

**Monthly Current Affairs
January 2022**

मासिक समसामयिकी 2022

**Attempt January Month
Current Affairs Quiz**

Monthly Current Affairs January 2022

मासिक सम सामयिकी जनवरी 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 30th 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

Global Risks Report 2022

Why in News

- The **Global Risks Report 2022**, 17th Edition, is published by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.

Key Points

- Cyber security, pandemic, climate change and space advancements are the emerging risks to the global economy.
- It stated that climate change was the number one danger, while erosion of social cohesion, livelihood crises and mental health deterioration were identified as risks which had increased the most since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The global economy is to shrink by 2.3% by 2024.
- According to Report released ahead of the Davos Agenda, a “global risk is the possibility of the occurrence of an event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause significant negative impact for several countries or industries”.

In India:

- Widespread youth disillusionment, digital inequality, fracture of interstate relations, debt crisis and failure of technology governance are the top five risks for India.

Facts about World Economic Forum: It is an international NGO.

- **Headquarters:** Cologny, Switzerland
- **Founded:** January 1971
- **Founder:** Klaus Schwab

Source: Business Today

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

Meta's new AI Supercomputer to be world's fastest by mid-2022

Why in News

- **Facebook parent company Meta** has said that its newly unveiled **AI (Artificial Intelligence) supercomputer** will be the fastest in the world by mid-2022.

Key Points

- Meta said that the company is introducing AI Research SuperCluster (RSC), which is believed to be among the fastest AI Supercomputers running today.
- AI can currently perform tasks like translating text between languages and helping identify potentially harmful content, but developing the next generation of AI will require powerful supercomputers capable of quintillions of operations per second.

Metaverse: Facebook in October 2021 had announced that it is changing the company name to Meta. The change was announced by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg at the company's Connect Virtual Reality Conference.

Source: The Hindu

India, Israel launch commemorative logo to mark 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties

Why in News

- India and Israel have launched a commemorative logo to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Key Points

- The logo was unveiled virtually at an online event in the presence of Ambassador of Israel to India Naor Gilon and Indian envoy to Israel, Sanjeev Singla.
- The logo features the Star of David and the Ashoka Chakra- the two symbols that adorn the national flags of both countries- and forms the numeral 30 depicting the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations.
- Israel and India relationship encompasses slew of areas — health and innovation, agriculture and water, trade and economic activities, science and technology, research and development, defence and homeland security, art and culture, tourism and space.
- Israel and India established diplomatic relations on 29th of January 1992.

Facts about Israel:

- **Capital:** Jerusalem
- **President:** Isaac Herzog
- **Prime Minister:** Naftali Bennett
- **Currency:** Israeli Shekel

Source: ET

Peru declares 'Environmental Emergency'

Why in News

- The Peruvian government declared a 90-day "**Environmental Emergency**" in damaged coastal territories, after an oil spill that saw 6,000 barrels of crude oil pour into the sea.
- The spill was caused by freak waves, which resulted from the eruption of a volcano in Tonga.

Key Points

- Peruvian authorities say that this measure will allow for “sustainable management of the affected areas,” through “restoration and remediation” work.
- The oil spill came out of a tanker belonging to the Spanish energy firm Repsol.

Environmental Impacts:

- Harmful to aquatic life
- Toxic Effects
- Threat to Mangroves

Economic Impacts:

- Tourism
- Power Plants
- Fishing

Related Laws in India:

- Currently, there is no law covering oil spill as such and its consequential environmental damage in India but India has “the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan of 1996 (NOS-DCP)” to handle these types of situations.
- In 2015 India ratified the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (Bunker Convention).

Source: Indian Express

UNSC uses 3-D virtual diplomacy for the first time

Why in News

- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** used 3-D virtual diplomacy for the first time.

Key Points

- Members of the UNSC went on a virtual field trip to Columbia, listening, watching and getting insights into the peace process with the help of **Virtual Reality (VR) technology**.

Digital diplomacy:

- Digital diplomacy is also dubbed as Digiplomacy and eDiplomacy.
- It is defined as the use of new information communication technologies and the Internet to achieve diplomatic objectives.

Virtual reality (VR):

- VR is a simulated experience, which can be similar to or completely different from the real world.
- It is an artificial and computer-generated simulation or recreation of real-life situations or environment.
- It is usually achieved by wearing a headset such as Facebook’s Oculus equipped with the technology.

