bezos
- C) Mark Zuckerberg
- D) Mukesh Ambani

88. Rahul Bhatia was appointed by which of the following airline company as its first Managing Director?

- A) Spice Jet
- B) Jet Airways
- C) IndiGo
- D) Air India

89. _____ bank was conferred with the digital transformation award 2021 by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

- A) City Union Bank
- B) Federal Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) Karnataka Bank

90. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the UGC?

- A) Jagadesh Kumar
- B) Mahesh Kumar

- C) Sanjay Gupta
- D) Virendra Kumar

91. A graphic novel on M. S. Dhoni named 'Atharva: The Origin' was written by which of the following author?

- A) Sanjeev Thamilmani
- B) Sanjay Gupta
- C) Ramesh Thamilmani
- D) Ramesh Kumar

92. When the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation was observed?

- A) 5 February
- B) 4 February
- C) 3 February
- D) 6 February

93. Jens Stoltenberg was appointed as the next chief of which of the following country's central bank, 'Norges Bank'?

- A) England
- B) Africa
- C) Norway
- D) France

94. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of the Shipping Corporation of India?

- A) Captain Ajay Kumar
- B) Captain Binesh Kumar Tyagi
- C) H. K. Joshi
- D) Vinay Krishnan

95. India has defeated which of the following country to win the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022?

- A) West Indies
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) South Korea
- D) England

96. _____ was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Africa Cup of Nations 2021.

- A) Vincent Aboubakar
- B) Sadio Mane
- C) Mohamed Salah
- D) Mohamed Abou Gabal

97. 20th edition of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup 2022 was won by which of the following country?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Japan
- D) South Korea

98. To build cybersecurity capabilities which organisation has signed an MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)?

- A) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- B) Reserve Bank of India
- C) Securities and Exchange Board
- D) Small Industries Development Bank of India

99. _____ has won its first-ever Africa Cup of Nations title in 2021.

- A) Egypt
- B) Senegal
- C) Sudan
- D) West Indies

100. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has proposed which of the following sport to include in the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles?

- A) Skateboarding
- B) Sport climbing
- C) Surfing
- D) All the above

101. Who among the following was appointed as the brand ambassador of Bata India Limited?

- A) Disha Patani
- B) Deepika Padukone
- C) Anushka Sharma
- D) Alia Bhatt

102. _____ was appointed as the first woman director on the board of the Indian Oil Corporation.

- A) Aprajeeta Tyagi
- B) Rajni Bansal
- C) Sukla Mistry
- D) Durga Dev Dutt

103. Santishree Pandit was appointed by which of the following university as its first woman Vice-Chancellor?

- A) Aligarh Muslim University
- B) Jawaharlal Nehru University
- C) University of Delhi
- D) University of Hyderabad

104. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of Pfizer India?

- A) Birendra Singh
- B) Pradip Shah
- C) Sandeep Sharma
- D) Y. K. Joshi

105. Uttarakhand government appointed which of the following Indian actor as brand ambassador?

- A) Akshay Kumar
- B) Ranbir Kapoor
- C) Ranveer Singh
- D) Sharukh Khan

106. Which of the following is the theme for the 2022 Safer Internet Day?

- A) A better internet starts with you
- B) Be the change: Unite for a better internet
- C) Consent in a digital world
- D) Together for a better internet

107. To deliver tech-driven solutions for quality power supply which of the following hackathon was launched by the Union Power Minister R K Singh?

- A) Techathon 2022
- B) Powerthon 2022
- C) Power Hackathon 2022
- D) Packathon 2022

108. Who among the following has virtually launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0?

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Rajnath Singh
- C) Nirmala Sitaraman
- D) Mansukh Mandaviya

109. With how much allocation the Union Food Processing Ministry has extended its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) till FY26 (2021–22 to 2025–26)?

- A) ₹ 400 crores
- B) ₹ 460 crores
- C) ₹ 4000 crores
- D) ₹ 4600 crores

110. A new Information Technology and IT-enabled Services (IT/ITeS) policy was launched by which of the following state government to generate one lakh high-skilled jobs in the IT sector in the next five years till 2027?

- A) Punjab
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Karnataka
- D) Gujarat

111. In the ICC Women's ODI Rankings 2022 the rank of Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj is_____.

- A) Fifth
- B) Second
- C) Seventh
- D) Third

112. When the World Pulses Day is observed annually?

- A) 07 February
- B) 08 February
- C) 09 February
- D) 10 February

113. India's first biomass-based hydrogen plant will be constructed in which of the following state?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Kerala
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Maharashtra

114. For trading in electronic gold receipts which of the following organisation has got in-principal approval from SEBI?

- A) National Stock Exchange
- B) National Securities Depository Limited
- C) National Automated Clearing House
- D) Bombay Stock Exchange

115. With a valuation of how much funding Indian logistics firm Xpressbees has become the eighth unicorn of India in 2022?

- A) \$ 600 million
- B) \$ 500 million
- C) \$ 300 million
- D) \$ 200 million

116. Dinesh Prasad Saklani was appointed by which of the following organisation as its director?

- A) Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
- B) Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)
- C) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- D) Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)

117. Which of the following organisation has launched an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-04) on PSLV-C52 on 14 February?

- A) ISRO
- B) NASA
- C) European Space Agency
- D) Canadian Space Agency

118. _____ has topped the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings 2022.

- A) Babar Azam
- B) Joe Root
- C) Rohit Sharma
- D) Virat Kohli

119. India is set to host the World Cup Cycling event in on 4 September 2022 in which of the following city?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Chennai

- C) Leh
- D) Shimla

120. When the International Day of Women and Girls in Science was observed?

- A) 10 February
- B) 9 February
- C) 7 February
- D) 11 February

121. According to the US Green Building Council (USGBC) annual list 2021 which of the following country got top spot?

- A) Canada
- B) China
- C) India
- D) United States

122. Who was appointed as the Executive Director of the SEBI?

- A) Sunil Kumar
- B) Ramesh Kumar
- C) Manoj Kumar
- D) Both (A) and (C)

123. Union Ministry of AYUSH observed whose birth anniversary as World Unani Day on 11 February?

- A) Thameed Mohammed
- B) Mohammad Salah
- C) Harud Rashid Khan

- D) Hakim Ajmal Khan

124. To transform the sheep farming sector which state/UT has signed an MoU with New Zealand company G2G?

- A) Jammu and Kashmir
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Maharashtra
- D) New Delhi

125. To promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes which organisation has launched the JIVA programme?

- A) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- B) Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority
- C) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- D) Small Industries Development Bank of India

126. What is the rank of India according to the Economic Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2021?

- A) 38
- B) 40
- C) 44
- D) 46

127. According to the Comscore report which payment platform has the highest penetration in digital payments?

- A) BharatPe
- B) Paytm
- C) PayPal

D) PhonePe

128. Airports Council International (ACI) has awarded which of the following airport the 'Voice of the Customer' Award?

- A) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport
- B) Mangaluru International Airport
- C) Kempegowda International Airport
- D) Indira Gandhi International Airport

129. When the World Radio Day was observed?

- A) 13 February
- B) 10 February
- C) 8 February
- D) 6 February

130. The first colour souvenir coin on 'Panchtantra' was launched by _____.

- A) Shaktikanta Das
- B) Rajnath Singh
- C) Nirmala Sitharaman
- D) Narendra Modi

131. The Desert Festival 2022 was held at _____.

- A) Bikaner
- B) Jaisalmer
- C) Jodhpur
- D) Kutch

132. For the continuation of the mega police modernisation scheme how much fund amount was approved by the Union Government?

- A) ₹ 32,275 crores
- B) ₹ 29,250 crores
- C) ₹ 28,275 crores
- D) ₹ 26,275 crores

133. The Indian Railways is set to build India's biggest and world-class wrestling academy at _____.

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Gurugram
- C) Mumbai
- D) New Delhi

134. _____ central jail has got its own radio channel named 'Jail Vaani FM 18.77'.

- A) Indore Central Jail
- B) Naini Central Prison
- C) Tihar Jail
- D) Yerwada Central Jail

135. The 8th session of the India-Italy foreign office consultation meeting held at _____.

- A) Mumbai
- B) New Delhi
- C) Rome
- D) Venice

136. Ilker Ayci was appointed by which of the following Indian airlines company as its CEO and MD?

- A) Air India
- B) Indigo
- C) Spice Jet
- D) Vistara

137. Frank-Walter Steinmeier was re-elected by which of the following country as its president?

- A) Germany
- B) Egypt
- C) Denmark
- D) Barbados

138. A new book titled 'How To Prevent The Next Pandemic' was authored by which of the following author?

- A) Anil Ambani
- B) Mark Zuckerberg
- C) Bill Gates
- D) Ratan Tata

139. _____ has become the first Indian plastic waste neutral FMCG company in India.

- A) Britannia Industries Limited
- B) Dabur India Limited
- C) Hindustan Unilever Limited
- D) Nestle India Limited

140. In February 2022 the former high court judge of _____ Raviraja Pandian passed away at the age of 74.

- A) Telangana
- B) Madras

- C) Calcutta
- D) Bombay

141. Who among the following was appointed as the first woman Police Commissioner of Gurugram?

- A) Devi Jha
- B) Vaibhavi Raj
- C) Geeta Iyear
- D) Kala Ramachandran

142. To launch the Fintech Open Hackathon which payment platform has partnered with NITI Aayog?

- A) BharatPe
- B) PayPal
- C) Paytm
- D) PhonePe

143. Which bank's MD & CEO Sandeep Bakshi was named as the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020–21?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) Bandhan Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) ICICI Bank

144. Indian Government has banned how many Chinese applications over security threats and privacy risks in February 2022?

- A) 56
- B) 54
- C) 52

D) 50

145. A two-day global summit in Hyderabad on 'Reimagining Museums in India' was organized by which of the following union ministry?

- A) Union Ministry of Tourism
- B) Union Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D) Union Ministry of Culture

146. Who among the following was named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for January 2022?

- A) Shaheen Afridi
- B) Kyle Jamieson
- C) Keegan Petersen
- D) Joe Root

147. Who among the following was named as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for January 2022?

- A) Gaby Lewis
- B) Heather Knight
- C) Smriti Mandhana

D) Tammy Beaumont

148. _____ was appointed as the Chairman of the CBSE?

- A) Vineet Joshi
- B) Vineet Chopra
- C) Manoj Gupta
- D) Manoj Ahuja

149. The Financial Literacy week 2022 of the RBI was observed _____.

- A) 14 February to 18 February
- B) 13 February to 17 February
- C) 12 February to 16 February
- D) 11 February to 14 February

150. Asia's largest tribal fair Medaram Jatara was celebrated at _____.

- A) Assam
- B) Karnataka
- C) Telangana
- D) Uttar Pradesh

ANSWERS

1. Correct Answer: B

Children have chosen 'anxiety' as their word of the year for 2021, according to new research from Oxford University Press (OUP).

2. Correct Answer: D

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Vinod Rai, former Comptroller and Auditor General

(CAG) of India as independent chairman of Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank).

3. Correct Answer: D

According to the global approval rating released by Morning Consult Political Intelligence, PM Narendra Modi has topped the list of most popular world leaders.

4. Correct Answer: C

England's Nat Sciver was named the captain of the ICC Women's T20 Team of the Year 2021.

5. Correct Answer: D

Former Supreme Court judge S. Ranganathan died at his residence in Chennai on 20 January. He was 94.

6. Correct Answer: D

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley was sworn in for a second term in office on 20 January 2022, following a landslide victory by her party.

7. Correct Answer: C

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the administration has declared Jerri settlement in Reasi district as the first 'Milk Village' of the Union Territory and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) for the hamlet.

8. Correct Answer: D

ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing that independent director Rama Bijapurkar has submitted her resignation from the board of directors of the bank, effective January 23, 2022.

9. Correct Answer: B

Jahnavi Dangeti, a young girl from Andhra Pradesh, has just completed NASA's International Air and Space Program at the Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, US.

10. Correct Answer: D

Sushmita Sen has won the International Association of Working Women Award.

11. Correct Answer: D

International Day of Education 2022 was observed on 24 January with the theme of 'Changing Course, Transforming Education'.

12. Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a hologram of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate, New Delhi.

13. Correct Answer: D

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) has launched a fixed deposit scheme named 'Platina Fixed Deposit'.

14. Correct Answer: D

Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by Netaji Research Bureau.

15. Correct Answer: B

YouTuber Prajakta Koli was appointed as the India's first UNDP youth climate champion.

16. Correct Answer: B

Former Indian football player and one of India's most celebrated coaches, Subhash Bhowmick, passed away in Kolkata. He was 71.

17. Correct Answer: B

Every year, 25th January is celebrated as the India National Tourism Day, an incredible way to spread awareness about the importance of traveling.

18. Correct Answer: C

On January 21, 2022, government launched a portal called "Koyla Darpan" for sharing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to the Coal Sector.

19. Correct Answer: B

The government of Karnataka has launched India's first AVGC(Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) Center of Excellence in Mahadevapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

20. Correct Answer: D

Armenian President Armen Sarkissian has resigned from the largely ceremonial role after four years.

21. Correct Answer: B

During the recently concluded 20th Dhaka International Film Festival in Dhaka, Indian movie Koozhangal won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition category.

22. Correct Answer: D

United States of America is on top position in the top 10 nations in the world in terms of technological advancements and funding in artificial intelligence, according to findings from a study published by The Brookings Institution.

23. Correct Answer: B

Former Lok Sabha member and prominent businessman DN Patodia has passed away in January 2022. He was 94.

24. Correct Answer: D

Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi has been awarded the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy and recognised as the ICC men's cricketer of the year in 2021

25. Correct Answer: C

ICC announced Indian opener Smriti Mandhana as the recipient of the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021.

26. Correct Answer: B

Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra has been bestowed the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in this year's list of defence decorations, which include gallantry medals for soldiers and police forces involved in counterterror operations in Jammu and Kashmir and the northeast.

27. Correct Answer: D

Satya Narayana Nadella, Sundararajan Pichai, Cyrus Poonawalla, have been awarded with Padma Bhushan, under Trade and Industry category.

28. Correct Answer: A

Tata Consultancy Services is expanding its collaboration with Microsoft Cloud to include the newly launched Microsoft Cloud for Retail.

29. Correct Answer: A

The minimum annual contribution to the Sukanya Samridhi Account is ₹ 250 and the maximum contribution is ₹ 1.5 lakh in a financial year. You have to invest at least the minimum amount every year for up to 15 years from the date of account opening

30. Correct Answer: C

International Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed on 27 January with the theme "Memory, Dignity and Justice".

31. Correct Answer: B

Transparency International has released the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021 in which India has been ranked at 85th spot (Score of 40).

32. Correct Answer: D

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has become the second most valuable brand in the IT services sector globally, while Infosys and four other Indian tech majors have firmly established their position among the top 25 IT services brands tally, according to Brand Finance.

33. Correct Answer: A

The Indian Navy conducted a 20-day joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar at the Arabian Sea to "validate operational plans" of the Western Naval Command and enhance inter-service synergy among the Navy, Air Force, Army and Coast Guard, an official statement said.

34. Correct Answer: D

'CHIRU-2Q22' is a naval drill recently conducted by China, Russia and Iran in Gulf of Oman.

35. Correct Answer: A

AI Research SuperCluster (RSC) is the name of the world's fastest artificial intelligence (AI) supercomputer built by Meta (Facebook).

36. Correct Answer: C

Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi has released the pictorial comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes' in New Delhi.

37. Correct Answer: A

Karnataka government has launched 'Brain Health Initiative' to help people beat COVID-19 stress.

38. Correct Answer: C

South Maubaung, a village in Mizoram, has become the state's first Open-Defecation Free (ODF) plus village.

39. Correct Answer: C

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document 2.0 for the electronics sector. This will help India to transform into a \$300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse by 2026, from the current \$75 billion.

40. Correct Answer: C

India has paid USD 29.9 million in UN regular budget assessments for the year 2022.

41. Correct Answer: A

The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu was awarded the prestigious international TX2 Award for doubling its tiger population since 2010.

42. Correct Answer: C

A new book titled "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence" is authored by Ruskin Bond.

43. Correct Answer: B

Noted Kathakali dancer Milena Salvini of France has passed away in January 2022.

44. Correct Answer: A

Captain of India's 1964 Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning hockey team, Charanjit Singh, 93, passed away in Una, Himachal Pradesh.

45. Correct Answer: A

Tamil Nadu CM announced that a statue of Colonel John Pennycuik, a British engineer who built the Mullaperiyar dam, will be installed in his hometown in the UK.

46. Correct Answer: B

City Union Bank in association with smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform GOQii and powered by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has launched a wearable payment solution called CUB fitness watch debit card.

47. Correct Answer: C

In Honduras, the Freedom and Refoundation Party (Libre) member Xiomara Castro has been sworn in as the first female President of the country.

48. Correct Answer: C

Dr Venkatraman Anantha Nageswaran has been appointed as the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Government of India.

49. Correct Answer: A

State Bank of India (SBI) said that it has issued \$300 million Formosa bonds and listed the issuance on India

INX GIFT IFSC. This is the first such issuance by any Indian Bank in Formosa Bond market.

50. Correct Answer: C

Pushp Kumar Joshi is set to be the next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

51. Correct Answer: A

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed 30th National Commission for Women Foundation Day programme via video conference.

52. Correct Answer: C

Parliament has launched Digital Sansad App to make live proceedings accessible to citizens.

53. Correct Answer: A

State-run power sector major lender Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) to provide its techno-financial expertise to set up a rooftop solar power project.

54. Correct Answer: D

Maharashtra has topped India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes with as many as 96,805 enterprises. Tamil Nadu with 42,997 enterprises and Rajasthan with 38,517 units occupy the second and third slots.

