

## Daily Current Affairs: 28:01:2022

### Important News: World

#### **First India-Central Asia Virtual Summit**



#### **Why in News**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the **first India-Central Asia Summit** in virtual format on 27 January 2022, 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 Summit coincided with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.

#### **Key Points**

- The Leaders discussed far-reaching proposals to further cooperation in areas of trade and connectivity, development cooperation, defence and security and, in particular, on cultural and people to people contacts.
- These included a Round-Table on Energy and Connectivity; Joint Working Groups at senior official level on Afghanistan and use of Chabahar Port; showcasing of Buddhist exhibitions in Central Asian countries and commissioning of an India-Central Asia dictionary of common words, joint counter-terrorism exercises, visit of 100 member youth delegation annually from Central Asian countries to India and special courses for Central Asian diplomats.
- A comprehensive **Joint Declaration** was adopted by the leaders that enumerates their common vision for an enduring and comprehensive India-Central Asia partnership.
- In a historic decision, the Leaders agreed to institutionalize the Summit mechanism by deciding to hold it every 2 years.
- They also agreed on regular meetings of Foreign Ministers, Trade Ministers, Culture Ministers and Secretaries of the Security Council to prepare the groundwork for the Summit meetings.
- An **India-Central Asia Secretariat** in New Delhi would be set up to support the new mechanism.

**Source: PIB**

## Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021

---



### Why in News

- Recently, the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021** was released by **Transparency International**.
- India ranks 85 in the index.

### Key Points

- Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and Norway topped the list with the highest score.
- South Sudan, Syria and Somalia remain at the bottom of the index.

### India's Performance:

- India's rank improved by one place to 85 in 2021 from 86th in 2020.
- India's CPI score is 40.

### About Index:

- 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 to rank Corruption Perception Index, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

### Related Indian Initiatives:

- The Indian Penal Code, 1860
- Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988
- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010
- The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013
- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

**Source: Indian Express**

## India pays \$29.9 million in UN Regular Budget Assessments for 2022

---



### Why in News

- India has paid USD 29.9 million in UN Regular Budget Assessments for the year 2022.

### Key Points

- India has joined the 2022 Honour Roll of 24 Member States out of 193 that have paid their UN Regular Budget Assessments in full.

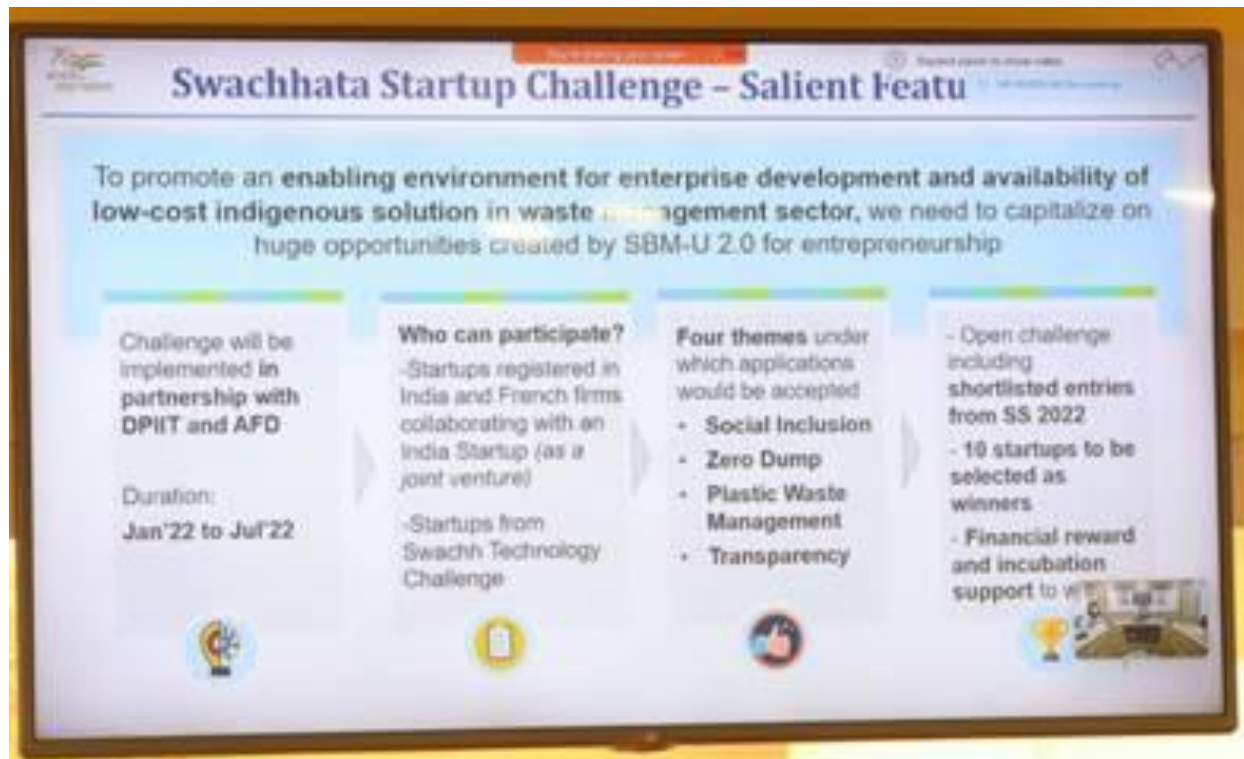
### UN Status of India:

- India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council and its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022.