Facts about UNSC (United Nations Security Council):

- **Formation:** 24 October 1945
- **Membership:** 15 countries
- **Permanent members:** 5 (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States)
- **Non-permanent members:** 10 including India

Source: Business Standard

PM Modi and Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurate the Social Housing Units Project in Mauritius

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, jointly inaugurated the **Social Housing Units Project in Mauritius**.
- The two Prime Ministers also took part in a virtual foundation stone laying ceremony for two other projects – construction of a state-of-the-art Civil Service College and a 8 MW Solar PV Farm– also undertaken as part of India’s development support.

Key Points

- The Prime Minister acknowledged the importance of the Civil Service College project in nation building and offered to share learnings of *Mission Karmayogi*.
- Prime Minister recalled the **One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative** that he put forth at the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in October 2018 and said that the 8 MW Solar PV Farm project will help mitigate the climate challenges that Mauritius faces through avoidance of 13,000 tons of CO2 emissions.
- Ceremony included exchange of **two key bilateral agreements**: Agreement for the extension of USD 190 million Line of Credit from the Government of India to the Government of Mauritius for the Metro Express and other infrastructure projects and MoU on the Implementation of Small Development Projects.

Source: PIB

Pacific ‘Ring of Fire’

Why in News

- The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano, which erupted recently, lies along the Pacific ‘Ring of fire’.

Key Points

- The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano erupted, sending ash and smoke thousands of feet into the air.
- The volcano, situated on an uninhabited island, became active in 2009.
- It lies along the Pacific ‘Ring of fire’, and is just over 60 kilometres from the island nation of Tonga.

Pacific ‘Ring of Fire’:

- The Pacific ‘Ring of Fire’ or Pacific rim, or the Circum-Pacific Belt, is an area along the Pacific Ocean that is characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- It is home to about 75 percent of the world’s volcanoes – more than 450 volcanoes. Also, about 90 percent of the world’s earthquakes occur here.
- Its length is over 40,000 kilometres and traces from New Zealand clockwise in an almost circular arc covering Tonga, Kermadec Islands, Indonesia, moving up to the Philippines, Japan, and stretching eastward to the Aleutian Islands, then southward along the western coast of North America and South America.
- The area is along several tectonic plates including the Pacific plate, Philippine Plate, Juan de Fuca plate, Cocos plate, Nazca plate, and North American plate.

Source: Indian Express

First BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 held under Chinese chairship

Why in News

- The first **BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022** was held virtually on January 18-19 under the Chinese chairship with the members thanking India for its BRICS chairship in 2021.

Key Points

- **China** has taken on the rotating chairmanship of BRICS in 2022.
- Programme and priorities for the year were discussed at the first BRICS Sherpas Meeting of 2022.
- They looked forward to continuity, consensus and consolidation of BRICS cooperation.
- BRICS is a grouping of five major emerging economies -- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Source: Business Standard

ILO: World Employment and Social Outlook-Trends 2022

Why in News

- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** has released the **World Employment and Social Outlook-Trends 2022 (WESO Trends)**.
- The report examines the impacts of the crisis on global and regional trends in employment, unemployment and labour force participation, as well as on job quality, informal employment and working poverty.
- It also offers an extensive analysis of trends in temporary employment both before and during the COVID-19 crisis.

Key Point

Findings of the Report:

- Global unemployment is projected to stand at 207 million in 2022.
- This is 21 million more than in 2019 before the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic began.
- Global working hours in 2022 will be almost two percent below their pre-pandemic level — that is equivalent to the loss of 52 million full-time jobs.
- There is the need for a broad-based labour market recovery — the recovery must be human-centred, inclusive, sustainable and resilient.

About International Labour Organization (ILO):

- It is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Director-General;** Guy Ryder
- **Formation:** 11 April 1919
- The ILO has **187 state members**.
- **India** is a founder member of the International Labour Organization.

Note: India has assumed the Chairmanship of the Governing Body of ILO in 2020.

Source: DTE

Indonesia passes law to relocate capital from Jakarta to remote Borneo

Why in News

- Recently, Indonesia's parliament has passed a law approving the relocation of its capital from slowly sinking Jakarta to a site 2,000 kilometres away on jungle-clad Borneo Island that will be named "Nusantara".