55. Correct Answer: A

The government of Australia has announced a billion-dollar package to protect the natural wonder Great Barrier Reef.

56. Correct Answer: B

Japan has won gold medal in the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2022.

57. Correct Answer: C

Rafael Nadal beat Daniil Medvedev in the Australia Open final to win a men's record 21st Grand Slam title.

58. Correct Answer: A

Chennai Super Kings is become the first Indian sports enterprise to gain unicorn status.

59. Correct Answer: C

Magnus Carlsen scored a brilliant win over his 2018 World Championship challenger Fabiano Caruana to win a record 8th Tata Steel Masters title.

60. Correct Answer: D

Unnati Hooda from Haryana has become the youngest Indian to win the Super 100 event at Odisha Open 2022.

61. Correct Answer: A

SBI has partnered with Tata Power to launch a dedicated centralised processing cell - 'Surya Shakti Cell'.

62. Correct Answer: A

Italian President Sergio Mattarella was re-elected for a second term.

63. Correct Answer: B

Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) have launched co-branded credit cards in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

64. Correct Answer: A

January is the fourth straight month when Goods and Services Tax collection has crossed Rs 1.30 lakh crore.

65. Correct Answer: A

Lieutenant General G.A.V. Reddy has been appointed as the new head of the Defence Intelligence Agency. General Reddy would be succeeding Lt Gen KJS Dhillon.

66. Correct Answer: A

India and the European Union held their second maritime security dialogue in a virtual format on 1 February 2022.

67. Correct Answer: B

In line with National Hydrogen Mission, GAIL has commenced India's first-of-its-kind project of mixing hydrogen into the natural gas system. The project has been initiated in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

68. Correct Answer: B

World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year on 2 February to raise awareness about wetlands.

69. Correct Answer: B

Saudi Arabia has organized the first-ever yoga festival on Bay La Sun Beach near Jeddah, which drew over 1,000 yoga practitioners from throughout the kingdom.

70. Correct Answer: D

Dubai firm, THE JET ZeroEmission announced the launch of the World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat 'THE JET' in Dubai.

71. Correct Answer: A

Acclaimed journalist Johann Hari authored a new book titled 'Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention'.

72. Correct Answer: A

Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura topped the list of States and Union Territories where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021.

73. Correct Answer: A

Senior advocate and Additional Solicitor General (ASG), Rupinder Singh Suri has passed away. He was appointed the ASG in June 2020.

74. Correct Answer: A

Australian batter Alyssa Healy has topped the Women's ODI Batting Rankings according to the International Cricket Council (ICC).

75. Correct Answer: B

On February 2, 2022, the world has observed the Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day 2022.

76. Correct Answer: A

CRISIL has projected India's real GDP growth for 2022-23 at 7.8 per cent.

77. Correct Answer: C

Lt Gen Manoj Pande took over as the Vice Chief of the Indian Army. His appointment as the Vice Chief of the Indian army comes after Lt Gen CP Mohanty superannuated in January 2022.

78. Correct Answer: C

Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi has joined as Director-General of the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT).

79. Correct Answer: A

The National Statistical Office recently released the first revised GDP estimates for the fiscal year 2021. According to the estimates, the GDP contracted by 6.6%. Earlier, the GDP had contracted by 7.3%.

80. Correct Answer: B

India's first-ever season style book titled 'The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life', is written by Akash Kansal.

81. Correct Answer: C

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), has tied up with insurance aggregator Policybazaar.com to offer a wide range of term and investment products to its consumers.

82. Correct Answer: C

According to the Salesforce Global Digital Skills Index, among 19 countries, India has the Index's highest digital readiness score at 63 out of 100.

83. Correct Answer: D

Government has appointed Shri Ravi Mittal, IAS as the second full time Chairperson of the 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)'.

84. Correct Answer: D

Former oil secretary Tarun Kapoor was selected to head India's oil and gas regulator PNGRB, sources said.

85. Correct Answer: D

Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd has tied up with CARS24 Financial Services Private Ltd to offer motor insurance services to buyers of used cars.

86. Correct Answer: B

The Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, Haryana, has been declared as India's first OECM site.

87. Correct Answer: B

Jeff Bezos tops Forbes' Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021.

88. Correct Answer: C

Indian airline IndiGo has appointed its co-founder Rahul Bhatia as its first Managing Director.

89. Correct Answer: D

Karnataka Bank has been awarded the digital transformation award, 'DX 2021 Awards', by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for Best Practice in Digital Transformation.

90. Correct Answer: A

M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, has been appointed the new Chairman of the UGC, the top higher education regulatory body of the country.

91. Correct Answer: C

A graphic novel on M. S. Dhoni named 'Atharva: The Origin' is written by Ramesh Thamilmani.

92. Correct Answer: D

The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed on 6 February to create awareness about ending the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM).

93. Correct Answer: C

Jens Stoltenberg was appointed as the next chief of Norway's central bank, 'Norges Bank'.

94. Correct Answer: B

Captain Binesh Kumar Tyagi has been selected as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI).

95. Correct Answer: D

India beat England by four wickets to win their fifth ICC Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup in the West Indies.

96. Correct Answer: B

Senegal's Sadio Mane has been named 2021 Africa Cup of Nations Most Outstanding Player.

97. Correct Answer: A

China has won the 20th edition of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup 2022.

98. Correct Answer: D

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

99. Correct Answer: B

Senegal has won its first African Cup of Nations title by beating Egypt 4-2 in a penalty shootout.

100. Correct Answer: D

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has formally approved the proposal to include surfing, skateboarding, and sport climbing at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

101. Correct Answer: A

Bata India Limited has appointed Bollywood actress, Disha Patani as its Brand Ambassador.

102. Correct Answer: C

Sukla Mistry became the first woman director on the IndianOil board, taking charge of refining operations of India's largest oil refiner and fuel retailer.

103. Correct Answer: B

Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, a political science professor at Savitribai Phule Pune University, has been appointed as the first women Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

104. Correct Answer: B

Pfizer India appointed Pradip Shah as the chairman of its board following the resignation of R A Shah on February 3.

105. Correct Answer: A

Akshay Kumar has been named as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand.

106. Correct Answer: D

'Together for a better internet' is the theme for the 2022 Safer Internet Day.

107. Correct Answer: B

Union Power Minister R K Singh has launched a hackathon, named Powerthon-2022, to find tech-driven solutions for quality power supply.

108. Correct Answer: D

Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya has virtually launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 that aims to protect children and pregnant women from life-threatening diseases.

109. Correct Answer: D

The 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till March 2026 with an allocation of Rs 4,600 crore.

110. Correct Answer: D

Gujarat state government has launched a new Information Technology and IT-enabled services (IT/ITeS) policy, with an aim to generate one lakh "high-skilled jobs" in the sector in the next five years.

111. Correct Answer: B

In the recently released ICC Women's ODI Rankings, Indian captain and batter Mithali Raj managed to reach the second position.

112. Correct Answer: D

Each year on 10 February the world celebrates World Pulses Day.

113. Correct Answer: C

India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will be constructed in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.

114. Correct Answer: D

Capital markets regulator Sebi has given in-principle approval to Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) for introducing Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR) on the stock exchange's platform.

115. Correct Answer: C

Xpressbees a logistics firm recently become a unicorn with a valuation of \$300 million.

116. Correct Answer: C

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has appointed Prof. Dinesh Prasad Saklani as the new director

117. Correct Answer: A

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-04) on PSLV-C52 on 14 February, which is the first Indian launch of 2022.

118. Correct Answer: A

Babar Azam continues to hold the top in the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings with 873 points, followed by Virat Kohli at second place with 828 points.

119. Correct Answer: C

The World Cup Cycling will be held at Leh, Ladakh, on September 4, 2022.

120. Correct Answer: D

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science was celebrated on 11 February.

121. Correct Answer: B

China, has topped the list according to the US Green Building Council (USGBC) annual list 2021.

122. Correct Answer: D

Manoj Kumar and Sunil Kumar, the two chief general managers in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), have been promoted to the rank of Executive Director (ED).

123. Correct Answer: D

World Unani Day celebrates the Islamic Unani system of medicine. The day is observed on February 11, which is the birthday of noted physician Hakim Ajmal Khan, the pioneer of Unani medicine in India.

124. Correct Answer: A

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has signed an MoU with the New Zealand G2G, a public sector company for transforming the sheep farming sector.

125. Correct Answer: A

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched the 'JIVA programme' to promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states.

126. Correct Answer: D

India has ranked 46th position in the 2021 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit.

127. Correct Answer: B

In accordance with the Comscore report, Paytm has the highest digital payments with over 45% penetration in Fintech.

128. Correct Answer: C

The Bangalore International Airport Limited's (BIAL) or Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru has bagged global recognition from the Airports Council International World's 'Voice of the Customer' award.

129. Correct Answer: A

World Radio Day is an international day celebrated on 13 February each year.

130. Correct Answer: C

Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the first colour souvenir coin on 'Panchtantra'.

131. Correct Answer: B

The renowned Jaisalmer Desert Festival, also known as Maru Mahotsav of the Golden City started from 13 to 16 February 2022 at Pokaran.

132. Correct Answer: D

The Centre has approved Rs 26,275 crore for continuing with the mega police modernisation scheme for next five years (from 2021-22 to 2025-26).

133. Correct Answer: D

Ministry of Railways has approved to set up a state-of-art wrestling academy in Indian Railways, at Kishanganj, Delhi.

134. Correct Answer: A

Central Jail of Indore has got its own radio channel 'Jail Vaani-FM 18.77'.

135. Correct Answer: C

The 8th session of the India-Italy Foreign Office Consultations was held on 14 February 2022 in Rome, Italy.

136. Correct Answer: A

Tata Sons has appointed Ilker Ayci as the chief executive officer and managing director of Air India.

137. Correct Answer: A

German President, Frank-Walter Steinmeier has been re-elected for a second term of five years.

138. Correct Answer: C

'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic' by Bill Gates will be published by Allen Lane, Imprint of Penguin Books, in the UK, India, Australia.

139. Correct Answer: B

Dabur Becomes India's First 'Plastic Waste Neutral' FMCG Company, recycles 100% Plastic Sold As Product Packaging.

140. Correct Answer: B

Former judge of the Madras high court Justice K Raviraja Pandian passed has away in Chennai. He was 74.

141. Correct Answer: D

IPS officer Kala Ramachandran has been appointed as the first woman police commissioner of Gurugram. She is a 1994 batch IPS officer.

142. Correct Answer: D

Leading digital payments platform PhonePe announced that NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the platform, will organize the first-ever open-to-all hackathon aimed at showcasing path-breaking fintech concepts.

143. Correct Answer: D

Sandeep Bakhshi has been named the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21. He is the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank.

144. Correct Answer: B

The Government of India has banned 54 Chinese applications that pose a threat to India's security.

145. Correct Answer: D

Culture Ministry has organized a first of its kind, two days Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India' in Hyderabad.

146. Correct Answer: C

South Africa's batter Keegan Petersen was named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for January 2022.

147. Correct Answer: B

England captain Heather Knight was named as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for January 2022.

148. Correct Answer: A

Vineet Joshi, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Education, has been assigned the charge of CBSE Chairman.

149. Correct Answer: A

The Financial Literacy week 2022 was conducted from 14th to 18th February 2022.

150. Correct Answer: C

Asia's largest tribal fair Medaram Jatara was celebrated at Telangana.

SECTION 3



Detailed Analysis of Important Events



Economics

What are Virtual Digital Assets?



Scheme for Taxation of Virtual Digital Assets

Specific tax regime imperative for transactions in virtual digital assets given the volume and magnitude.

Any income from transfer of any virtual digital asset shall be taxed at the rate of 30%

Gift of virtual digital asset is also proposed to be taxed in the hands of the recipient

Loss from transfer of virtual digital asset cannot be set off against any other income

TDS on payment made in relation to transfer of virtual digital asset at the rate of 1% of such consideration above a monetary threshold



Finance Minister in her Budget 2022 announced a 30 per cent tax on income from virtual digital assets (particularly aiming at Cryptocurrencies).

What are Virtual Digital Assets?

- To define the term “virtual digital asset”, a new clause (47A) is proposed to be inserted into section 2 of the Act.
- A virtual digital asset is proposed to mean any information or code or number or token (not being Indian currency or any foreign currency):
 - Generated in some way, whether cryptographically or otherwise

- Providing a digital representation of value that is exchanged with or without consideration in exchange for the promise or representation of having intrinsic value.
- Its usage in any financial transaction or investment, including but not limited to investment schemes, makes it a store of value or a unit of account.
- Electronically transferable, storable, and tradeable.
- Non-fungible token (NFT) and; any other token of similar nature are included in the definition.

Why tax them?

- Popularity: In recent years, virtual digital assets have gained a lot of traction, and the amount of trade in these assets has skyrocketed.
- Furthermore, a market is forming where payment for the transfer of a virtual digital asset can be paid using another virtual digital asset.
- Increased transactions: Transactions have increased dramatically, and the size and frequency of these transactions have necessitated the establishment of a specific tax regime.
- Gifting is a common manner of transaction, as is the gifting of virtual digital assets.

Key takeaways from the FM’s speech

- The bill establishes a definition of virtual digital assets that is broad enough to include developing digital assets such as NFT, metaverse assets, cryptocurrencies, and so on.
- This income tax recognition of digital assets does not imply that they have legal status.

Fast-tracking Vande Bharat Express



THE NEW VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

India's second indigenously built engine-less train will ply between Delhi and Katra

Key Features

- Engine-less** self-propelled train
- All air-conditioned** chair car service; 16 coaches
- Stone-pelting protection** on windows
- CCTV surveillance;** GPS based information system; WiFi

Vande Bharat VS Shatabdi

130 kmph Speed of Shatabdi Express	160 kmph Potential speed of Vande Bharat
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- There are now only two Vande Bharat trains operating: one from Delhi to Varanasi and another from Delhi to Katra.

Key Features

- Only two kinds of seating are available on the current Vande Bharat trains: chair car and executive chair car. Railways, on the other hand, intends to modernise it.
- Each coach has fully sealed gangways, modular bio-vacuum toilets, rotating seats in Executive Class, individualised reading lights, automatic entry/exit doors with sliding footsteps, diffused LED lighting, a compact pantry, and sensor-based interconnecting doors.
- They are locomotives that are self-propelled and do not require an engine. This feature is known as a distributed traction power system, and it is fast becoming the standard for passenger operations around the world (Distributed power gives the train higher acceleration and deceleration compared to loco-hauled trains, which take a much longer time to reach top speed or to gradually come to a halt).
- Because of the various standards and inflation, the 400 trains mentioned by the Finance Minister have a potential investment of Rs 50,000 crore over the next three years.
- The current Vande Bharat trainsets cost Rs 106 crore per 16-car trainset, according to 2018 price.

Presenting the Union Budget for 2022-23, Finance Minister said 400 new energy-efficient Vande Bharat trains will be introduced in three years.

What is Vande Bharat Express?

- The Integral Coach Factory conceived, constructed, and built the Vande Bharat Express, a semi-high-speed train (ICF).

Benefits of Vande Bharat Trains

- 1) Cuts Travel Time Drastically
- 2) Energy Efficient
- 3) Reduce Turnaround Time
- 4) Faster Acceleration and Deceleration among others.

Why High-speed rail projects are important for India?

- **Improve India's GDP:** According to a 2008 study done by the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of Hamburg, cities that are connected to HSR systems have a 2.7 percentage point increase in their GDP compared to their neighbours who do not have a HSR station. Improved market access was the reason for the disparity.
- **Trains' Contribution to India's Development:** With over 68,102 route km and the world's third-largest network under single control, IR seeks to create a safe, efficient, competitive, and world-class transportation system.
- **IR transported 1.23 billion tonnes of freight and 1.25 billion people in FY21.** Furthermore, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, freight loading (excluding Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL)) was 1230.9 million tonnes in 2020-21, up from 1208.4 million tonnes in 2019-20. Passengers originating in 2020-21 were 1250 million, up from 8086 million in 2019-20, according to the Economic Survey 2021-22.
- **Effect of a spin-off:** It's a Rs 40,000 crore commercial opportunity that would also generate 15,000 jobs and a slew of other advantages, as well as serve as a catalyst for the growth of satellite towns.
- **Boost to 'Make in India'**– it only contains approximately 15% imported content, which will decrease as production numbers rise.
- **Environmental Benefits:** More rail traffic means fewer cars on the road, which means less traffic congestion on highways and city streets, as well as less pollution. Furthermore, less traffic means less wear and tear on the roads, which means fewer repairs are required. High-speed rail is eight times more energy efficient than aeroplanes and four times more efficient than

automobiles, according to the International Association of Railways (UIC).

- **Social Benefits:** By bringing far populated areas closer together, high-speed rail can develop a sense of social solidarity among citizens.
- **Global Experience:** The High-Speed Railway has a multiplier effect on the economy. High-speed trains have proven to be an obvious technological, commercial, and popular success in Japan since the launch of the first Shinkansen (literally meaning "new main line") in 1964. Many countries have adopted the technology, including the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, China, and, most recently, the United States.