**Source: Business Standard**

## Important News: India

### **MoHUA-AFD launch Swachhata Start-Up Challenge to nurture the evolving ecosystem of Indian Waste Management Sector**



#### **Why in News**

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in partnership with Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) launched the **Swachhata Start-Up Challenge** to nurture the evolving ecosystem of Indian Waste Management Sector.

#### **Key Points**

- Presently, the start-up space is evolving rapidly with India leading the world with over 70 unicorns (crossing the valuation of USD 1 billion).
- This is also aligned to the vision of **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0)** launched by Prime Minister on 1st October 2021, which is focused on encouraging the adoption of locally innovative, implementable solutions and business models in sanitation and waste management.
- The Challenge, which is open to start-ups registered in India and French actors collaborating with an Indian start-up (as a joint venture), invites solutions across four thematic areas viz. (i) social inclusion, (ii) zero dump (solid waste management), (iii) plastic waste management and (iv) transparency through digital enablement.

**Source: PIB**

## India's first woman Rafale pilot Shivangi Singh takes part in Republic Day parade 2022



### Why in News

- The country's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot **Shivangi Singh** was part of the Indian Air Force (IAF) tableau at the Republic Day parade 2022.
- **Shivangi Singh** is only the second woman fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableau.
- Last year, Flight Lieutenant Bhawna Kanth became the first female fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableau.

### Key Points

- Shivangi Singh, who is from Varanasi, joined the IAF in 2017 and was commissioned in the IAF's second batch of women fighter pilots.
- She is part of the IAF's Golden Arrows squadron based out of Ambala in Punjab.

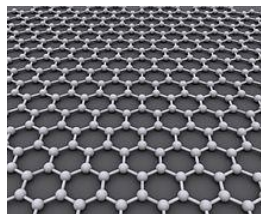
### Note:

- The first batch of Rafale fighter jets arrived on July 29, 2020, nearly four years after India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France to procure 36 aircraft at a cost of Rs 59,000 crore.
- So far, 32 Rafale jets have been delivered to the IAF and four are expected by April this year.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Important News: State

## India's first graphene innovation centre to come up in Kerala



### Why in News

- India's first innovation centre for graphene will be set up in Kerala by the Digital University Kerala (DUK), along with Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in Thrissur, for Rs 86.41 crore.

### Key Points

- Tata Steel Limited is set to be the industrial partner of the centre.
- **Graphene** is an allotrope of carbon consisting of a single layer of atoms arranged in a two-dimensional honeycomb lattice nanostructure.
- Graphene is known for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties, and as per latest research, it could replace indium and thereby bring down the cost of OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screens in smartphones.

**Source: The Hindu**



## Andhra Pradesh government forms 13 new districts

---



### Why in News

- The Andhra Pradesh government formed 13 new districts in the state.

### Key Points

- The new districts have been formed based on Parliamentary constituencies.
- Adding to the existing 13 districts, the total number of districts in Andhra Pradesh is now 26.
- The new districts are being formed under the AP Districts Formation Act, 1974, Section 3(5).

**List of the new districts:** Manyam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Kona Seema, Eluru, NTR District, Bapatla, Palnadu, Nandyal, Sri Satyasai, Annamayya and Sri Balaji District.

**Source:** Indian Express

## Important News: Science

### Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)

---



### Why in News

- The **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)** chairman Dr S Somanath has mentioned the launch of an “SSLV-D1 Micro SAT” in April 2022.

### Key Points

- The SSLV is intended to cater to a market for the launch of small satellites into low earth orbits which has emerged in recent years on account of the need for developing countries, private corporations, and universities for small satellites.

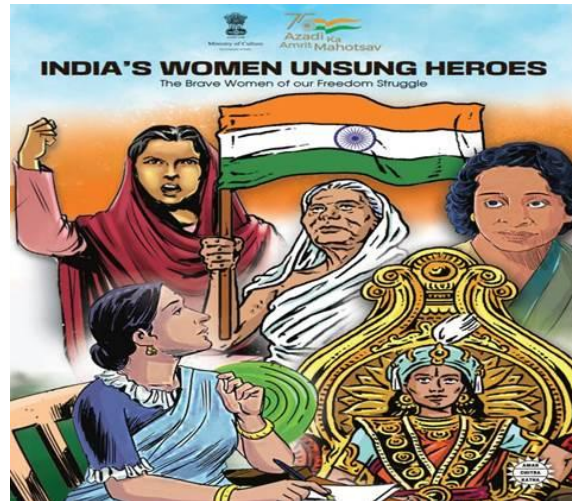
### About Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV):

- The SSLV is the smallest vehicle at 110-ton mass at ISRO.
- It will take only 72 hours to integrate, unlike the 70 days taken now for a launch vehicle.
- SSLV is a three-stage all solid vehicle and has a capability to launch up to 500 kg satellite mass into 500 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and 300 kg to Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO).
- The maiden flight of the SSLV was scheduled to launch in July 2019 but that has since been delayed due to setbacks from Covid-19 and other issues.

**Source:** Indian Express

## Important News: Books

### A pictorial book on India's Women Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle



#### Why in News

- Union Minister of State for Culture Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi released a pictorial book on **India's Women Unsung Heroes** of Freedom Struggle as part of Azadi ka Mahotsav.
- The book has been released in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha which is a household name in India.

#### Key Points

- The Ministry of Culture has decided to release pictorial books on 75 Unsung Heroes of the Freedom Struggle in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha.
- The second edition will be on 25 unsung Tribal Freedom Fighters which is under process and will take some time.
- The third and final edition will be of 30 unsung heroes drawn from other areas.

**Source: PIB**