Key Point

- The move was first tipped by President Joko Widodo in April 2019, citing rising sea levels and severe congestion on densely populated Java Island.
- The new capital (Nusantara) will cover about 56,180 hectares in East Kalimantan province on the Indonesian part of Borneo, which the country shares with Malaysia and Brunei.

Note:

- Indonesia is not the first country in the region to relocate from an overpopulated capital.
- Malaysia moved its government to Putrajaya from Kuala Lumpur in 2003, while Myanmar moved its capital to Naypyidaw from Rangoon in 2006.

About Sea Level Rise (SLR):

- SLR is an increase in the level of the world's oceans due to the effects of climate change, especially global warming, induced by three primary factors: Thermal Expansion, Melting Glaciers, Loss of Greenland and Antarctic Ice Sheets

Source: TOI

PM Modi delivers 'State of the World' special address at the WEF's Davos Agenda

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered '**State of the World**' special address at the **WEF (World Economic Forum)'s Davos Agenda** on 17th January, 2022.

Key Points

- **Davos Agenda 2022** will be held from 17th to 21st January 2022.
- It will be the first global platform for key world leaders to share their visions for 2022.
- The event is being convened on the theme of "**State of the World.**"
- It will also be addressed by several Heads of State.
- It will also witness participation of top industry leaders, international organizations and civil society.
- During his special address, Prime Minister Modi outlined the reforms implemented by his administration to address the country's retrospective taxation problem.
- He also mentioned his government's asset monetisation efforts and large-scale infrastructure projects underway in India.

Note: Recently, the **Global Risks Report 2022**, 17th Edition, was published by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.

Facts about World Economic Forum (WEF): It is an international NGO.

- **Headquarters:** Cologny, Switzerland

- **Founded:** January 1971
 - **Founder:** Klaus Schwab
- Source: India Today**

Activities of 2022 discussed at BRICS STI Steering Committee: India to host 5 events

Why in News

- **India** will host five events in 2022, namely Startups Forum meeting, Working Groups meetings on Energy; Biotechnology & Biomedicine; ICT & High-Performance Computing; STIEP (Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Partnership) Working Group Meeting and the launching of BRICS innovation Launchpad as a microsite (Knowledge Hub), as per discussions at the 15th meeting of the **BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee**.

Key Points

- India has successfully handed over the **BRICS Chairmanship to China** from January 2022.
- The **theme for BRICS 2022** is “Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development”.
- The Chinese side presented a broad outline of activities to be carried out during the whole year. It mainly includes thematic meetings, BRICS Young Scientist Conclave, Senior official, and Ministerial level meetings.
- A total of 25 events have been planned, of which India will host a total of five.

Facts about BRICS:

- **Formation:** 2009
- **Countries:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
- It is an important grouping bringing together the major emerging economies from the world, comprising:
 - 41% of world population
 - Total combined area of 29.3% of the total land surface of the world
 - 24% of global GDP
 - 16% of world trade

Note: The above data is based on World Bank data (2019).

Source: PIB

Volcanic eruption in Tonga

Why in News

- Recently, a volcano erupted in the southern Pacific Island of Tonga, which triggered Tsunami waves around the Pacific.

Key Points

- It is an Undersea Volcanic Eruption consisting of two small uninhabited islands, Hunga-Ha’apai and Hunga-Tonga.
- The Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha’apai volcano has erupted regularly over the past few decades.
- During events in 2009 and 2014/15 hot jets of magma and steam exploded through the waves. But these eruptions were small.

About Volcano:

- A volcano is a rupture in the crust of a planetary-mass object, such as Earth, that allows hot lava, volcanic ash, and gases to escape from a magma chamber below the surface.
- On Earth, volcanoes are most often found where tectonic plates are diverging or converging and most are found underwater.

Source: Indian Express

20th Dhaka International Film Festival inaugurated

Why in News

- The 9-day long **20th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF)** was inaugurated at the National Museum premises in Dhaka on 15th January, 2022 by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr A K Abdul Momen.
- High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami was present as special guest on the occasion.

Key Points

- The film festival is showcasing 225 films spread in ten categories.
- Films from 70 countries are being shown at various venues during the festival.
- The **Indian entries** to the Festival include films like Koozhangal directed by P S Vinothraj, Avijatrik directed by Subhrajit Mitra, Mayar Jonjal directed by Indranil Roychowdhury, and Aandaal directed by Shareef Easa among the 35 entries.
- The Lebanese-German film 'The Anger' directed by Maria Ivanova was the inaugural movie of the festival.

About Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF):

- DIFF is organised by the Rainbow film Society established in 1977.
- DIFF was started in 1992.

Source: newsonair

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

Drone Certification Scheme to boost indigenous manufacturing

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** notified a **Drone Certification Scheme (DCS)** to ensure minimum safety and quality requirements as it will boost indigenous manufacturing.

Key Points

- The **Drone Certification Scheme** notified on January 26, 2022, under Rule 7 of the **liberalized Drone Rules, 2021** will help in simpler, faster and transparent type-certification of drones.
- Along with the liberalised drone rules, airspace map, the PLI (production-linked incentive) scheme and the single window DigitalSky Platform, this will help drone manufacturing industry in India, grow.
- This is another step in making India the drone hub of the world by 2030.
- A multi-stakeholder steering committee (MSC) chaired by a known professional, who is respected by government and industry alike, will oversee the scheme, along with a QCI (Quality Control of India) secretariat.

Source: Business Standard

Results of preliminary round of first ever Fit India Quiz declared, UP students top Preliminary Quiz Rounds

Why in News

- Results of the Preliminary Round of the **first-ever Fit India Quiz**, India's biggest sports and fitness quiz for students were announced.

Key Points

- Results of the nation-wide competition organised by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has revealed that two students from Uttar Pradesh have outperformed students from all other states to become the top scorers of the Preliminary Round.
- Divyanshu Chamoli of Delhi Public School, Greater Noida won the top spot, he was closely followed by Shashwat Mishra of Sunbeam School, Lahartara, Varanasi.
- The preliminary round of the Fit India Quiz, saw participants from 13,502 schools from more than 659 districts across the country, out of which students of 361 schools across 36 States and Union Territories have now been shortlisted for the State Rounds.
- The Quiz has a prize money of 3.25 crores which will be given out to winning schools and students at various phases of the quiz.

About Fit India Movement:

- Fit India Movement is a nation-wide movement in India to encourage people to remain healthy and fit by including physical activities and sports in their daily lives.
- It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 29 August 2019.

Source: PIB

Environment Management Plans for Najafgarh jheel: NGT

Why in News

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has directed **Delhi and Haryana** to enforce the **Environment Management Plans** that the two governments have prepared for the **rejuvenation and protection of the Najafgarh jheel**, a transboundary wetland.

Key Points

- The implementation of these action plans is to be monitored by the National Wetland Authority through the respective State Wetland Authorities.
- The **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** first took the matter of restoration of the Najafgarh jheel to the NGT in 2014, and then filed an execution application before the tribunal in 2019, noting that no remedial measures had been taken.

About Environment Management Plan:

- According to this plan, the top priority would be to notify the Najafgarh jheel and its area of influence under The **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017**.
- The rules prohibit and regulate certain activities within wetlands and their 'zone of influence'.

About Najafgarh Jheel:

- It is located in a natural depression in southwest Delhi, close to the Gurugram-Rajokri border on National Highway-48.
- The presence of 281 bird species, including several threatened ones such as Egyptian vulture, Sarus Crane, Steppe Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Imperial Eagle and those migrating along the Central Asian Flyway has been reported at the lake.

About National Green Tribunal (NGT):

- NGT was established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

About Ramsar Convention on Wetlands:

- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an international treaty, aims at the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

- Named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, the convention was signed in 1971.
- **World Wetlands Day** is celebrated internationally each year on 2 February.

Note: Recently, Governments of **Himachal Pradesh and Haryana** signed an MoU at Panchkula for the construction of **Adi Badri Dam** that would come up on 77 acres in Himachal Pradesh near Adi Badri area of Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana.

Source: Indian Express

Ministry of Electronics & IT releases 2nd Volume of Vision Document on Electronics Manufacturing

Why in News

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in association with ICEA, released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document for the electronics sector, titled “\$300 billion Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026.”
- This roadmap is the second volume of a two-part Vision Document – the first of which titled “Increasing India’s Electronics Exports and Share in GVCs” was released in November 2021.