Challenges faced by the High-Speed Rail Projects

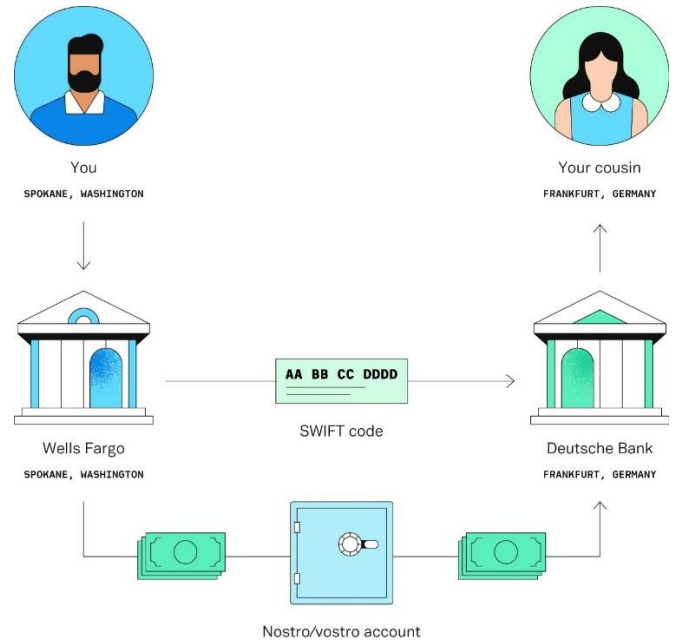
- **Infrastructure bottlenecks:** India's railway system is beset by a two-pronged infrastructure deficit: ageing infrastructure and the slow pace with which new projects are being implemented due to unforeseen circumstances such as socio-economic issues surrounding land acquisition for new projects and rising project costs.
- **New Technologies:** In the case of Hyperloop Transportation Technologies, which claims to be capable of speeds of up to 760 miles per hour, putting a large sum of money in bullet trains appears to be an outmoded investment.
- **Political Will:** Rail Bhavan's politics, as well as a refusal to embrace the need for change, have stymied project completion.
- **Lack of Investments:** The estimated cost of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad HSR, for example, is 1.1 lakh crore (US\$17 billion), which is astronomically expensive. Despite the fact that India receives 81 percent of its funding from Japan, the cost of power and upgrading old infrastructure will be higher.

- Due to the influx of workers, development along the corridor will result in increased urbanisation, resource competition, and social strife.
- Farmers in Gujarat, led by Gujarat Khedut Samaj (GKS), are litigating a case in the Gujarat High Court against land acquisition for the bullet train project, while farmers in Maharashtra are protesting on the ground.
- Stakeholders' perspective: For railway modernization, politics and policy must be in harmony. To meet the deadline, railways will have to pool all resources and work with a variety of partners, including private companies, to provide the propulsion system and assemble it. The convergence of jal, jungle, and jameen should be prioritised by policymakers and administration (water-forest-land is an asset for the Adivasi community).
- Regular Monitoring: To guarantee that these trains are introduced in the shortest period possible, as per Indian Railways' plans.
- HSR Technology Transfer: The government must advocate for HSR technology transfer. This is due to the fact that the agreement makes no mention of technology transfer.

Conclusion

In the next 25 years, India intends to become the world's third-largest economy. It has already demonstrated its prowess in space, and now is the time to add to its international stature by joining the exclusive club of nations with a high-speed rail network. However, whether it is mobile phones, satellite launches, regional air connectivity, or high-speed rail, we must be careful not to conflate leapfrogging technology development with elitism. As a result, this high-speed rail project will assist Indian Railways in becoming a global leader in terms of scale, technology, and expertise.

What is SWIFT and why is Russia being threatened with its exclusion?



As tensions peak over Ukraine the United States could exclude Russia from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).

What is SWIFT?

- SWIFT is an international network that connects banks all over the world to make money transfers go as smoothly as possible.
- It is essentially a message network used by banks and financial institutions around the world to share information about financial transactions in a timely and error-free manner.
- SWIFT, based in Belgium, connects nearly 11,000 banking and securities organisations in more than 200 nations and territories.
- According to its website, it was first used in 1973 and went live in 1977 with 518 institutions from 22 countries.

What exactly is it?

- SWIFT is merely a platform that sends messages and does not hold any securities or money.
- It facilitates standardized and reliable communication to facilitate the transaction.

How does it facilitate banking?

- A unique eight-digit SWIFT number or bank identity code is assigned to each platform participant (BIC).
- If a person in New York with a Citibank account wants to send money to someone in London with an HSBC account, the payee must provide his bank with the London-based beneficiary's account number as well as the latter's bank's eight-digit SWIFT code.
- After then, Citibank would send a SWIFT communication to HSBC. The money would be credited to the relevant account once that was received and approved.

How is the organization governed?

- SWIFT claims to be an impartial organisation. The 25-member board of directors, which is responsible for the company's governance and management, is elected by the company's shareholders, who are made up of 3,500 companies from all over the world.
- It is governed by the European Central Bank and the G-10 central banks of Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, Switzerland, and Sweden.
- The National Bank of Belgium is in charge of overseeing it.
- In 2012, the SWIFT oversight forum was established.
- India, Australia, Russia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, the Republic of

Turkey, and the People's Republic of China were among the G-10 participants.

- SWIFT's largest contributors are Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

What happens if one is excluded from SWIFT?

- The United States' decision to exclude Russia from SWIFT might have major ramifications for how Russian banks conduct international financial operations.
- If a country is left out of the most inclusive financial facilitation platform, its external funding will suffer, leaving it completely reliant on domestic investors.
- This is especially problematic when institutional investors are always looking for new markets in fresh countries.
- Building an alternative system would be challenging, and integrating it with an already complex system would be even more difficult.

Are any countries excluded from SWIFT?

- Despite opposition from various European countries, Iranian banks were removed from the system in 2018.
- While regretful, this decision was made in the interest of the global financial system's stability and integrity, and was based on an evaluation of the economic circumstances.

Capital Gains Tax

The capital gains tax structure in India is complicated, and it is time for a relook since the union budget has provisions for 30% tax on cryptocurrency.

What is Capital Gains Tax?

- Capital gains tax is levied on the profits made on investments.

- It covers real estate, gold, stocks, mutual funds, and various other financial and non-financial assets.

Types

- Depending on how long you've owned the investment, it's separated into long-term capital gains tax (LTCG) and short-term capital gains tax (STCG).
- Unlike income tax, the tax rate does not alter based on your overall tax bracket.
- For gains of ten lakh or ten crore, the LTCG tax, excluding surcharge, is the same.
- There is a separate set of deductions for long-term capital gains that do not apply to regular income.

Why is it so complicated?

Capital gains tax is complicated for a few primary reasons.

- To begin with, the rate varies from one asset to the next. The LTCG tax on equities and equity mutual funds is 10%, whereas it is 20% with indexation on debt mutual funds.
- Second, the holding duration differs from one asset to the next. For LTCG tax purposes, real estate must be held for two years, equities for one year, and debt mutual funds and gold for three years.
- Third, the exemptions that are offered come with their own set of requirements. Buying a house after selling one, for example, may qualify you for a tax break, but the new house must be purchased or built within two years of the sale.

Is cryptocurrency taxed as capital gains?

- In many situations, the proposed 30 percent tax on cryptocurrencies in the 2022 budget is higher than capital gains tax.
- Furthermore, investors can balance profits and losses on different investments against each other or against future profits/losses under capital gains tax.
- This, however, is not possible with cryptocurrencies.

What distortions does it create?

- Because capital gains tax is the same regardless of overall income, inequality can be exacerbated.
- For example, a person with a salary of Rs 40 lakh will pay 30% tax on it, but just 10% LTCG tax on stock trading gains.
- A person earning \$5 lakh will be taxed at 5%, but will be subject to the same 10% LTCG tax on stock trading.
- Second, the one-year LTCG qualifying period in equities versus three years in debt mutual funds may encourage short-term equity trading.

What can be done to fix these anomalies?

- The government can ensure that rates and holding periods for distinct assets are uniform, so that one asset's tax is not more appealing than another.
- Short-term trading and speculative conduct in assets like stocks can be discouraged by a consistent and extended holding period to qualify for LTCG.
- Exemptions for LTCG, such as reinvestment in another home or capital gains bonds, can also be simplified by removing some of the restrictions.
- Small investors might also benefit from capital gains tax reductions.

Import Ban on Drones

The Government has banned the import of drones barring for R&D, defense, and security purposes.

Why in news?

- To promote Make-in-India drones.
- Before this order, the import of drones was "restricted" and needed prior clearance of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and an import license from DGFT.

India's sources of Imports

- For its defense needs, India imports from Israel and the US.
- Consumer drones such as those used for wedding photography come from China and drones for light shows also come from China apart from Russia.

Why need drones?

- Indian drone manufacturers and service providers arrange drones for a variety of use cases such as survey and mapping, security and surveillance, inspection, construction progress monitoring, and drone delivery.

What does the order say?

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued an order forbidding the import of drones in Completely-Built-Up (CBU), Semi-knocked-down (SKD), or Completely-Knocked-down (CKD) configurations with immediate effect.
- Drones will be authorised to be imported for R&D as well as military and security purposes by government agencies, educational institutions recognised by the Central or State governments,

government-recognized R&D entities, and drone manufacturers.

- An import authorization must be obtained from the DGFT for this.
- Drone component imports are "free," suggesting that no clearance from the DGFT is required for local producers to import parts like as diodes, semiconductors, motors, lithium-ion batteries, and so on.

Steps taken to promote indigenous drone manufacturing

- The government issued the Liberalized Drone Rules, 2021 in August of last year, reducing the number of forms required to obtain authorization from 25 to five.
- They also eliminated the requirement for security clearance prior to any registration or licence issuing.
- R&D businesses have also been given sweeping exemptions from all types of clearances, as well as limits on foreign-owned companies established in India.
- In order to make India a "global drone hub by 2030," the government has launched a production-linked incentive plan for drones and drone components.
- Manufacturers from around the world will be encouraged to set up assembly lines in India.

Why such a blanket ban?

- In India, the majority of drone manufacturers assemble imported components, and there is little manufacturing.
- The import prohibition will ensure that an Indian producer retains ownership of the product's intellectual property, design, and software,

allowing him or her to fully comprehend and govern the product.

- This can lead to more indigenization in the long run.

Possible repercussions of the ban

- The prohibition is expected to harm those who utilise drones for weddings and events photography and videography.
- These drones are mostly made in China since they are less expensive and easier to operate, and India still has a long way to go in terms of producing them.

What are Participatory and Non-Participatory Funds?

The amendment to Section 24 of the LIC Act, brought prior to commencing the IPO, segregated the previously single 'Life Fund' into the participatory and non-participatory fund.

What are Participatory and Non-Participatory Funds?

- A policyholder can receive a share of the company's profits under a participatory insurance.
- This is considered a bonus. LIC's Jeevan Labh and Bachat Plus are two examples of such goods.
- Non-participatory products, which include policies like Saral Pension and Nivesh Plus under the LIC umbrella, do not share revenues in this way.
- LIC, like all insurance firms, reinvests the premiums that policyholders pay.
- The gains or excess that resulted was held in a single fund until September of last year. The Life Fund was the name of the organisation.

- The surplus was distributed to policyholders (in the form of bonuses) and stockholders in a 95:5 ratio (in the form of dividends).

What has the Amendment changed?

- However, according to a change to Section 24 of the LIC Act, the Life Fund must now be divided into participation and non-participatory funds, depending on the policies they support.
- The amendment specifies how surplus will be distributed between participatory and non-participatory funds.
- Surplus from the non-participating business would be allocated to shareholders in the case of non-participating funds.
- Surpluses from participatory business, on the other hand, would be distributed to policyholders and shareholders.

How does this change impact the shareholder?

- The shift, particularly the one that allows the shareholder to get 100 percent of the excess in non-participatory funds, has resulted in a tremendous increase in the Indian Embedded Value, or IEV.
- IEV is an important financial metric for insurers and a measure of future cash flows in life insurance firms.
- The embedded value will be used to estimate the market value of LIC and how much money the government would raise through the IPO.
- This will be critical for the government to accomplish its divestment goals and keep the fiscal deficit under control.

Why is it a risk, then?

- According to the statement, participation and single premium plans account for a large share of LIC's business premiums.
- It went on to say that if policyholders receive lower-than-expected returns from the participating products, it could lead to more surrenders.
- This may have an impact on their financial situation, operations, and cash flow.

- It is situated in Thekkady, Idukki District, in the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats.
- It was built by John Pennycuik between 1887 and 1895 as part of an arrangement to move water eastwards to the Madras Presidency territory.
- From the foundation, it rises to a height of 53.6 m (176 ft) and a length of 365.7 m. (1,200 ft).

Kerala plans to replace Mullaperiyar Dam



Kerala plans to build a new dam to replace the 126-year-old Mullaperiyar dam in the Idukki district.

Mullaperiyar Dam

- It's a masonry gravity dam on Kerala's Periyar River.

Operational issue

- Although the dam is in Kerala, it is managed and maintained by Tamil Nadu.
- The Mullaperiyar Dam's catchment region is entirely within Kerala, hence it is not an interstate river.
- For the first time in 35 years, the water level reached 142 feet in November 2014.
- Following heavy rainfall in Kerala, the reservoir reached its maximum capacity of 142 feet in August 2018.
- Indeed, water managers around the country are increasingly storing water to nearly full capacity in reservoirs.

The dispute: Control and safety of the dam

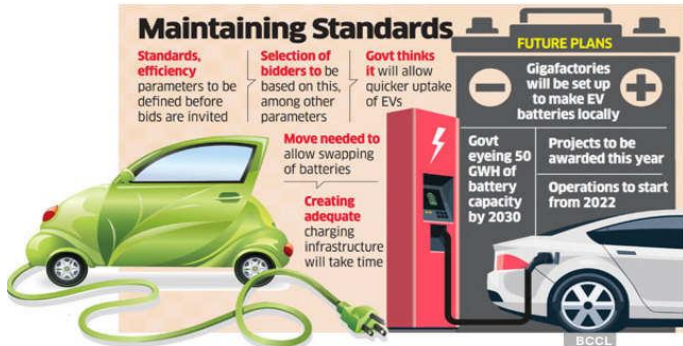
- Tamil Nadu was granted permission by the Supreme Court in February 2006 to raise the dam's level to 152 feet (46 metres) after fortifying it.
- The Kerala Government responded by declaring the Mullaperiyar dam a "endangered" scheduled dam under the contentious Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2006.
- The Mullaperiyar dam and diverted Periyar waters provide a lifeline to the districts of Theni, Madurai, Sivaganga, Dindigul, and Ramnad in Tamil Nadu.

- Based on the 1886 lease agreement, Tamil Nadu has insisted on exerting unrestricted colonial rights to control the dam and its waters.

Rule of Curve issue

- A rule curve, also known as a rule level, indicates how much storage or empty space should be kept in a reservoir at different times of the year.
- It determines how a reservoir's storage levels fluctuate.
- The rule curve is used to determine when a dam's gates will open. It's a part of a dam's "core safety" mechanism.
- Kerala is frequently blamed by the TN government for delaying the rule curve's finalisation.

EV Battery Swapping Policy



NITI Aayog is holding a consultation on the upcoming electric vehicle (EV) battery swapping policy.

What is BaaS?

- (battery-as-a-service) is viewed as a potential charging option.
- Vehicles with fixed or removable batteries, as well as vehicles with leased batteries, are available from manufacturers.

- When you lease a battery for an electric scooter, you don't have to pay for the battery, making the initial purchase roughly 40% cheaper.
- At a swap station, users can exchange drained batteries for fully charged ones. After that, the depleted batteries are charged either on-site or off-site.
- Low downtime for business fleets, decreased space requirements, and fewer upfront expenses are all advantages of swapping.
- It is also a reasonable option for those who do not have access to parking at their residence.

What is battery interoperability?

- When a battery is compatible with many vehicles and chargers, you can swap it out at any swap station with ease. This may aid in achieving scale.
- Manufacturers and service providers, on the other hand, believe the "one-size-fits-all" model poses a safety risk and that too much standardisation can suffocate innovation.

Why hasn't BaaS taken off yet?

- There are financial and operational limitations.
- Energy service companies that offer switching solutions must levy an 18 percent goods and services tax (GST), opposed to a 5% GST on the purchase of an electric vehicle.
- Furthermore, FAME-II government subsidies are not available to automobiles sold through BaaS or swap station operators.
- While these are cost drawbacks when compared to direct charging, the lack of a dense and interoperable battery swap infrastructure has also slowed the rollout.
- On the other hand, manufacturers are eager to develop their own battery and charging technologies.

Issues with BaaS

- Standardization of safety specifications, as well as the batteries, is required.
- Using different permutations and combinations of batteries at a station where they haven't been checked for compatibility could be dangerous.
- Furthermore, requiring only one type of battery to be eligible for concessions would be inconvenient for many players.

Who offers BaaS in India?

- Bounce, a Bengaluru-based firm, claims to be the first e-two-wheeler manufacturer to offer their scooters with BaaS, with a million battery swaps.
- Others, such as Ola Electric and Ather, have opted for direct charging, whereas Hero Electric provides both fixed and removable batteries.
- Many manufacturers are collaborating with energy service providers to provide battery switching services.
- The global precedent is mixed: Ample, a company that offers swaps in the United States, has found success with commercial fleets, but most personal users charge at home.

Why is Battery Swapping needed?

- High Cost of EVs: By industry standards, an EV is 1.5-2x more expensive than its IC Engine counterpart, with the battery pack accounting for at least half of the cost.
- Cost savings: Many manufacturers now sell batteries separately from vehicles, lowering the price. In this situation, a fleet owner can purchase vehicles without batteries and use battery swapping to replace them.
- Range Anxiety: Another big factor discouraging people from purchasing electric vehicles is range

anxiety, or the dread of running out of battery power without being able to find a charging station.

- Inadequate charging infrastructure: Unlike gas stations, EV charging facilities are hard to come by, which increases range anxiety even more, especially while travelling by car.
- Hazard management: If a Swapping Station is available, simply locate one, go to it, and exchange the empty battery with a fresh one.

Who are the Angadias?

An FIR has been registered against some Mumbai Police officials last week for allegedly threatening Angadias and extorting money from them in south Mumbai.

Who are Angadias?

- The Angadia system is a century-old parallel banking system in which traders transmit money from one state to another via a person known as an Angadia, which stands meaning courier.
- It is mostly utilised in the jewellery industry, with Mumbai – Surat being the most popular route because to its proximity to the diamond trade's two ends.
- The amount of money involved is enormous, and the Angadia is in charge of transferring money from one state to another for a fee.
- The Gujarati, Marwari, and Malbari communities are primarily active in the business.

How does the system work?

- Because significant sums of money, often in the billions of dollars, are involved, the Angadia system is entirely based on trust.
- Traders frequently have the same Angadias for decades.

- If a diamond trader in Surat wishes to be paid, a trader from Zaveri Bazaar in south Mumbai will send an Angadias, who will usually deliver the money within 24 hours.
- They also have scheduled trains that depart Mumbai late at night and arrive in Gujarat early the next morning.
- Typically, to check validity, the dealer will hand over a Rs 10 note to the Angadia and supply the recipient with the note's number.
- The Angadia will only hand over the money to the individual if the recipient confirms the note number.
- The Angadias return to Mumbai the same day after making the payment.

Is the system legal?

- While the Angadia system is lawful in and of itself, there is a shadow hanging over the activity because it is suspected that it is frequently used to move unauthorised funds.
- Because the firm operates in cash and there is no account for it, there have been concerns that it is also used for black money transfers such as the hawala.

What are Swiss Banks?

A whistleblower has leaked information on more than \$100 billion held in 30,000 accounts of Zurich-headquartered Credit Suisse, one of the world's most infamous banks which hold black money.

What is the news?

- The study re-ignited interest in Swiss banks and their well-known, century-old secrecy culture.
- As countries around the world try to persuade their super-rich to pay proper taxes on their wealth, this Swiss tradition is under threat.

Swiss Banks: Defined by Secrecy

- Geneva had been a preferred location for French aristocracy and other European elites seeking covert havens to conceal their wealth since at least the beginning of the 18th century.
- Swiss government officials issued regulations preventing bankers from disclosing information about their customers in 1713.
- As a result, a tremendous culture of quiet and secrecy arose, which would eventually become the defining trait of Swiss finance.
- The Federal Act on Banks and Savings Banks, also known as the Banking Law of 1934 or the Swiss Banking Act, was passed in Switzerland in 1934.

What's behind this utmost secrecy?

- Without their consent and in the absence of a criminal complaint, it was illegal to expose consumer details or information to nearly anybody – including the authorities.
- Article 47 is at the heart of some of the most stringent financial secrecy regulations in the world, with violators facing up to five years in prison.

Why are they favourite destination to park black money?

- The safety and stability of Swiss banks, based in a tranquil country, became an alluring attraction for the super-rich as wealth became more easily mobile across international borders.
- Switzerland is a politically unaffiliated country.
- Depositors prefer Swiss bank accounts because they mix a low level of risk with a high level of privacy.

- Switzerland's economy is exceptionally stable, and its banks are administered with extreme professionalism.
- Almost every adult in the world can open a Swiss bank account. Opening an account is simple and only requires basic KYC, which includes a proof of identity such as a passport.

Question of 'black money'

- India, "black money" supposedly stored by Indians in Swiss banks is a political issue, with parties and politicians frequently promising to "bring it back."

- The Swiss government has stated that they work with the Indian government to combat tax evasion and fraud.

Indian motives and moves

- Since 2018, the two countries have enjoyed an automatic exchange of information in tax affairs.
- In September 2019, Indian authorities received full financial information on all Indian residents with accounts in Swiss banking institutions for the first time.

Environment & Diversity

What is Bomb Cyclone?



Major cities such as New York and Boston in US are witnessing a "Bomb Cyclone" characterized by the explosive power of rapid drops in atmospheric pressure.

What is Bomb Cyclone?

- A bomb cyclone is a huge, violent mid-latitude storm with low pressure at its core, weather fronts, and a wide range of related phenomena, including blizzards, severe thunderstorms, and heavy precipitation.
- When its central pressure drops rapidly—by at least 24 millibars in 24 hours—it becomes a bomb.
- When a cyclone "bombs," or goes through bombogenesis, it means it has access to the best ingredients for strengthening, such as a lot of heat, moisture, and rising air.

Why is it called a bomb?

- Most cyclones don't intensify rapidly in this way.

- Bomb cyclones put forecasters on high alert, because they can produce significant harmful impacts.

Its etymology

- The term "bombogenesis" is derived from the word's cyclogenesis, which refers to the birth of a cyclone or storm, and bomb, which is self-explanatory.
- When a cold air mass collides with a warm air mass, such as air over warm ocean waters, this can happen.
- A mechanism known as bombogenesis is responsible for the production of this rapidly intensifying weather system, which results in a bomb cyclone.

How does it occur?

- Heat and moisture are abundant over the warmer ocean.
- The lower atmosphere becomes unstable and buoyant when chilly continental air moves overhead and generates a big temperature differential.
- Clouds and precipitation form when air rises, cools, and condenses.

Where does it occur the most?

- The coast of the United States is one of the areas where bombogenesis is most common.
- Storms in the mid-latitudes – a temperate zone north of the tropics that encompasses the whole continental United States – get their energy from substantial temperature differences.
- During the winter, there is a natural thermal contrast between the cool land and the warm Gulf Stream current along the US East Coast.

Godavari Estuary in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS)



Godavari Estuary in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) is facing due ignorance despite meeting all nine criteria of Ramsar Convention.

Godavari Estuary

- The estuary, which includes the 235.70-square-kilometer Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS), is one of the world's most endangered eco-regions.
- After the Sundarbans, it has India's second-largest mangrove cover.
- Fishing cats (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), Olive Ridley turtles, Indian smooth-coated otter, and saltwater crocodiles all reside in the CWS.

What are the nine criteria laid out by Ramsar Convention?

- **Criterion 1:** “it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.”
- **Criterion 2:** “it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.”
- **Criterion 3:** “it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.”
- **Criterion 4:** “it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.”
- **Criterion 5:** “it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.”
- **Criterion 6:** “it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.”
- **Criterion 7:** “it supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species or families, life-history stages, species interactions and/or populations that are representative of wetland benefits and/or values and thereby contributes to global biological diversity.”
- **Criterion 8:** “it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend.”
- **Criterion 9:** “it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent non-avian animal species.”

Definition of Forest in India

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has informed about the criteria used to define forest in India.

Defining Forests universally

- As per the Conference of Parties (CoP) 9-Kyoto Protocol, the forest can be defined by any country depending upon the capacities and capabilities of the country.
- Forest- Forest is defined structurally on the basis of
 1. **Crown cover percentage:** Tree crown cover- 10 to 30% (India 10%)
 2. **Minimum area of stand:** area between 0.05 and 1 hectare (India 1.0 hectare) and
 3. **Minimum height of trees:** Potential to reach a minimum height at maturity in situ of 2 to 5 m (India 2m)

India's definition of Forests

The definition of forest cover has clearly been defined in all the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) and in all the international communications of India.

- The forest cover is defined as ‘all land, more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10 percent irrespective of ownership and legal status.
- Such land may not necessarily be a recorded forest area. It also includes orchards, bamboo and palm’.

Classification of forest cover

In ISFR 2021 recently published has divided the forest cover as:

1. **Inside Recorded Forest Area:** These are basically natural forests and plantations of Forest Department.
2. **Outside Recorded Forest Area:** These cover mango orchards, coconut plantations, block plantations of agroforestry

Species in news: White-Cheeked Macaque



In an important discovery, scientists have recorded presence of White-Cheeked Macaque (*Macaca leucogenys*) from central Arunachal Pradesh.

White-Cheeked Macaque

- White cheeks, long and thick hairs on the neck area, and a longer tail distinguish White-Cheeked Macaques from other macaques present in the area.
- A group of Chinese scientists from the Modog region of southeastern Tibet found the species in 2015.
- In terms of primates, this discovery was seen as an important breakthrough.

Existence in India

- After a single incident of photographic capture in Anjaw district, Arunachal Pradesh in 2015, the species has not been spotted or recorded in India.
- There have been 434 reports of these mammals in India.
- The discovery is significant since it adds to the list of animals found in India.

Protection status

- It has not yet been incorporated into India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Hunting by locals for food and habitat degradation due to urbanisation and

infrastructure development pose a possible threat to all macaque species in the environment.

Fire Ready Formula by UNEP

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has called on global governments to adopt a new 'Fire Ready Formula,' as it warned that incidences of wildfires would rise in the future.

What is the Fire Ready Formula?

- The new formula envisages that 66 per cent of spending be devoted to planning, prevention, preparedness and recovery.
- The remaining 34 per cent can be spent on response.

New "Fire Ready Formula" focuses on Planning and Prevention

Serial No	Budget item	% share of total on wildfire management recommended
1	Planning	1 %
2	Prevention	32 %
3	Preparedness	13 %
4	Response	34 %
5	Recovery	20 %

Why need such a formula?

- According to the UNEP report, the number of wildfires is expected to rise by up to 14% by 2030.

- According to the UNEP, integrated wildfire management is critical for adjusting to current and future changes in global wildfire risk.
- More money should be spent on fire risk reduction, collaboration with local communities,

and a stronger global commitment to combat climate change.

- A mix of policies, a legal framework, and incentives that encourage sustainable land and fire use are required to achieve and sustain adaptive land and fire management.

Governance

Paray Shikshalaya Initiative

The West Bengal government has launched 'Paray Shikshalaya' Initiative.

Paray Shikshalaya

- It is a neighbourhood programme open-air classroom for students in grades 1 through 7.
- This project aims to encourage students who dropped out of school as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to return to school.

Why was this initiative launched?

- The state administration reopened schools in response to increased demand for physical education lessons.
- Due to concerns about surges in covid cases, classroom teaching was not possible.
- As a result, students are called in groups.

Where were these classes held?

- Classes were held in neighbourhood parks and grounds for schools without open-air venues.
- Local councillors and MLAs assisted in the establishment of infrastructure at such parks, such as the erection of temporary shades and chairs, as well as the provision of mid-day meals for the students.

- Classes were held in open-air locations at schools with such facilities.
- Students were seated on benches, and blackboards were arranged to simulate a school setting.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 launched

The Union Health Minister has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0.

About IMI 4.0

- According to a Health Ministry announcement, the IMI 4.0 would be conducted in three phases in 416 districts across 33 states and UTs (including 75 districts identified for Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav).
- It will make a significant contribution to closing the gaps and achieving long-term progress toward universal immunisation.
- It would ensure that unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children, as well as pregnant women, receive Routine Immunization (RI) services," he stated.

What is Mission Indradhanush ?

- In December 2014, the Prime Minister launched Mission Indradhanush with the goal of increasing full vaccination coverage.

- Its goal was to protect partially and unvaccinated pregnant women and children living in low-immunisation areas, high-risk, and difficult-to-reach areas from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- In a year, the Mission's first two phases resulted in a 6.7 percent improvement in full vaccination coverage.

Aims and objectives

- All children under the age of two, as well as all pregnant women, will be immunised against eight vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, TB, measles, meningitis, and Hepatitis B are among the disorders being targeted.
- Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis, Injectable Polio Vaccine Bivalent, and Rotavirus were added as new entries in 2016.
- Pneumonia was added to the Mission in 2017 when the Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine was included in the Universal Immunization Program.

Centre extends Police Modernisation Scheme

The Union government has approved the continuation of a police modernization scheme for five years up to 2025-26 with a financial outlay of ₹26,275 crores.

What is the Modernization of Police Forces Scheme?

- According to Entry 2 of List II of the VIIIth Schedule of the Constitution of India, 'police' and 'law and order' are subjects under the state's authority.
- As a result, state governments bear the primary duty for managing these issues.

- However, due to financial restrictions, states have not been able to fully modernise and equip their police forces to the necessary degree.
- Since 1969-70, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been supporting the efforts and resources of the States by executing the MPF Scheme on a periodic basis.

Objectives:

- The focus of the scheme is to strengthen police infrastructure at cutting edge level by constructing secure police stations, training centers, police housing (residential), equipping the police stations with the required mobility, modern weaponry, communication equipment, and forensic set-up, etc.

Components of the scheme

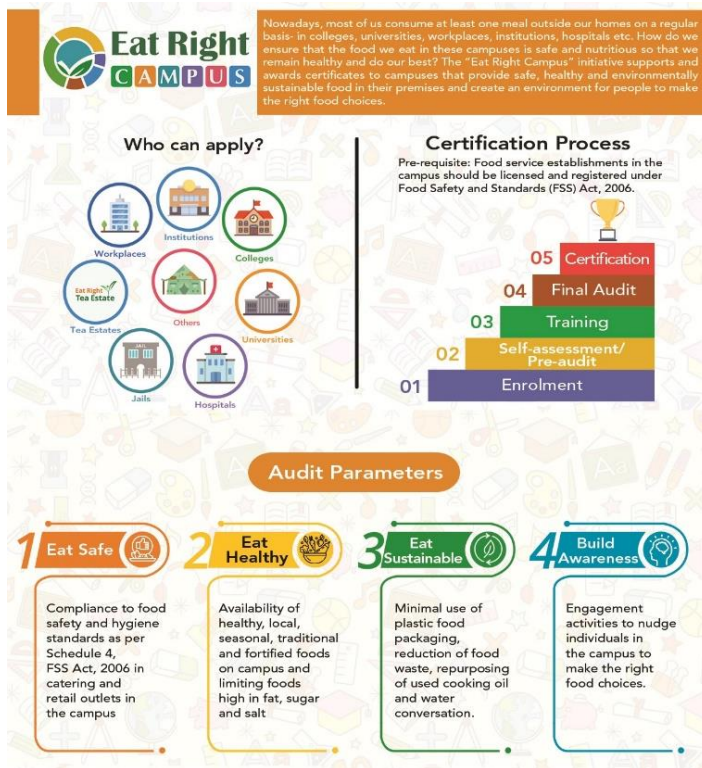
- Security-related expenditures were included in the strategy, which included establishing additional battalions, developing high-tech forensic laboratories, and other investigation instruments in J&K, the northeastern states, and Maoist-affected areas.
- The strategy includes provisions for internal security, law and order, and the police's employment of modern technologies.
- States will get assistance in narcotics control and enhancing the criminal justice system in the country by creating a comprehensive forensic setup.

Funding pattern

- States are divided into two categories under the Scheme, namely Category 'A' and Category 'B', for the purposes of funding both non-plan and plan projects.
- J&K, as well as eight other North Eastern states, including Sikkim, will be eligible for financial support on a 90:10 Centre:State share basis.

- The remaining States will be classified as Category 'B,' and will be eligible for financial assistance on a 60:40 basis from the Centre and the States.

What are Eat Right Campuses?



Four police stations of New Delhi district have been certified as 'Eat Right Campus' by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Eat Right Campus

- Eat Right India is the FSSAI's flagship mission, with the goal of ensuring that the country's population have access to safe and nutritious food.
- The FSSAI's 'Eat Right Campus' campaign aims to promote safe, healthy, and sustainable food on campuses across the country, including schools,

universities, colleges, businesses, hospitals, and tea estates.

- The goal is to improve people's and the planet's health while also promoting the country's social and economic development.
- Adoption of the initiative is not required.

Evaluation Criteria

- Benchmarks have been created on four different parameters based on which campuses are evaluated and certified as 'Eat Right Campus'.
- These parameters include
 1. Food safety measures, steps to ensure the provision of healthy, Environmentally sustainable food, and Building awareness to make the right food choices.
 2. These practices include mandatory steps such as licensing and registration of food service providers in the campus and compliance to food safety and hygiene standards as per Schedule 4 of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006.

Benefits of Eat Right Campus

- It has the potential to give enormous benefits to the campus and its residents, not just in terms of health but also in terms of economics.
- On-campus food that is safe, healthy, and sustainable will minimise the prevalence of food-borne illnesses, deficiency disorders, and non-communicable diseases.
- This translates to lower absenteeism and lost work hours, as well as increased employee happiness, motivation, and productivity.
- This would also lower healthcare expenditures at the workplace, institution, hospital, jail, or tea farm.

History

Places in news: Chandernagore

The Registry Building, a two-storey structure at Chandernagore built in 1875 and a symbol of French settlement of the colonial town, has been awaiting restoration for a long time.

French in India

- France was the last of the main European maritime powers to engage the East India trade in the 17th century.
- The acquisition of property at Chandernagore from the Mughal Governor of Bengal launched the French colony in India in 1673.
- The Sultan of Bijapur sold them Pondicherry the following year. Both were the core of the French's maritime economic efforts in India.
- In 1731, Joseph Francois Dupleix was named Intendent of Chandernagore, sowing the seeds of colonisation.
- He fortified the settlement, which had previously been involved in sea trade with Pondicherry.

Significance of Chandernagore

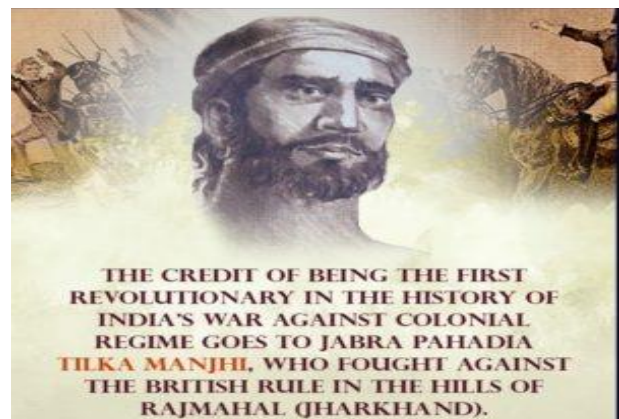
- Despite being a member of the French colonies in India, Chandernagore was distinctive in many ways.
- It was a driving force behind the anti-British independence movement. It became a safe sanctuary for independence fighters of all stripes due to its proximity to Calcutta.
- Even Aurobindo Ghosh, one of the suspects in the 1909 Alipore Bomb case, was freed unconditionally and relocated to Pondicherry after a brief time in Chandernagore.