Key Points

- This report provides a year-wise break-up and production projections for the various products that will lead India’s transformation into a US\$300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse, from the current US\$75 billion.
- Mobile manufacturing that is expected to cross US\$100 billion annual production - up from the current US\$30 billion - is expected to constitute nearly 40% of this ambitious growth.

Related Initiatives:

- Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme
- Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors
- Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme

Source: PIB

India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021

Why in News

- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, released the ‘**India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021**’ prepared by the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**.

Key Points

- The **ISFR 2021** provides information on forest cover, tree cover, mangrove cover, growing stock, carbon stock in India’s forests, forest fire monitoring, forest cover in tiger reserve areas, above ground estimates of biomass using SAR data & climate change hotspots in Indian forests.

Major Findings:

- The total forest and tree cover of the country is **80.9 million hectares** which is 24.62 percent of the geographical area of the country. As compared to the assessment of 2019, there is an increase of **2,261 sq km** in the total forest and tree cover of the country. Out of this, the increase in the forest cover has been observed as 1,540 sq km and that in tree cover is 721 sq km.

- Increase in forest cover has been observed in open forest followed by very dense forest. Top three states showing increase in forest cover are **Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km) followed by Telangana (632 sq km) and Odisha (537 sq km)**.
- Area-wise **Madhya Pradesh** has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra. In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are **Mizoram (84.53%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%), Meghalaya (76.00%), Manipur (74.34%) and Nagaland (73.90%)**.
- 17 states/UT's have above 33 percent of the geographical area under forest cover. Out of these states and UT's, five states/UTs namely Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have more than 75 percent forest cover while 12 states/UTs namely Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Goa, Kerala, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Assam, Odisha, have forest cover between 33 percent to 75 percent.
- Total mangrove cover in the country is 4,992 sq km. An increase of 17 sq Km in mangrove cover has been observed as compared to the previous assessment of 2019. Top three states showing mangrove cover increase are **Odisha (8 sq km) followed by Maharashtra (4 sq km) and Karnataka (3 sq km)**.
- Total carbon stock in the country's forest is estimated to be 7,204 million tonnes and there is an increase of 79.4 million tonnes in the carbon stock of the country as compared to the last assessment of 2019. The annual increase in the carbon stock is 39.7 million tonnes.

Source: PIB

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launches Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge

Why in News

- The **Department of Fisheries**, Government of India in association with **Startup India**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry inaugurated the "**Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge**".

Key Points

- The challenge has been launched with an objective to provide a platform to start-ups within the country to showcase their innovative solutions within the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector.
- The challenge is expected to foster start-up culture within the sector and to establish a strong foundation of the entrepreneurial model, the Department of Fisheries has earmarked funds to the tune of Rs. 3.44 Crore for the challenge.

Note:

- Fisheries sector has tremendous potential for growth and the Government of India is providing all necessary support to achieve the one lakh crore export target from the sector by 2024-25.
- India is the second major producer of fish through aquaculture in the world.

- India is the 4th largest exporter of fish in the world as it contributes 7.7% to the global fish production.

Government's Effort to Improve Fisheries:

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana
- Seaweed Park
- Palk Bay Scheme
- Marine Fisheries Bill
- Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund
- Marine Products Export Development Authority

Source: PIB

India and UK launch Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

Why in News

- **India and the United Kingdom** have formally launched negotiations for a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.
- This announcement has been made by Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and UK Trade Secretary, Anne-Marie Trevelyan.

Key Points

- The India-UK bilateral trading relationship is already significant, and both sides have agreed to double that bilateral trade by 2030, as part of Roadmap 2030 announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Boris Johnson in May 2021.
- India and the UK will seek to agree a mutually beneficial agreement supporting jobs, businesses and communities in both countries.
- In parallel to trade negotiations, the India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee will continue to work in improving the India-UK trading relationship and addressing market access barriers outside of a trade agreement.

Source: PIB

Purposive Testing Strategy for COVID-19: ICMR

Why in News

- Amid the rising cases of **COVID-19** and its highly contagious Omicron variant, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has issued fresh guidelines on **Purposive Testing Strategy**.

Key Points

Purposive Testing Strategy:

- ICMR issued fresh guidelines on who needs to get tested for the infection, and who doesn't.
- Asymptomatic individuals and contacts of COVID patients do not need to be tested unless identified as "high-risk individuals" based on age or co-morbidities.
- People undertaking "inter-state domestic travel" need not get tested.