- Since the partition of Bengal in 1905, Chandernagore has been at the centre of anti-British activity, producing several martyrs, including Kanailal Dutt.

Merger into India

- People living under French authority in Pondicherry, Chandernagore, Karaikal, Mahe, and Yanam were eager to join their country when the British chose to hand over sovereignty to the people of India by August 15, 1947.
- The French, on the other hand, had yet to learn their lessons. To avoid this, they used every trick in the book.
- In 1947, the French declared Chandernagore a free city in response to an onslaught from the people under their jurisdiction as well as the British and Indian rulers.
- They held a referendum in June 1948, with an overwhelming majority of 97 percent voting in favour of an union with India.
- It became a part of India on October 2, 1955, after several legal challenges

Who was Tilka Manjhi?



The Nation is remembering revolutionary freedom fighter and tribal leader Tilka Manjhi on his 272nd birth anniversary.

Tilka Manjhi (1750-1785)

- In 1784, he formed an army of Adivasis and led the historic Santhal Hool against the exploitative British.
- In 1770, the Santhal region experienced a catastrophic famine, with many people dying of hunger.
- Tilka Manjhi robbed the East India Company's treasury and dispersed the money to the poor and needy.
- Many more tribals were inspired by Tilka's noble gesture and joined the uprising.
- His Santhal Hool, or Santhal uprising, began with this.
- He persisted in attacking the British and their adoring allies.
- Tilka Manjhi never surrendered from 1771 to 1784.

Offensive with the colonists

- Augustus Cleveland, an East India Company administrator, was critically injured when Tilka Manjhi attacked him.
- The British surrounded the Tilapore forest from which he operated for several weeks, but he and his troops held them off.
- When he was finally apprehended in 1784, he was hauled all the way to the Collector's mansion in Bhagalpur, Bihar, India, tied to the tail of a horse.
- His severely mutilated body was hanging from a Banyan tree there.

Tarapur Massacre of 1932

Bihar CM has announced that February 15 would be celebrated as "Shahid Diwas" in memory of the 34 freedom fighters who were killed by police in Tarapur town of Bihar's Munger district 90 years ago.

Why such move?

- After the killing in Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in 1919, the Tarapur massacre was the largest carried out by British police.
- The CM claimed that the liberation warriors had never been given their due.
- In his January 2021 Mann ki Baat radio address, Prime Minister Modi also mentioned the Tarapur atrocity.

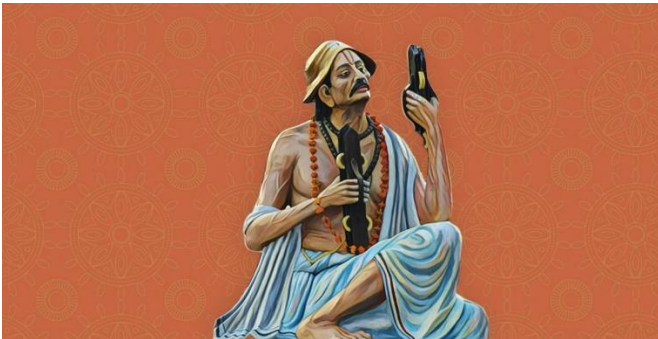
Tarapur Massacre: Course of events

- A group of youthful independence warriors intended to fly an Indian national flag at Thana Bhavan in Tarapur on February 15, 1932.
- The scheme was known to the police, and numerous officers were on the scene. Gopal Singh succeeded in raising the flag at Thana Bhavan about 2 p.m., despite the police carrying out a vicious lathicharge.
- A 4,000-strong throng threw stones at the police, wounding a civil administration officer.
- The cops retaliated by firing fire on the throng indiscriminately.
- Even though there were rumours of an even higher number of deaths, 34 bodies were discovered at the scene after roughly 75 shots were fired.

Trigger for protest

- The executions of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru in Lahore on March 23, 1931, sparked national outrage and mourning.
- The Mahatma was jailed in early 1932 after the Gandhi-Irwin Pact fell apart.
- Nehru, Patel, and Rajendra Prasad were all imprisoned after the Congress was designated an illegal organisation.
- Srikrishna Singh, Nemdhari Singh, Nirapad Mukherjee, Pandit Dasrath Jha, Basukinath Rai, Dinanath Sahay, and Jaymangal Shastri, among others, were detained at Munger.
- In Tarapur, a plea by Congress leader Sardar Shardul Singh Kavishwar to fly the tricolour over government buildings was echoed.

Who was Narsinh Mehta?



Recently Junagadh University discovered a new species of spider and named it Narsinhmehtai in honour of Narsinh Mehta, the 15th-century poet who was a devotee of Lord Krishna.

Narsinh Mehta

- Mehta is thought to have been born in 1410 in Talaja, now part of the Bhavnagar district, and died in the 1480s in Junagadh.
- The family originated in Vadnagar, Gujarat, and the caste name is thought to be Pandya, but

members of the family were officers in ancient kingdoms.

- They were given the surname Mehta (accountant), which became the family name later on.
- Mehta's father died when he was five years old, and it is thought that he only learned to talk at the age of eight, after a holy man requested him to utter the name of Lord Krishna.
- Mehta was raised and married by his elder brother Bansidhar and Bansidhar's wife.

Miracles in his life

- Even after his marriage to Manekba, Mehta used to devote his time to Krishna-bhakti (devotion to Lord Krishna), ignoring his household responsibilities.
- Mehta is said to have run away from home and spent seven days doing tapashcharya at a Shiva temple in Talaja.
- After that, Mehta and his family moved to Junagadh.
- Nonetheless, legend has it that Lord Krishna, mimicking Mehta, assisted the pious poet in organising his father's shraadhha (a rite performed after a family member dies), as well as the marriage of his son Shamaldas.
- In one of his bhajans, the poet describes how Ra Mandlik, the ruler of Junagadh at the time, imprisoned him, accusing him of not seeing Lord Krishna although claiming to have done so.

His poetry

- Mehta penned more than 750 poems, called padd in Gujarat.
- They mainly deal with devotion to Lord Krishna, gyan (wisdom) vairagya (detachment from worldly affairs).

- Others like Shalmshano Vivah, Kunvarbainu Mameru, Hundi and Harmala are believed to be autobiographical accounts of different occasions in his life.

- Vaishnavajni to tene kahiye, Mahatma Gandhi's favourite bhajan is Mehta's creation.

International Relations

Unitary Digital Identity Framework (UDIF)

India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity Framework', apparently modelled on the Aadhaar Card.

What is UDIF?

- UDIF is apparently similar to India's own Aadhaar.
- Under the proposed UDIF it is expected to introduce a:
 1. Biometric data-based personal identification verification device
 2. Individual identities in cyberspace can be represented using a digital instrument.
 3. Individual identification that can be accurately validated in both digital and physical environments using a combination of devices (More updates awaited)

Why such move?

- Since the beginning of this year, Sri Lanka has received substantial economic aid from India, totaling \$ 1.4 billion.
- India is assisting the island nation in dealing with its currency crisis by assisting with the importation of food, medicines, and fuel in the face of periodic shortages.

Russian Aggression on Ukraine and International Law

The Russian annexation of Russia has been condemned widely and raised several questions concerning violation of international law.

How is Russia violating the UN Charter?

(1) Principle of Non-Intervention

- The Russian attack on Ukraine is a violation of the non-intervention principle and, in international law, constitutes to aggression.
- The concept of non-interference in domestic matters is the bedrock upon which the existing international order is built.
- Article 2(4) of the UN Charter says that states must refrain from using force or threatening to use force against a state's territorial integrity or political independence.
- It outlaws any type of forcible trespassing on another state's territory, even if it's only for a few hours or days, like a 'in and out' operation.

(2) Principle of Non-Aggression

- Aggression is defined by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3314 (1974) as a state's use of armed force against another state's sovereignty, territorial integrity, or political independence.

- Allowing one's territory to be utilised by another state in an act of aggression against a third state is also an act of aggression.
- As a result, Belarus can be held liable for aggression because it permitted Russia to utilise its territory to attack Ukraine.
- Under customary international law and the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, aggression is also considered an international crime.

(3) Principle of Political Independence

- One of the main reasons for Russia's use of force against Ukraine is its aim to keep Ukraine out of NATO.
- Under article 2(4), this is a violation of Ukraine's political independence, as a sovereign state is allowed to choose which organisations it wishes to join.
- Russia has also breached article 2(3), which requires states to settle their differences through peaceful ways in order to maintain world peace and security.

(4) Principle of Self-Defence

- Ukraine has the right to self-defence under international law if Russia uses force against it.
- Article 51 of the UN Charter allows a state to use individual or collective self-defense until the Security Council takes action to safeguard international peace and security.
- Because Russia is a permanent member with veto power, it appears unlikely that the UNSC will reach a resolution in this matter.

Russia's hype:

(1) Nuclear escalation

- Russia has warned that Ukraine might obtain nuclear weapons with the help of Western allies.
- However, in the Legality of Nuclear Threats case, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) held that mere possession of nuclear weapons does not always imply a threat.
- As a result, even if Ukraine possesses nuclear weapons or acquires them in the future, it does not constitute a basis for Russia to invoke self-defence.

(2) Aggression against Russia

- Further, mere membership in a defence alliance such as NATO cannot necessarily be considered as a threat of aggression against Russia.
- Thus, here too Russia cannot invoke self-defence.

(3) Act in self-defence

- Russia also lacks the ability to use anticipatory self-defence.
- According to the Caroline test, such invocation would necessitate an immediate and overwhelming need for self-defence, leaving no choice of means and no time for thought.
- In Russia, however, this is not the case.

What options is Ukraine left with?

- Under international law, Ukraine has the right to request aid from other countries in the form of military assistance, weapon supplies, and so on.
- Russia, on the other hand, has stated that it is acting in self-defence.
- This accusation is debatable, considering Ukraine has made no use of force or made any threats against Russia.

Polity

What is Privilege Motion?

An MP from Telangana submitted a Privilege Motion against PM regarding his remarks over the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh.

What is Parliamentary Privilege?

- Legislative privilege refers to the right and immunity that legislators have.
- Legislators are immune from civil and criminal liability for actions taken or words made while performing their legislative duties.
- They are awarded so that MPs/MLAs can carry out their duties properly.
- Article 105 of the Constitution establishes the rights, privileges, and immunities of either House of the Indian Parliament, as well as its members and committees.
- Article 194 governs the powers, privileges, and immunities of state legislatures, members, and committees.

What is a Privilege Motion?

- A breach of privilege occurs when one or more of the rights and immunities are violated, and it is penalised under Parliamentary law.
- Any member of either House can file a notification in the form of a motion against those who have been found guilty of a breach of privilege.
- Each House also claims the power to penalise acts of contempt that, while not violating any specific privilege, are an affront to its authority and dignity.

What are the rules governing privilege?

- Privilege is governed by Rules No. 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book and Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha Rule Book.
- It states that a member may bring a question alleging a breach of privilege by a member, the House, or a committee thereof, with the approval of the Speaker or the Chairperson.
- The rules, however, stipulate that any notice must be related to a recent occurrence and require the House's intervention.
- The Speaker or the Chairperson must receive notices before 10 a.m.

What is the role of the Speaker/Rajya Sabha Chair?

- A privilege motion is initially scrutinised by the Speaker/RS chairperson.
- The Speaker/Chair has the option of deciding on the privilege motion himself or referring it to Parliament's privileges committee.
- The member concerned is granted the opportunity to make a brief remark if the Speaker/Chair gives consent under Rule 222.

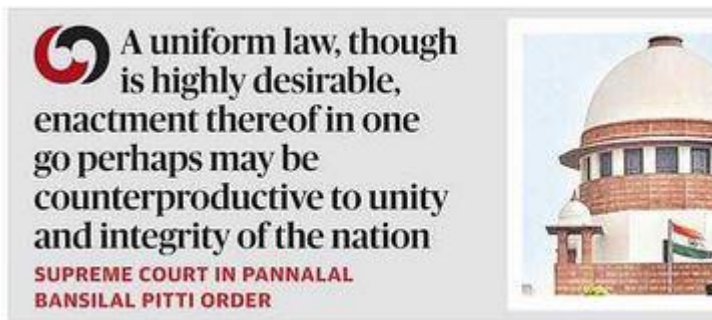
What is the Privileges Committee?

- In the Lok Sabha, the Speaker appoints a privileges committee of 15 members based on the size of each party.
- The House is then presented with a report to consider. While considering the report, the Speaker may allow a half-hour debate.
- The Speaker may then issue final orders or order the report to be presented to the House.

- Following that, a resolution relating to the breach of privilege may be proposed, which must be passed unanimously.
- The vice chairperson of the Rajya Sabha chairs the privileges committee, which has ten members.

- In Indian society, it would encourage gender equality.
- UCC would cater to the expectations of a young generation that is influenced by liberal ideas.
- As a result, its implementation would aid in national integration.

Uniform Civil Code



Poll-bound Uttarakhand CM's announcement to prepare a draft of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the State, raises questions over whether an individual State can bring its own family law code.

What is a Uniform Civil Code?

- A Uniform Civil Code is one that establishes a single legal framework for the entire country, applying to all faith communities in personal concerns such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption.
- One of the Constitution's basic principles, Article 44, states that the state must work to ensure that citizens throughout India have access to a uniform civil code.
- These, as stated in Article 37, are not justiciable (that is, they cannot be enforced by a court), but the concepts they establish are crucial in government.

Why need UCC?

- All citizens would be treated equally at UCC.

Hurdles to UCC implementation

- India faces practical challenges as a result of its religious and cultural diversity.
- Minorities frequently regard the UCC as a violation of religious liberty.
- It is frequently viewed as the government interfering in minority' personal affairs.
- Many experts think that the timing is not yet right for Indian society to adopt UCC.

UCC vs. Right to Freedom of Religion

- Article 25 establishes a person's fundamental right to religion; Article 26(b) affirms each religious denomination's or section's right to "conduct its own business in areas of religion"; and Article 29 establishes the right to preserve distinctive culture.
- Article 25 of the Constitution protects an individual's religious freedom from "public order, health, morality," and other FRs, whereas Article 26 protects a group's religious freedom from other FRs.
- There was disagreement in the Constituent Assembly about whether UCC should be included in the fundamental rights chapter. A vote was used to settle the issue.
- The fundamental rights sub-committee, led by Sardar Patel, ruled by a 5:4 majority that the provision fell beyond the scope of the FRs, making the UCC less essential.

Enacting and Enforcing UCC: A reality check

- Fundamental rights are legal rights that can be enforced in a court of law.
- Other Articles in the 'Directive Principles' chapter use language like "in particular strive," "shall, in particular, direct its policy," "shall be a duty of the state," and so on.
- Article 43 states that "the state shall endeavour through adequate legislation," however Article 44 does not include the words "by suitable legislation."
- All of this means that the state's responsibility in other directive principles is stronger than in Article 44.

What are more important — fundamental rights or directive principles?

- Fundamental rights are unquestionably more vital.
- The Indian Constitution is established on the foundations of the balance between Parts III (Fundamental Rights) and IV (Constitutional Rights), according to the Supreme Court in *Minerva Mills* (1980). (Directive Principles).
- Giving one absolute priority over the other would disrupt the Constitution's balance.
- However, Article 31C of the 42nd Amendment, enacted in 1976, states that a statute enacted to implement a directive principle cannot be challenged on the grounds that it violates the FRs under Articles 14 and 19.

What about Personal Laws?

- Different property and matrimonial laws apply to citizens of many religions and denominations, which is an affront to the nation's unity.

- If the founders of the Constitution had meant for a UCC, they would have included personal legislation in the Union List, giving Parliament exclusive control in this area.
- However, the Concurrent List mentions "personal laws."

Various customary laws

- There is no single rule that governs all Hindus in the country, just as there is no single law that governs all Muslims or Christians.
- In many aspects, Kashmiri Muslims were ruled by a customary law that differed from Muslim Personal Law in the rest of the country and was closer to Hindu law.
- Even when it comes to Muslim marriage registration, laws vary from place to place.
- There are about 200 tribes in the Northeast, each with its own set of customary laws.
- In Nagaland, the Constitution protects local customs. Meghalaya and Mizoram also have similar safeguards.
- Despite its codification, even revised Hindu law protects customary behaviours.

Minority opinion in the Constituent Assembly

- Some members wanted Muslim Personal Law to be exempt from state oversight.
- Mohammed Ismail, who unsuccessfully campaigned three times to have Muslim Personal Law exempted from Article 44, believes that a secular state should not interfere with people's personal law.
- B Pocker Saheb said he has heard objections to a unified civil code from a variety of groups, including Hindu groups.

- Hussain Imam questioned whether personal laws could ever be uniform in such a diverse country as India.
- "No government can use its provisions in a way that would force the Muslims to revolt," B R Ambedkar declared.
- Alladi Krishnaswami, a proponent of a UCC, admitted that enacting one without strong community opposition would be unwise.
- Gender justice was never brought up in these discussions.

Conclusion

- Article 44 of the Constitution requires the state to make every effort to ensure that citizens have access to a uniform civil code across the country.
- The goal of UCC is to strengthen the "Secular Democratic Republic" that is entrenched in the Constitution's Preamble.
- This provision is in place to aid India's integration by bringing groups together on a shared platform on issues that are currently regulated by disparate personal laws.
- As a result, UCC should be implemented with all segments of Indian society in mind.
- The Portuguese Civil Code of 1867 in Goa is an example of a common family law that coexists.

Sealed Cover Jurisprudence and Related Issues

Some Parliamentarians and prominent figures have issued a statement expressing discontent over the Kerala High Court's verdict upholding the transmission ban on a Malayalam news channel.

What is the news?

- The channel fell off the air when the Centre decided to halt its broadcast for "security reasons."
- The ruling of the High Court was completely based on the evaluation of documents submitted by the MHA in a sealed cover.
- The contents of which were not revealed to the news network.

What is Sealed Cover Jurisprudence?

- The Supreme Court, as well as several lesser courts, has a tradition of requesting or accepting information from government agencies in sealed envelopes that can only be accessed by judges.
- The doctrine of sealed cover is not defined by any legislation.
- Rule 7 of Order XIII of the Supreme Court Rules and Section 123 of the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 give the Supreme Court the authority to employ it.

Nature of the power: Upholding Secrecy

- No party would be granted access to the contents of such information if the Chief Justice or a court orders it to be kept under seal or finds it to be of a confidential nature.
- There is an exception to this rule if the Chief Justice rules that the opposing side have access to it.
- It also states that information can be kept private if it is not considered in the public interest to make it public.
- Official unpublished papers relating to state matters are protected under the Evidence Act, and a public officer cannot be forced to disclose such materials.

Grounds of such secrecy

Other instances where information may be sought in secrecy or confidence is when its publication:

1. Impedes an ongoing investigation
2. Details which are part of the police’s case diary or
3. Breaches the privacy of an individual

Prominent cases of sealed jurisprudence

Sealed cover jurisprudence has been frequently employed by courts in the recent past.

(1) Rafale Deal

- In the matter of the disputed Rafale fighter jet agreement, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi had ordered the Centre to submit papers relevant to the contract's decision-making and pricing in a sealed cover in 2018.
- This was done because the Centre claimed that such information was subject to the Official Secrets Act and the deal's secrecy terms.

(2) Bhim Koregaon Case

- In the Bhima Koregaon case, in which activists were arrested under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.
- The Supreme Court had relied on information submitted by the Maharashtra police in a sealed cover.

Criticism of such acts

- Critics argue that this technique is incompatible with the Indian legal system's principles of transparency and accountability.
- It contrasts with the concept of an open court, where decisions can be scrutinised by the public.

How has judiciary responded to this?

- The Supreme Court ruled in the case of P Gopalakrishnan v. State of Kerala in 2019 that disclosure of papers to the accused is constitutionally required. Even if the inquiry is ongoing, it is possible that the documents will lead to a breakthrough in the probe.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas

The Hoysala Temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka have been finalized as India’s nomination for consideration as World Heritage for the year 2022-2023.

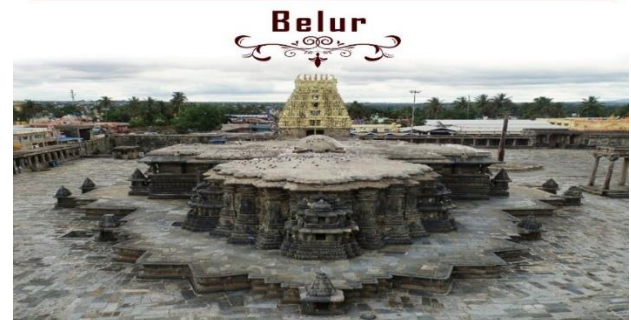
Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas

- The Hoysala sacred ensembles are unique expressions of spiritual purpose as well as vehicles for spiritual practise and attainment.
- The Hoysala holy ensembles at Belur and Halebid are the greatest, most magnificent, and most emblematic examples of the Hoysalas' artistic

creativity and cultural triumphs that have survived to this day.

[1] Belur: Chennakeshava Temple Complex

Channakeshava Temple



- The Chennakeshava temple complex was located in the heart of the old walled town on the Yagachi River's banks.
- The deity was ritually circumambulated around the complex, which was surrounded by a rectangular campus with four rectilinear streets.
- The temple's construction began in 1117 AD and took 103 years to finish.
- Vishnu was worshipped at the temple.
- The temple's lavishly sculpted facade depicts scenes from Vishnu's life and reincarnations, as well as images from the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- However, some Shiva depictions are included as well.
- The temple, which was built on a sacred place, has been regularly revered since its foundation and is still a Vaishnavite pilgrimage centre today.

- The Hoysaleswara temple in Halebidu is the most representative Hoysala architectural ensemble still standing today.
- Built at 1121 CE during the reign of Vishnuvardhana Hoysaleswara, the Hoysala King.
- The temple, dedicated to Shiva, was funded and built by Dorasamudra's affluent citizens and merchants.
- The more than 240 wall sculptures that line the length of the temple's outside wall are its most famous feature.
- Three Jaina basadi (temples) from the Hoysala period, as well as a tiered well, are housed in a walled complex at Halebidu.

[II] Halebid: Hoysaleswara Temple

Hoysalesvara Temple

Halebidu



- The capital of the Hoysala empire was moved from Belur to Halebidu, which was then known as Dorasamudhira, at the height of the empire.

[III] Somnathpur: Kesava Temple

Kesav Temple

Somanathpur



- Another outstanding Hoysala monument, arguably the last, is the Keshava temple in Somanathapura.
- This magnificent Trikuta Temple is devoted to Lord Krishna in three forms: Janardhana, Keshava, and Venugopala.
- The major Keshava idol is unfortunately missing, and the Janardhana and Venugopala idols are both damaged.
- Even yet, a visit to this temple is worthwhile simply to marvel at the craftsmanship and sheer talent of the sculptors who fashioned this wonderful temple to the Divine.

- It is noted for its universality and secular nature, and is considered one of the best works on ethics and morality ever written.

Three major parts of the book

1. **Aram** : Book of Virtue (Dharma), dealing with moral values of an individual and essentials of yoga philosophy
2. **Porul** : Book of Polity (Artha), dealing with socio-economic values, polity, society and administration
3. **Inbam**: Book of Love (Kama), dealing with psychological values and love

Who authored it and when?

- Valluvar, also known as Thiruvalluvar, is traditionally credited with writing it.
- The writing has been dated as early as 300 BCE and as late as the 5th century CE.
- Traditional traditions place it as the third Sangam's final work, while linguistic study places it between 450 and 500 CE, implying that it was written after the Sangam period.

Cultural significance of Thirukkural

- The Kural has been given epithets and alternate titles such as "the Tamil Veda" and "the Divine Book" in the past.
- It promotes nonviolence and moral vegetarianism as values for an individual, and it is based on the principles of ahimsa.
- Furthermore, it emphasises honesty, self-control, thankfulness, hospitality, kindness, goodness, obligation, generosity, and so forth.
- It discusses a variety of social and political issues, including the monarch, ministers, taxation, justice, forts, war, army greatness, and soldier's honour.

President quotes Thirukkural while addressing Parliament

President Ram Nath Kovind quoted a couplet from Thirukkural while addressing the joint Houses of Parliament for Budget Session.

What did the President quote?

- *'Karka Kasadara Karpavai Katrapin Nirka Atharku Thaka'* was the couplet chosen by him to reiterate the importance of the New Education Policy.
- The couplet insists on thorough and flawless learning and adhering to what one has learnt.

What is Thirukkural?

- The Tirukkua (meaning "holy poems"), also known as the Kural, is a classic Tamil language book composed of 1,330 short couplets, or kurals, each of which contains seven words.
- The work is organised into three books, each of which contains aphoristic teachings on virtue (aram), riches (porul), and love (inbam).

- It places a strong emphasis on the death penalty for the wicked, agriculture, education, and abstinence from alcohol and intoxicants.
- Chapters on friendship, love, sexual partnerships, and home life are also included.

Read these quotes and bookmark them. They can be used in essays:

1. Nothing is impossible for people who act based on sound advice and serious consideration.
2. True kindness expects nothing in return.
3. Giving to the needy is the real gift; everything else is a transaction.
4. Friendship with the wise improves over time, much like a good book does.
5. Those who vengefully damage others are worthless, whereas those who stoically endure are worth their weight in gold.
6. A excellent command of the English language is unrivalled among a man's many valuable belongings. The power of the tongue can bring both prosperity and catastrophe. As a result, be cautious of unthinking words.
7. Cowards have no purpose for a castle.
8. If they remain mute in front of the knowledgeable, even the ignorant can look to be extremely worthy.

Chandrayaan-3 set for launch in August

ISRO plans to execute the Chandrayaan-3 mission in August this year.

What is Chandrayaan-3 Mission?

- The Chandrayaan-3 mission is a follow-up of Chandrayaan-2 of July 2019, which aimed to land a rover on the lunar South Pole.

Chandrayaan-2: A quick recap

- Chandrayaan-2 was made up of three parts: an Orbiter, a Lander, and a Rover, all of which were equipped with scientific instruments for studying the moon.
- The Orbiter would orbit the moon at a distance of 100 kilometres, while the Lander and Rover modules would be separated and land softly on the moon's surface.
- The Lander module was named Vikram after Vikram Sarabhai, India's space pioneer, and the Rover module was named Pragyaan, which means knowledge.

Utility of the Orbiter

- The Orbiter component of the mission has been performing well. It has eight instruments on board.
- Each of these devices has generated a substantial amount of data that shines fresh light on the moon and provides new insights that could be useful in future exploration.

Inception of Chandrayaan 3

- The subsequent failure of the Vikram lander led to the pursuit of another mission to demonstrate the landing capabilities needed for the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission proposed in partnership with Japan for 2024.

Its design

- Only four throttle-able engines would be available on the Chandrayaan-3 lander.
- Unlike Vikram, who had five 800N engines on Chandrayaan-2, one of which was centrally installed and had a set thrust.
- A Laser Doppler Velocimeter will also be installed on the Chandrayaan-3 lander (LDV).

What is Havana Syndrome?



A recent US intelligence report says that ‘Havana Syndrome’ —a collection of symptoms and related brain injuries, reported by some US officials could be caused by pulsed electromagnetic energy or close-range ultrasound.

What is Havana Syndrome?

- The term "Havana Syndrome" refers to a group of symptoms that include dizziness, hearing loss, migraines, vertigo, nausea, memory loss, and probable brain damage.
- It was originally reported in 2016-17 in Havana, Cuba, by 16 American Embassy personnel and their families.
- Other examples of the phenomena have occurred, especially affecting US leaders.

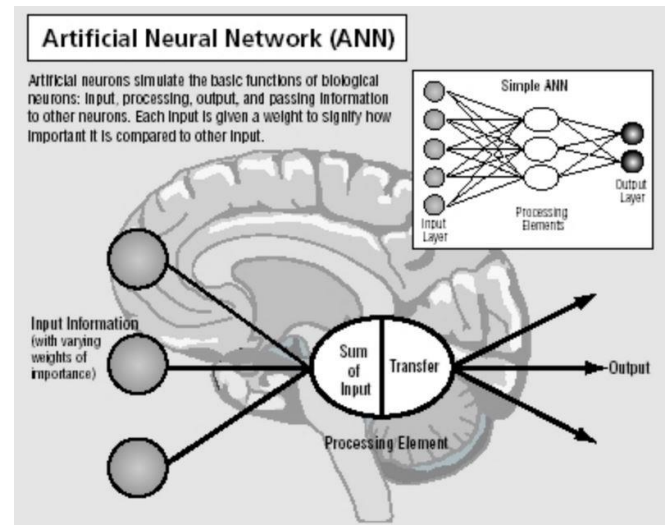
What did the latest investigation find?

- Pulsed electromagnetic energy in the radio frequency has caused such situations.
- The investigation's findings made no mention of who might have been behind the occurrence or their reasons.
- The symptoms of AHI are "real and persuasive," according to a report summary that has been partially redacted.

What can be the other reasons?

- The analysis concludes that psychosocial elements do not explain the basic characteristics, despite the fact that they may trigger other episodes or contribute to long-term impacts.
- These other occurrences could occur as a result of hypervigilance or stress reactions, particularly among security-conscious persons.

What are Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)?



This newscard is an excerpt from the original article published in TH.

What are ANN?

- An ANN works by defining inputs and outputs, feeding pieces of data to computer programmes that act like neurons, and making conclusions or calculations.
- The results are then forwarded to another layer of computer programmes, and so on, until a result is achieved.
- A difference between planned output and input is computed at each layer of this neural network,

and this difference is utilised to adapt the parameters to each programme.

- This process is known as back-propagation, and it is an important part of the Neural Network.

Setting up of ANNs

- Graphic Processing Units (GPUs), which are capable of handling huge parallel operations, can be employed to set up ANNs instead of CPUs.
- TensorFlow, Keras, PyTorch, and Theano are a few free ANN frameworks.
- These can be used for both traditional Machine Learning tasks such as classification and clustering, as well as Deep Learning and ANN tasks.

Why called Neural Network?

- Neuron is the building block of the brain and it inspired computer scientists from the 1950s to make a computer perform tasks like a brain does.
- It is not a simple problem and the clue to its complexity is in the brain structure.

Why ANN?

Ans. Making an artificial brain

- We need billions of artificial neurons if we were to build an artificial brain.
- With the increase in computing power, mimicking billions of neurons is now possible.

Popularity of ANNs

- Data Science, often known as Machine Learning, is a type of computer science that uses data to find patterns.
- The recognition of handwritten digits is a nice example of machine learning.

- However, enormous amounts of sample data must be manually labelled as examples of digit pictures before the computer can perform this work.
- This is exactly what the ANN described above does with its backpropagation.
- This is why, during the last decade, ANNs have become extremely popular. Deep Learning is a method for automatically detecting patterns and parameters that use multiple layers of neural networks.

Kodiyal Theru Festival



The annual Kodiyal Theru car (chariot) festival has begun in Mangalore, Karnataka.

Kodiyal Theru

- In the Hindu month of Magha, it occurs in late January or early February.
- It starts on Tritiya, or the third day of the bright moon, and ends on the seventh, with Holi (Okuli) coming afterward.

- The Car Festival is in full swing at Mangalore's Car Street in front of the Venkatramana Temple for the next six days.
- The Dwajarahana, or hoisting of the 'flag,' which is actually a framed portrait of Garuda, kicks off the festival.
- On the first day of the festival, amid the ringing of bells and the reverberation of drumbeats, this is done ceremoniously.
- The Garuda remains aloft throughout the remainder of the festival until he is lowered in a similarly ceremonial manner on Holi Day, which is the festival's final event.

- India needed to transition to molecular tests (PCR/RT-PCR tests), but the sample collection kits in use at the time were very inexpensive and not of molecular quality.
- The type of molecular grade sample collection media that India need right now is RNA WRAPR.

India's first indigenous Bio-Sample Collection Kit: mWRAPR

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) led start-up has launched mWRAPR, a biological transport and storage medium for genomic sequencing labs, biobanks, and research labs handling biological samples for molecular analysis.

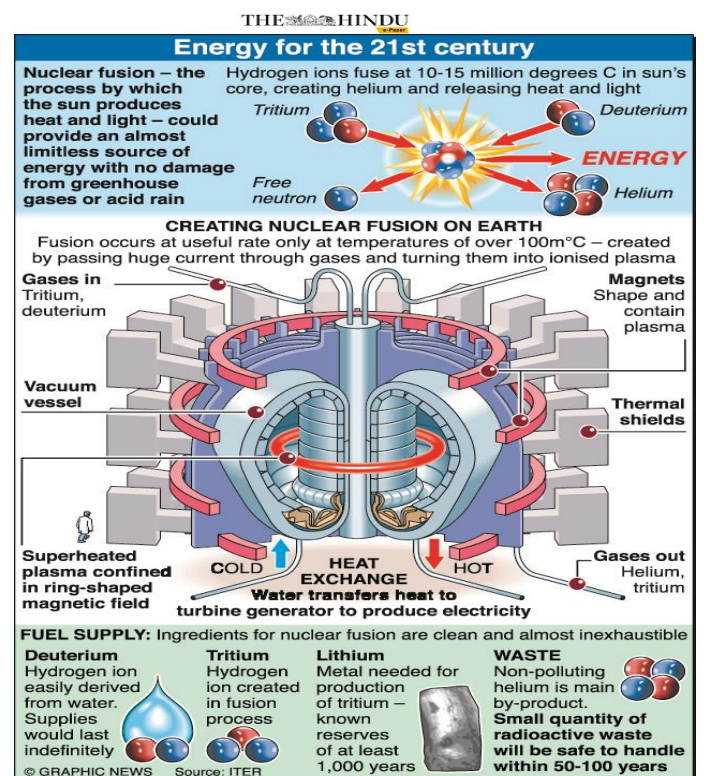
mWRAPR

- It's India's first bio-sample kit, as well as a biological transport and storage medium.
- It would aid in the preservation of genetic content in microbiomes, saliva, cells, tissues, blood, bodily fluids, and faeces tubes, among other biological samples.
- It is the only Molecular Transport Medium made in India that competes with well-known foreign brands' sample stabilisation and transporting media.

Significance

- Access to materials for molecular diagnostics is limited due to disturbances in the global supply chain.

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)



Scientists in the United Kingdom have achieved a new milestone in producing nuclear fusion energy or imitating the way energy is produced in the Sun. The record and scientific data from these crucial experiments are a major boost for ITER.

ITER Project

- ITER, the world's biggest magnetic confinement plasma physics experiment, is a worldwide

nuclear fusion research and engineering megaproject.

- ITER's mission is to show that fusion energy is scientifically and technologically feasible for peaceful use.

Project details

- The European Union, India, Japan, China, Russia, South Korea, and the United States all contribute to the project's funding and management.
- The EU is contributing around 45 percent of the cost of the ITER complex as the host party, with the other six countries each contributing about 9%.
- The ITER Tokamak (doughnut-shaped equipment) complex began construction in 2013, and by June 2015, the total cost had surpassed US\$14 billion.