Modes of testing

- As per the new guidelines of ICMR, testing can be undertaken either through RT-PCR, True Nat, CBNAAT, CRISPR, RT-LAMP, Rapid Molecular Testing Systems or through Rapid Antigen Test (RAT).

Source: Indian Express

India's passport rank improves to 83 from 90: Henley Passport Index 2022

Why in News

- India's passport power has improved this quarter compared to 2021.
- It now ranks at 83rd position in the Henley Passport Index 2022, climbing seven places from 90th rank last year (2021).
- The current rankings are for the first quarter of 2022.

Key Points

- India shares the position with Sao Tome and Principe in Central Africa, behind Rwanda and Uganda.
- India now has visa-free access to 60 destinations worldwide with Oman and Armenia being the latest additions. India has added 35 more destinations since 2006.

Best Passports:

- Japan and Singapore have been ranked 1st, with passport holders having access to 192 destinations visa-free.

Worst Passports:

- Afghanistan with access to just 26 countries, emerged as the worst performer.

Henley Passport Index:

Since 2005, Henley Passport Index ranks world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without prior visa and is based on data from International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Source: The Hindu

India - South Korea Bilateral Trade Talks

Why in News

- Yeo Han-Koo, Minister for Trade of South Korea held discussions with Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles in New Delhi.

Key Points

- Both the Ministers held wide ranging discussions covering the whole gamut of Bilateral Trade and Investment related aspects.

CEPA negotiations:

- The Ministers agreed to impart fresh momentum to the discussions on **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** up-gradation negotiations and also promote extensive **B2B (Business-to-Business)** interactions on trade and investment between the Industry leaders of the two countries.

Bilateral Trade:

- India and South Korea set a bilateral trade target of USD50 billion before 2030, which was agreed at the summit meeting in 2018.
- These regular negotiations shall be a forum to discuss the difficulties of the business community from both countries and emerging trade-related issues including supply chain resilience.

- India's total exports to South Korea in FY21 were about \$4.68 billion against imports of \$12.77 billion.

Multilateral Platforms Shared by Both the Countries:

- United Nations
- G20
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- ASEAN Plus
- East Asia Summit (EAS)

Note:

India's Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):

- India has signed CEPAs with South Korea and Japan.
- In 2021, India and the United Arab Emirates formally launched negotiations on the India-UAE CEPA.

Source: Indian Express

Prime Minister Modi inaugurates MSME Technology Centre at Puducherry

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Technology Centre of the MSME Ministry, established at Puducherry, on the occasion of National youth day.
- He inaugurated 11 new medical colleges and a new campus of Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Tamil Nadu.

Key Points

- This World Class Technology Centre set up with an investment of about Rs. 122 crore is spread across 10 acres, will train 20,000 youth, support 2000 MSMEs and incubate 200 Start Ups, thereby propelling the local economy to great heights.
- The Technology Centres across the country developed under the flagship Technology Centre Systems Program are supporting existing and prospective MSMEs by developing production facilities, manpower, providing consultancy and developing competitive edge through adoption of best practices.

Source: PIB

IndiaSkills 2021

Why in News

- 270 winners of **IndiaSkills 2021 National Competition** felicitated with 61 gold, 77 silver, 53 bronze and 79 medallions of excellence.
- **Odisha** topped the chart with 51 winners, followed by Maharashtra, 30 and Kerala, 25 winners.

Key Points

- The competition, organised by **National Skill Development Corporation** under the guidance of **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, Government of India, witnessed participation in 54 skills such as concrete construction work, beauty therapy, car painting, health and social care, visual merchandising, graphic design technology, wall & floor tiling, welding, among others.

- IndiaSkills Competition, which raises the profile and recognition of the youth, brought together over 500 participants from 26 states/ union territories this year.

Note: The winners of IndiaSkills 2021 Nationals will get a chance to represent the country at **WorldSkills International Competition** to be held in Shanghai, China in October 2022.

Related Initiatives/Schemes:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors' (YUVA) scheme
- National Career Service Project
- Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP)
- Kaushalacharya Awards
- Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)
- Skill Certification
- Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)

Source: PIB

UNESCO agrees to publish Hindi descriptions of India's world heritage sites on WHC website

Why in News

- On the occasion of World Hindi Day, the **UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC)** has agreed to publish Hindi descriptions of **India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites** on the WHC website.

Key Points

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** World Heritage Sites are the important places of cultural or natural heritage as described in the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, established in 1945.
- India accepted the convention on 14 November 1977, making its sites eligible for inclusion on the list.

India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- The first sites to be inscribed were Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal, of which all were inscribed in the 1983 session of the World Heritage Committee.
- The latest site to be inscribed is Dholavira, Gujarat in 2021.
- As of July 2021, 19 of the 36 States and union territories of India are home to the World Heritage Sites, with Maharashtra having the highest number of sites (5).
- At present, there are 40 World Heritage Sites located in India. Out of these, 32 are cultural, 7 are natural, and 1 is mixed (meeting both cultural and natural criteria), as determined by the organization's selection criteria.
- India has the sixth largest number of sites in the world.

World's UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- As of July 2021, a total of 1,154 World Heritage Sites (897 cultural, 218 natural, and 39 mixed properties) exist across 167 countries.
- With 58 selected areas, Italy is the country with the most sites on the list.

Source: HT

MoE, AICTE and DPIIT organises first-ever Startup India Innovation Week

Why in News

- To commemorate 75th years of progressive India 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', **Ministry of Education (MoE), AICTE and Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DPIIT)** are jointly organising first-ever **Startup India Innovation Week (National Innovation Week)** from 10th – 16th Jan 2022.
- A 2 days long e- Symposium on 'Building Innovation Ecosystem in Educational Institutions' will be held on 11th and 12th January 2022 by the Ministry of Education.
- Startups are the key reason behind India's meteoric rise in **Global Innovation Index from 76 in 2014 to 46 in 2021.**

Key Points

- This Innovation week will highlight various initiatives undertaken by these agencies to spread awareness to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in India.
- 75 innovative technologies selected from various programs such as National Innovation Contest, Smart India Hackathon, YUKTI2.0 and Toycathon conducted by the Ministry of Education will participate in e-exhibition and demonstrate their innovations.

Note:

- In the startup world, 2021 has been recognised as the 'year of unicorns,' with 40+ unicorns added in the year.
- India is emerging as a global innovation hub, boasting the world's third-largest startup ecosystem.
- DPIIT has recognised more than 61,000 startups as on date.
- Startups representing 55 industries, spread across 633 districts with at least one startup from every State and UT of the country have created over 6 lakh jobs since 2016.
- 45% of the startups are from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and 45% of them are represented by women entrepreneurs.
- This year marked the completion of 6 years of Startup India scheme.

About Startup India scheme: It was launched on January 16, 2016 with the aim of promoting and supporting the start-ups in India by providing bank finances.

Source: PIB

Government releases revised Universal Accessibility Guidelines

Why in News

- The **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)** released the **Harmonised Guidelines and Standards for Universal Accessibility in India 2021.**

Key Points

- From the design plan to the implementation, various aspects of the built environment have been covered under the new guidelines for universal accessibility recently drafted by the Centre.
- The guidelines are a revision of the Harmonised Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier-Free Built Environment for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly Persons released by the CPWD, under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in February 2016.
- Drafted by a team of the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee and the National Institute of Urban Affairs of the MoHUA, the revised guidelines aim to give a holistic approach.

- The guidelines say ramps are extremely crucial for providing an accessible mobility option, but it is equally important to understand that ramps have to adhere to given guidelines.
- The guidelines provide the gradient and length of ramps — for example, for a length of six metres, the gradient should be 1:12.
- The minimum clear width of a ramp should be 1,200 mm, the guidelines say.
- The guidelines are not just for persons with disabilities (PwD), but for those involved in planning projects, from the construction of government buildings to master-planning cities.
- While making public buildings and transport fully accessible for wheelchair users is covered in the guidelines, other users who may experience temporary problems have also been considered.

Source: The Hindu

SC to set up high-level committee to inquire into security lapses during PM Modi's visit to Punjab

Why in News

- The **Supreme Court** will constitute a high-level committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge to investigate lapses in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security in Punjab.

Key Points

- A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli was hearing the plea filed by an organisation, Lawyers Voice.
- The committee will also include DGP Chandigarh, Inspector General of National Investigation Agency (NIA), Registrar General of Punjab and Haryana High Court and Additional DGP Punjab.