How does it work?

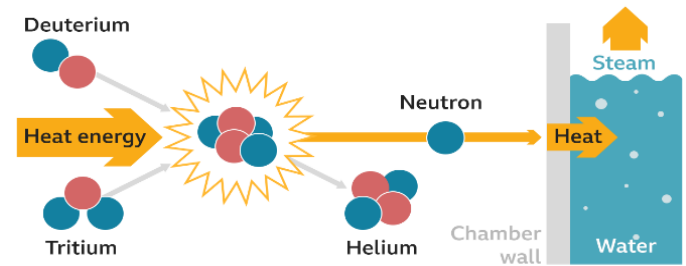
- To facilitate the fusion reaction, hydrogen plasma will be heated to 150 million degrees Celsius, ten times hotter than the Sun's core.
- The process takes place in a tokamak, which is a doughnut-shaped reactor encircled by massive magnets that contain and circulate the superheated, ionised plasma away from the metal walls.
- The superconducting magnets must be cooled to -269 degrees Celsius (-398 degrees Fahrenheit), which is as cold as interstellar space.
- Scientists have long attempted to replicate the nuclear fusion process that occurs inside the sun, claiming that it may give a nearly unlimited supply of cheap, safe, and clean electricity.
- There is no possibility of an uncontrolled chain reaction using fusion, unlike existing fission reactors that divide plutonium or uranium

atoms, and it does not produce long-lived radioactive waste.

Nuclear Fusion

How nuclear fusion works

1	2	3	4
Hydrogen atoms are heated	Fusion reaction	Helium, neutron and energy released	Neutron energy heats water



- Nuclear fusion is the process of combining two lighter nuclei to form a single heavy nucleus (part of an atom). A nuclear reaction is the name for this process.
- Fusion produces a nucleus that is heavier than either of the beginning nuclei. It generates a significant amount of energy.
- The sun is propelled by fusion. Under severe pressure and temperature, tritium and deuterium (hydrogen isotopes Hydrogen-3 and Hydrogen-2, respectively) atoms combine to form a neutron and helium isotope.
- In addition, a massive amount of energy is released, several times the amount produced by fission.
- Scientists are still working on managing nuclear fusion in order to build a fusion reactor that can generate electricity.

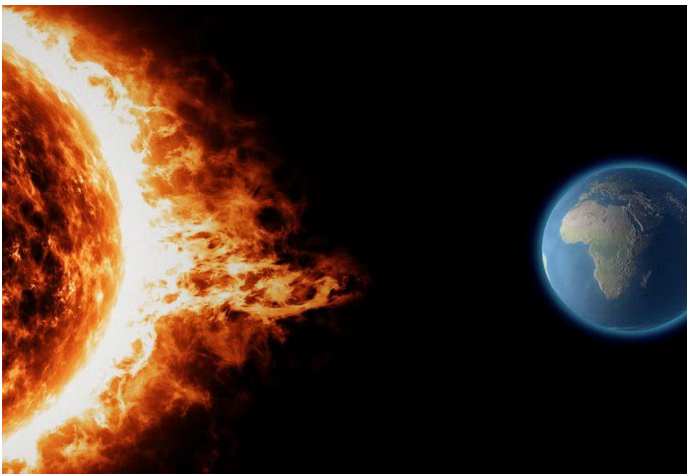
How it is different from nuclear fission?

- Simply explained, fission is the splitting of one atom into two (by neutron bombardment), while

fusion is the joining of two lighter atoms to form a larger one (at a very high temperature).

- When a big, unstable isotope (atoms with the same number of protons but a different number of neutrons) is attacked by high-speed particles, usually neutrons, nuclear fission occurs.

What is a Solar Storm?



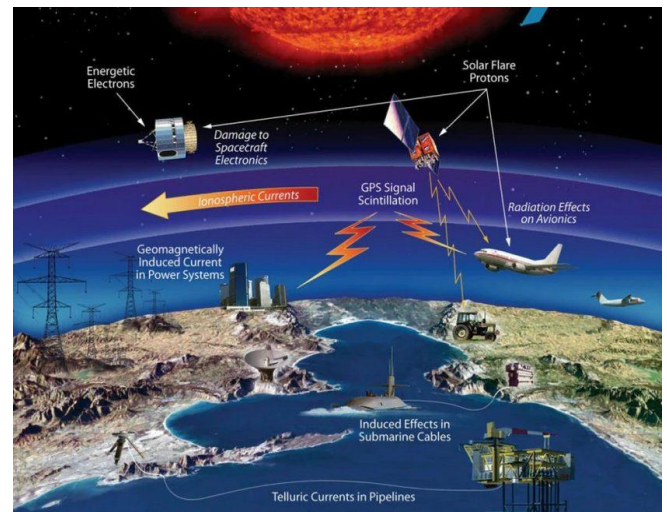
SpaceX's newest fleet of satellites is tumbling out of orbit after being struck by a solar storm.

Solar Storm

- A solar storm, also known as a Coronal Mass Ejection, is the ejection of strongly magnetised particles from the sun.
- These particles can travel at speeds of several million kilometres per hour and take between 13 and five days to reach Earth.
- The atmosphere of the Earth shields us, the humans, from these particles.
- However, the particles can interact with the magnetic field of our planet, causing intense electric currents on the surface and affecting man-made buildings.

How did they impact SpaceX satellites?

- The problem arose as a result of the solar storm's enhanced drag in the higher reaches of the Earth's atmosphere.
- The atmosphere warms as a result of these storms, and atmospheric density rises at our low deployment altitudes.
- Indeed, onboard GPS indicates that the storm's escalation speed and severity increased atmospheric drag by up to 50% compared to earlier flights.



History of solar storms

- The first solar storm was documented in 1859, and it took around 17 hours to reach Earth.
- The telegraph network was disrupted, and several operators received electric shocks as a result.
- In 1921, a solar storm wreaked havoc on New York's telegraph and railroad networks, while in 1989, another small-scale storm knocked out the power grid in Quebec, Canada.
- According to a 2013 research, if a solar storm equal to the one that slammed the US in 1859 struck now, 20-40 million people would be

without power for 1-2 years, with a total economic cost of \$0.6-2.6 trillion.

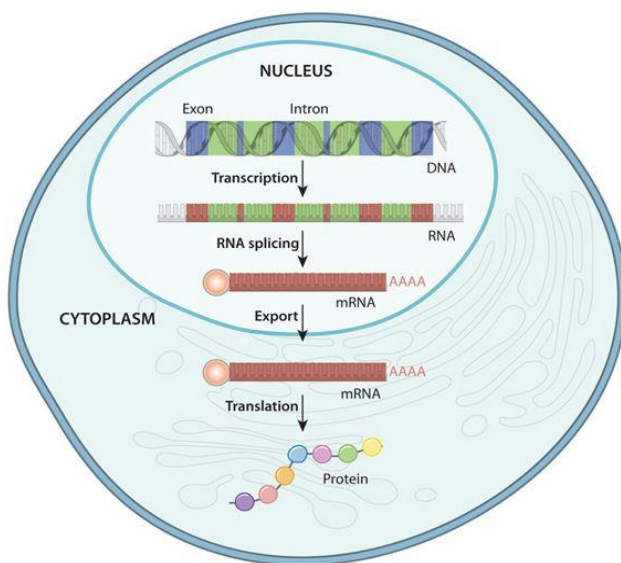
Why are they a cause of concern?

- The Sun has an 11-year cycle, with periods of high and low activity.
- It also has a longer cycle of 100 years.
- It was a low phase throughout the last three decades, while the internet infrastructure was booming.
- And we are rapidly approaching the peaks of the 100-year cycle, whether in this cycle or the next.
- As a result, it's very likely that we'll see at least one big solar storm in our lifetime.

What are mRNA Vaccines?

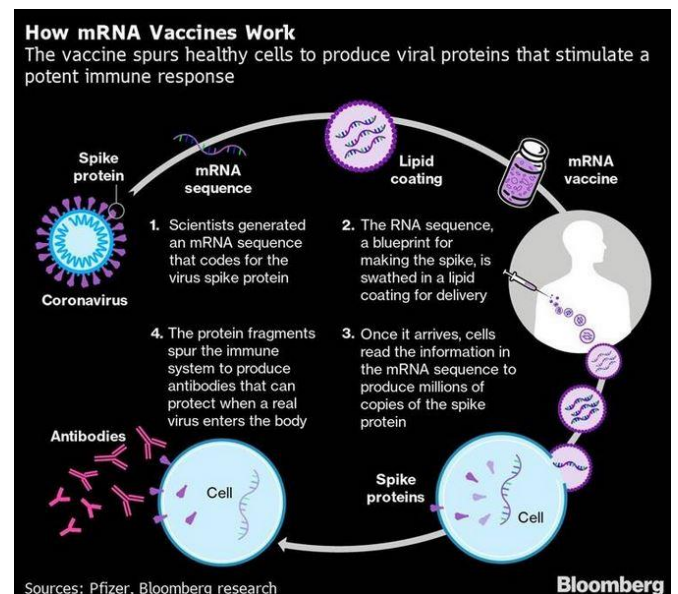
A Pune-based bio-pharma company is currently is likely to develop India's first mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

What is mRNA?



- A single-stranded RNA (Ribo Nucleic Acid) molecule called messenger RNA (mRNA) is complementary to one of a gene's DNA strands.
- The mRNA is an RNA form of the gene that leaves the nucleus and travels to the cytoplasm, where it is translated into proteins.
- A ribosome runs along the mRNA during protein synthesis, scans its base sequence, and uses the genetic code to translate each three-base triplet, or codon, into its matching amino acid.

What are mRNA vaccines?



- These vaccines rely on messenger RNA molecules, which instruct the body's cells on which proteins to produce.
- The mRNA in this example is programmed to instruct the cells to replicate the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, which produces Covid-19.
- The spike protein, which appears as spikes on the coronavirus's surface, is responsible for starting the infection process; it permits the virus to penetrate cells and then multiply.

- Once administered into the body, a coronavirus vaccine based on mRNA instructs the body's cells to make copies of the spike protein.
- As a result, immune cells are expected to produce antibodies to combat it.
- If and when the real virus penetrates the human body, these antibodies will remain in the blood and combat it.

What are other types of vaccine?

(1) Vector vaccine:

- The genetic material from the COVID-19 virus is inserted in a modified version of a different virus in this sort of vaccine (viral vector).
- When the viral vector enters your cells, it distributes COVID-19 virus genetic information that instructs your cells to create copies of the S protein.
- Your immune system responds by producing antibodies and defence white blood cells when your cells display the S proteins on their surfaces.
- If you get infected with the COVID-19 virus later, the antibodies will help you fight it.

(2) Protein subunit vaccine:

- Only the bits of a virus that best stimulate your immune system are included in subunit vaccinations.
- This form of COVID-19 vaccination contains S proteins, which are non-toxic.
- Antibodies and protective white blood cells are produced once your immune system identifies the S proteins.
- If you get infected with the COVID-19 virus later, the antibodies will help you fight it.

What are Earth Observation Satellites (EOS)?

After a disappointing 2021 which saw just one successful launch, ISRO is getting back to business with the EOS-04, an earth observation satellite.

What are EOS?

- A satellite used or built for Earth observation (EO) from orbit is known as an EOS or Earth remote sensing satellite.
- It includes spy satellites and other non-military satellites for environmental monitoring, meteorology, cartography, and other purposes.
- Earth-imaging satellites, which take satellite images similar to aerial photography, are the most frequent variety.
- Some EOS, such as those used in GNSS radio occultation, can perform remote sensing without producing pictures.

What is EOS-04 all about?

- The EOS-04 is the fourth satellite in a series of earth observation satellites launched under a new generic designation.
- It's made to deliver high-resolution photos for applications including agriculture, forestry, and plantations, as well as flood mapping, soil moisture, and hydrology.
- It will supplement data from the Resourcesat, Cartosat, and RISAT-2B satellite series, which are currently in orbit.

Why such different nomenclature?

- ISRO switched to a new naming scheme for its earth observation satellites two years ago, which had previously been titled thematically, according to their intended use.

- The Cartosat satellites were designed to offer data for land topography and mapping, whilst the Oceansat satellites were designed to provide data for international observations.
- Some INSAT-series, Resourcesat-series, GISAT, Scatsat-series, and a few more earth observation satellites were given different names depending on the jobs they were given or the instruments they carried.
- All of these satellites will now be part of the new EOS series.

What other satellites are being launched?

- In addition to EOS-04, two more tiny satellites, INSPIRESat-1 and INS-2TD, will be launched in the early hours of the morning from the Sriharikota launch range on the PSLV's heaviest variant.
- INS-2TD, the other co-passenger, is a technology demonstrator for the first India-Bhutan joint spacecraft, which will launch next month.
- Last year, the two countries inked a space pact, with the first result being the launch of Bhutan-Sat, or INS-2B, aboard a PSLV rocket.

How many satellites does India have in space?

- India currently operates 53 satellites, 21 of which are earth observation satellites and the remaining 21 are communication satellites.
- The launch of EOS-4 would be the PSLV rocket's 54th mission, and the 23rd of its most powerful XL-version, which has six strap-on boosters.

A miracle cure against HIV

There is considerable excitement in the world of medicine after scientists reported that a woman living with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and administered an experimental treatment is likely 'cured'.

What is HIV/AIDS?

- HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that affects cells in the body that help it fight infections, making a person more susceptible to other infections and diseases.
- HIV is the source of one of humanity's deadliest and longest-running epidemics, having been discovered in 1981.
- It is spread through coming into contact with a person who has HIV's bodily fluids, most commonly during unprotected sex, or by sharing injectable drug equipment.
- If HIV is not treated, it can progress to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).
- HIV cannot be eradicated by the human body, and there is no effective HIV cure.

Treating HIV

- People with HIV, on the other hand, can live long and healthy lives while preventing HIV transmission to their sexual partners by taking HIV medicine (also known as antiretroviral therapy or ART).
- There are also successful techniques for preventing HIV infection from sex or drug use, such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) (PEP).

What is the new breakthrough?

- Researchers in the United States have detailed the case of a 60-year-old African American lady who was diagnosed with HIV in 2013.
- She began anti-retroviral therapy (ART) with tenofovir, emtricitabine, and raltegravir, which is the standard HIV treatment regimen.
- She received cord blood, or embryonic stem cells, from a donor who carries a rare mutation

that prevents the HIV virus from infecting cells normally.

- A relative also gave her blood stem cells, or adult stem cells.

What actually worked?

- The patient's immunity was enhanced by the adult stem cells, which may have aided the cord blood cells' full integration with the lady's immune system.
- She no longer shows any signs of HIV in her blood and no detectable antibodies against the virus.
- Embryonic stem cells have the potential to grow into any type of cell, which is why they are appealing as a therapeutic, yet there is no explanation for why this method of treatment was more effective.

Is this treatment the long-sought cure for AIDS?

- Not in the least. While this strategy is a welcome addition to the therapeutic arsenal, stem cell therapy is a time-consuming process that is out of reach for the vast majority of HIV patients around the world.
- Furthermore, this necessitates the use of stem cells from the small number of people who have the favourable mutation.
- Antiretroviral medication has guaranteed that HIV/AIDS is no longer always a death sentence, and many people who receive effective treatment enjoy lifespans equivalent to those who do not have HIV.
- A vaccine for HIV or a medicine that kills the virus is still a long way off, but it would represent a long-awaited 'cure' for HIV/AIDS.

What is the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in India?

- According to the India HIV Estimation 2019 report, the estimated adult (15-49 year) HIV prevalence trend in India has been dropping since the epidemic's peak in 2000, and has been stabilising in recent years.
- In 2019, HIV prevalence was predicted to be 0.24 percent among adult males (15–49 years) and 0.20 percent among adult females.
- In India, there were 23.48 lakh HIV-positive people in 2019.
- With 3.96 lakh people, Maharashtra was the most populous state, followed by Andhra Pradesh (3.14 lakh) and Karnataka.
- ART is free to anyone who needs it, and there are delegated centres all over the country where it can be obtained.

Lucy Mission to probe Jupiter's Trojan Asteroids



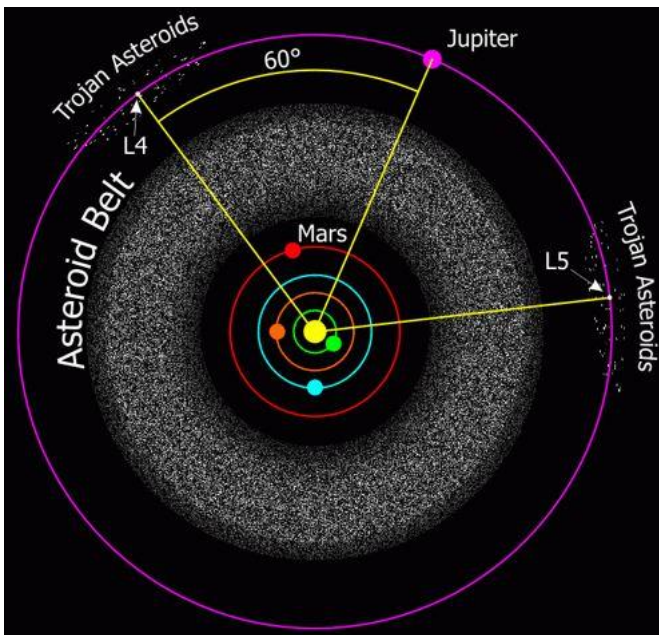
NASA is set to send its first spacecraft to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids to glean new insights into the solar system's formation 4.5 billion years ago.

Lucy Mission

- Over the next 12 years, Lucy will pass by eight Jupiter asteroids—seven Trojans and one main-belt asteroid.

- It is the first time in NASA history that a single spacecraft has explored so many distinct asteroids.
- Lucy will be powered entirely by solar energy and will travel 850 million kilometres from the Sun.
- According to NASA, this makes it the farthest-flung solar-powered spacecraft ever.

What is Jupiter Trojan Asteroids?



- They are a vast group of asteroids that share Jupiter's orbit around the Sun and are simply known as Trojans.
- In a gravitationally stable environment, thousands of similar asteroids exist.
- Jupiter is led and followed by the swarms as it orbits the Sun.

What exactly are Trojans?

- Lucy's Trojan destinations are stranded at Jupiter's Lagrange (L) points, which are gravitationally stable areas where the Sun's and Jupiter's gravity cancels out.

- This indicates that their orbits are steady, and the Trojans are locked between them.
- Asteroids are also the same distance from Jupiter as they are from the Sun.
- The leading and trailing Lagrangian points (L4 and L5) of Jupiter have remained constant throughout the solar system's history.
- This suggests that a large number of asteroids have gathered in their orbits.
- A Trojan is a co-orbital object since it revolves around one of the two stable Lagrangian points.

When and how were they discovered?

- Many scientists struggled to comprehend Trojans and, as a result, label them.
- In 1906, a German astrophotographer made a significant discovery: an asteroid with an unusual orbit. This asteroid remained ahead of Jupiter as it travelled.
- The asteroid was about 60 degrees in front of Jupiter when it was discovered.

Lagrange's propositions

- Over a century ago, the Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange anticipated this unique position of a particular behaviour.
- From the perspective of the planet, Lagrange postulated that if a small celestial body is placed at one of two stable points in its orbit around the Sun (the L4 and L5), the asteroid will remain stationary.
- This is due to the planet's and the Sun's combined gravitational pull.
- As a result, Lagrange's prognosis gained credence. Over the next few months, more

asteroids of this type were identified at Jupiter's Lagrange point L5.

Behind the name: Lucy

- It's the remains of a hominid from 3.2 million years ago.
- She is regarded as one of history's most renowned pre-human fossils.
- A team of paleoanthropologists led by Donald Johanson uncovered nearly 40% of the petrified skeleton of this hominid in 1974.
- The name was inspired by the Beatles' song "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds," which Johanson's team was listening to at camp the night of their discovery

Can dark matter be composed, even partly, of black holes?

A recent hypothesis says that dark matter comprises a large number of compact objects such as primordial black holes.

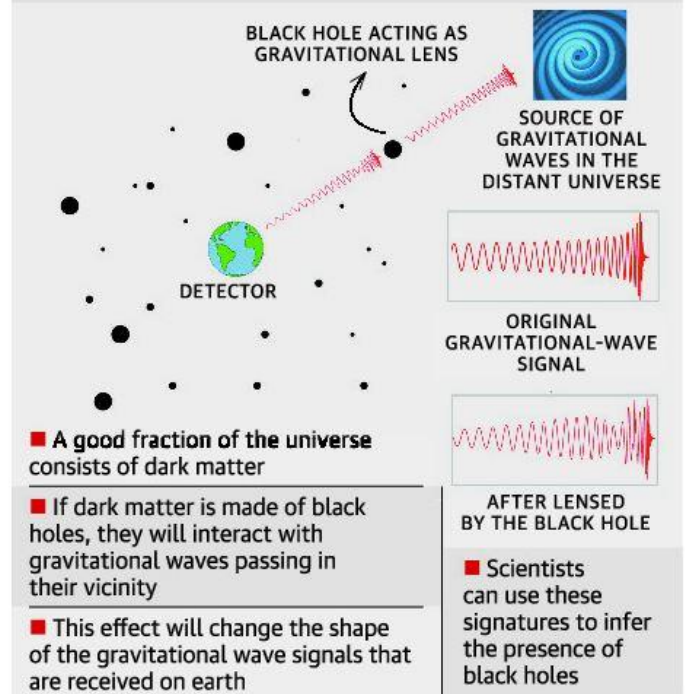
What are Dark Matters ?

- According to astronomical studies, dark matter makes up a considerable portion of the cosmos and interacts with the rest of the universe exclusively through gravitational pull.
- Many big laboratory studies have attempted to discover elementary particles that could be dark matter candidates.
- Until recently, however, no such dark matter particles have been discovered.
- According to some astronomical observations, all galaxies are surrounded by a "halo" of dark matter.

- The "visible" galaxy appears to be a disc buried in a much larger dark matter halo.

How gravitational microlensing works

When a gravitational wave approaching the earth is interrupted by the presence of a black hole, the signal gets modified as shown.



What is the recent proposition?

- The cosmos must have had quantum density fluctuations when it was very young, hot, and dense – shortly after the Big Bang.
- As a result, some regions would have been extraordinarily dense and, as a result, collapsed under their own gravity to form the primordial black holes.
- While we don't have clear evidence of their existence, some of the binary black hole mergers detected by the LIGO gravitational wave detectors could represent primordial black holes.
- Although there is no definitive answer, there is reason to assume that primordial black holes did emerge in the early cosmos.

Observing dark matter: Gravitational Lensing

- The research investigates what occurs when such items obstruct gravitational waves as they travel towards the Earth from afar.
- It evokes a gravitational lensing effect that is commonly employed in astronomy.
- When light travels through space and comes close to a huge or compact body – such as a star, galaxy, or black hole – the body's tremendous gravity may pull the light towards it.
- It bends away from its rectilinear (straight line) route as a result of this.
- Gravitational lensing is a phenomena that was initially observed by Arthur Eddington in 1919.

How intense are they?

- Strong lensing occurs when massive objects, such as galaxies, bend light greatly, producing numerous pictures.

- Micro-lensing occurs when lighter objects, such as stars or black holes, bend light less.
- Gravitational waves travelling towards the Earth may experience comparable lensing, which would leave fingerprints in the measured gravitational waves.
- This can be used to determine whether or not primordial black holes exist.

Assessing dark matter

- Individual black holes haven't left these fingerprints on gravity waves detected by the LIGO-VIRGO detectors until now.
- If all of the dark matter is made up of primordial black holes, however, the gravitational wave transmissions should have generated visible signs.

Security Issues

What is 'Z' Category Security?

A noted Parliamentarian from Hyderabad has rejected the 'Z' category security by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) accorded to him.

Security Provisions in India

- The police and local governments in India provide security to high-risk individuals.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs determines an individual's level of security based on information obtained from intelligence organisations such as the IB and R&AW.
- Because of their status, people like the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, and other officials

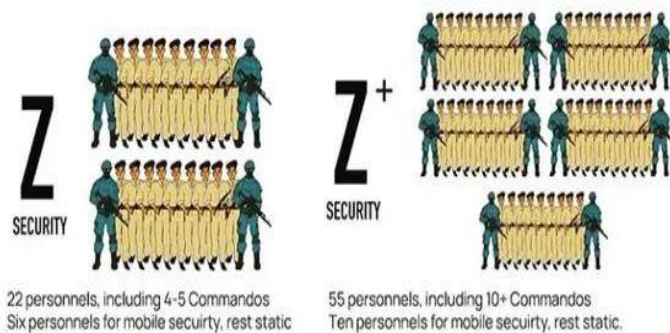
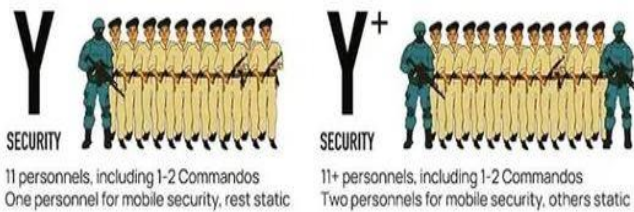
like the National Security Advisor are usually protected.

- In addition, people who are deemed to be in danger are given security protection.

What is 'Z' Category Security?

In India, the category covers are X, Y, Y-plus, Z, Z-plus, and SPG (Special Protection Group).

SIX LEVELS OF SECURITY OFFERED IN INDIA



- **X Category:** The protectee gets one gunman. Protectees in the Y category have one gunman for mobile security and one (plus four on rotation) for static security.
- **Y Plus category:** It receives the cover of two gunmen (plus four on rotation) for mobile security, and one (plus four on rotation) for residence security,
- **Z Category:** It has six gunmen for mobile security and two (plus 8) for residence security. They get 10 security personnel for mobile security, and two (plus 8) for residence security.
- **Z Plus Category:** It is provided by National Security Guard commandos whereas the other

category of security is provided by the Delhi police or the ITBP or CRPF personnel.

What about Special Protection Group (SPG) Cover?

- Only the Prime Minister and his immediate family are covered by the SPG.
- The Rajiv Gandhi government decided to develop a special cadre of security professionals for the Prime Minister after Indira Gandhi was slain by her own security guards in 1984.
- Following the suggestions of a committee appointed by the Home Ministry, a special unit was established under the Cabinet Secretariat in March 1985.
- In April 1985, this outfit, originally known as the Special Protection Unit, was renamed Special Protection Group.

Exercise Milan 2022

Exercise Milan as well as the Fleet Review by President is scheduled to be held this month for which 46 countries have been invited.

Exercise Milan

- Milan is a biennial event that brings together the Navies of all the nations in the region. It began in 1995 and is conducted every two years.
- It was previously held in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar, but has now been relocated to Visakhapatnam, which provides better infrastructure and sea area for the exercise.
- There are various subjects, including anti-submarine warfare, as well as deliberations by subject area experts.

What is Fleet Review?

- Typically, the President conducts a Fleet Review once during his or her presidency.
- In 1953, the first PFR was held in honour of President Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
- The Navy has performed 11 PFRs since independence, two of which were International Fleet Reviews in 2011 and 2016.
- The Navy's Presidential review is second only to the Republic Day Parade in terms of importance.

What is Presidential Fleet Review?



The President of India recently took part in the Indian Navy's 12th Presidential Fleet Review.

What is the President's Fleet Review?

- Simply put, it's the country's President assessing the Navy's capabilities.
- It displays the Navy's whole fleet of ships and capabilities.
- Every President, as the supreme commander of the armed forces, conducts it once.
- The President is escorted aboard one of the Navy's ships, the President's Yacht, to view all of the ships docked at one of the naval ports.

- The Ashoka Emblem will be on the yacht's side, and the President's Standard will be flown on the mast."

Importance of Presidential Fleet Review

- During the President's term, a fleet review is routinely done.
- Since Independence, 11 Presidential Fleet Reviews have been held, two of which were international fleet reviews in 2001 and 2016.
- The Navy's Presidential review is second only to the Republic Day Parade in terms of importance.
- Before boarding the yacht, the President will be saluted with a 21-gun salute.

Do all naval ships participate?

- The idea is to showcase not all the Navy's ships, but every type of ship — and the kind of capabilities it has at that time.
- The review also includes merchant ships as well.

What else happens in the fleet review?

- Each ship, decked out in full regalia, will salute the President as he passes by in this most solemn of naval ceremonies.
- The Indian Naval Air Arm will also be reviewed by the President, who will see a magnificent fly-past by many helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.
- A movable column of warships and submarines will sail past the Presidential Yacht in the closing stage of the review.

How many of these reviews have been held?

- Since the American Revolution, there have been 11 President's Fleet Reviews.
- The first occurred in 1953, and it was led by Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

- In 1964, the following one was done by the then-Defense Minister, Y B Chavan, rather than the President.
- Since then, the President has been inspecting the fleet.
- Between 1989 (President R Venkatraman) to 2001, the greatest delay between evaluations was 12 years (President K R Narayanan).
- The most recent occurred in 2016, when President Pranab Mukherjee was in office.

Significance of the event

- It is one of the Navy's most important occasions, since it is effectively demonstrating its allegiance and dedication to the country's defence.
- It's a long-standing practise observed by warships around the world, and Navy officials say it's a strong relationship that binds world sailors.
- A Fleet Review is a ceremonial gathering of ships at a predetermined location to demonstrate loyalty and allegiance to the Sovereign and the state.
- The Sovereign, in turn, reinforces his faith in the fleet and its ability to defend the nation's maritime interests by reviewing the ships.
- It's possible that it's intended as a show of naval strength. The gathering of warships without any aggressive intentions is now the norm in modern times, albeit it still has the same connotation.

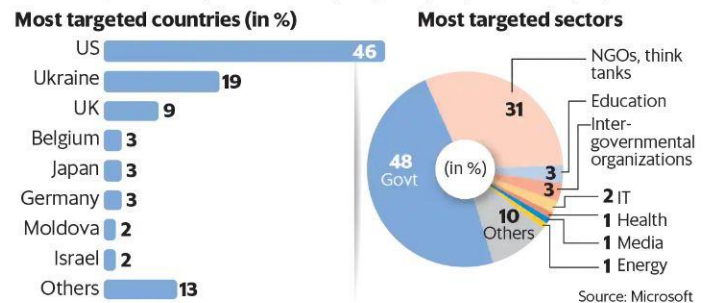
Why nation-states engage in Cyber-Attacks?

Alongside the missiles and bombs slamming down in Ukraine, the country has also been hit by a wave of cyber-attacks targeting critical infrastructure companies.

What is Cyberwarfare?

- Cyberwarfare has evolved as a new type of revenge or passive aggression used by countries that don't want to go to war but nevertheless want to send a strong message to their adversaries.
- Cyfirma security specialists discovered a plot by Gothic Panda and Stone Panda, two China-based hacking gangs, to target media and vital infrastructure businesses in India in June 2020.
- During the border standoff between India and China in Ladakh, they spearheaded large-scale strikes.
- Cyberwarfare is a never-ending conflict for many countries because it allows them to constantly annoy and degrade geopolitical competitors.

Russia is one of the top perpetrators of state-backed cyberattacks. According to a Microsoft report, Russia accounted for 58% of state-backed attacks worldwide, followed by North Korea (23%), Iran (11%), and China (8%).



What has happened in Ukraine so far?

- Since 2020, Ukraine has been one of Russia's key goals.
- The most current wave of attacks began in mid-January, knocking out the websites of the ministries of foreign affairs and education.
- Another large distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack has targeted government websites and a number of banks.
- DDoS assaults wreak havoc on online services by flooding servers with more traffic than they can handle.

Which countries are behind state-backed cyberattacks?

- Russia is a leading perpetrator of state-sponsored cyberattacks.
- According to a Microsoft Corp. analysis from October 2021, Russia was responsible for 58 percent of state-sponsored attacks worldwide, followed by North Korea (23%), Iran (11%), and China (8 percent).
- North Korea is claimed to have amassed a 7,000-strong cyber-army.

Which companies are targeted and why?

- State-sponsored hacks are typically used to steal state secrets, trade deals, and weapons blueprints, or to steal intellectual property (IP) from huge corporations and utilise it to establish local industry.
- Cryptocurrencies are also on the rise. In 2021, North Korean hackers allegedly stole cryptos worth \$400 million.

- When states initiate cyberattacks on other states as a result of deteriorating geopolitical relations, key infrastructure corporations are frequently targeted in order to impede economic activity.

How often is India targeted?

- According to a global study conducted by Hewlett-Packard and the University of Surrey, such cyberattacks increased by 100 percent between 2017 and 2021.
- In 2019, the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant's management network was hacked by the North Korean-backed Lazarus Group.
- A power outage in Mumbai in 2020 was thought to be caused by Chinese-backed hackers.
- According to Black Lotus Labs, in early 2021, Pakistan-based hackers used Remote Access Trojans to target utility companies and one government agency in India.

Trivia

Who is a Chess Grandmaster?

India's teenage chess grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa has won praise for a stunning victory over world number one Magnus Carlsen in an online championship.

Grandmaster: Behind the Title

- The highest title or ranking a chess player may earn is Grandmaster.
- The International Chess Federation, or FIDE (acronym for Fédération Internationale des

Échecs), bestows the Grandmaster title and other chess titles.

- It is the worldwide game's governing organisation, situated in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- The title is a badge of honour for the game's super elite, a recognition of the world's greatest chess talent, which has been tested and proven against a peer group of similarly gifted players.

Other (lesser) titles

Besides Grandmaster, the Qualification Commission of FIDE recognises and awards seven other titles:

1. International Master (IM)
2. FIDE Master (FM)
3. Candidate Master (CM)
4. Woman Grandmaster (WGM), Woman International Master (WIM), Woman FIDE Master (WFM), and Woman Candidate Master (WCM) and so on .

Titles are for life

- All the titles, including that of Grandmaster, are valid for life, unless a player is stripped of the title for a proven offence such as cheating.



Qualifications for Grandmaster

- Grandmaster requirements have altered multiple times, including in 1957, 1965, and 1970.
- FIDE currently bestows the greatest honour in chess on a player who achieves a FIDE Classical

or Standard rating of 2,500, as well as three Grandmaster norms.

- Grandmaster norms are specified by the FIDE Title Regulations, which contain a complicated and stringent set of regulations governing tournaments, games, and players.
- On October 27, 2021, the FIDE Council accepted the present regulations, which took effect on January 1, 2022.
- Each standard is extremely difficult to achieve.
- In a FIDE competition with nine rounds, a player must have a performance rating of 2,600 or higher.

Who holds maximum titles?

- Out of the millions of people that play chess around the world, FIDE has only acknowledged about 2,000 Grandmasters.
- Grandmasters have overwhelmingly been men. The United States and Germany have produced the most Grandmasters in the world, followed by Russia (and the former USSR).

Grandmasters in India

- In the 2000s, India became a chess powerhouse, with more than 70 Grandmasters.
- Praggnanandhaa, who is 10 years, 10 months, and 19 days old, became the world's youngest IM in 2016.



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