Note:

- Recently, the Union Home Ministry has constituted a committee to enquire into the serious lapses in the security arrangements during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab.
- The three-member committee will be led by Sudhir Kumar Saxena, Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat and will comprise Balbir Singh, Joint Director, IB and S. Suresh, IG, SPG.

Source: Indian Express

PM Modi announces 26th December as 'Veer Baal Diwas'

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the auspicious occasion of the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh has announced that starting this year, **26th December** shall be observed as '**Veer Baal Diwas**'.

Key Points

- The Government of India has decided to commemorate 26th December as "Veer Baal Diwas" in the honour of the supreme sacrifice made by Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh, the younger sons of the 10th Sikh Guru Govind Singh, for their supreme and unparalleled sacrifice on 26th December, 1705 at the tender age of 9 and 6 years respectively to defend the dignity and honour of Sikhism.

Note: Children's Day in India is observed on November 14, former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday.

Source: PIB

3rd National Water Awards

Why in News

- Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced **3rd National Water Awards-2020**.
- In the Best State category, **Uttar Pradesh** has been awarded first prize, followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

Key Points

- To encourage and recognize individuals and organizations doing exemplary work in the field of water resources management, the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti is giving 57 awards to States, Organizations, Individuals etc. in 11 different categories - Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best Media (Print & Electronic), Best School, Best Institution/RWA/Religious organization for Campus usage, Best Industry, Best NGO, Best Water User Association, and Best Industry for CSR Activity.
- National Water Awards were instituted in attaining the government's vision of a '*Jal Samridh Bharat*'.
- The first National Water Award was launched in 2018.

Note:

- India's current water requirement is estimated to be around 1,100 billion cubic meters per year, projected to go up to 1,447 billion cubic meters by 2050.
- While India has more than 18% of the world's population, it has only 4% of the world's renewable water resources.

Related Initiatives

- Jal Kranti Abhiyan
- Catch the Rain: National Water Mission
- NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index
- Jal Jeevan Mission
- Jal Shakti Abhiyan
- Atal Bhujal Yojana

Source: PIB

EC announces schedule for assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur

Why in News

- The **Election Commission** announced the schedule for assembly elections in **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur**.

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh will go to polls in seven phases from 10th February to 7th March.

- Voting for Punjab, Uttarakhand and Goa will be held on 14th of February in a single phase. Manipur will vote on 27th February and 3rd March in two phases.
- Counting of votes will be held on 10th of March.
- The term of Goa Legislative Assembly is ending on 15th March this year, Manipur Assembly on 19th March, Uttarakhand and Punjab Legislative Assembly on 23rd March and Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 14th May this year.

About ECI (Election Commission of India):

- It is a permanent and independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- **Formed:** 25 January 1950 (Later celebrated as National Voters Day)
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Commission executives:**
Sushil Chandra, Chief Election Commissioner
Rajeev Kumar, Election Commissioner
Anup Chandra Pandey, Election Commissioner

Note:

- Recently, the expenditure limit for candidates for Lok Sabha constituencies was increased from Rs 54 lakh-Rs 70 lakh (depending on states) to Rs 70 lakh-Rs 95 lakh, by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Further, the spending limit for Assembly constituencies was hiked from Rs 20 lakh-Rs 28 lakh to Rs 28 lakh- Rs 40 lakh (depending on states).
- In 2020, the ECI had formed a committee in 2020 to study the election spending limit.

Source: newsonair

Union Tourism Minister inaugurates PRASHAD projects at Govardhan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

Why in News

- Union Minister of Tourism G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated various components developed Govardhan Bus Stand under the project “Development of Govardhan, Mathura” under the **PRASHAD Scheme** of the Ministry of Tourism.
- Moreover, Rs. 500 crores has been allocated for the state of Uttar Pradesh alone through the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** towards strengthening Tourism infrastructure through various spiritual circuits such as the Ramayana and Buddha circuits.

Key Points

- The project for “Development of Govardhan, Mathura” under the PRASHAD scheme was approved by the Ministry of Tourism with the cost of INR 39.73 Cr. in January 2019.

About PRASHAD Scheme:

- The ‘**National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive**’ (**PRASHAD**) is a Central Sector Scheme with complete financial assistance by the Government of India.
- The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15 with the vision of focused infrastructure development to harness pilgrimage and heritage tourism destinations for its direct and multiplier effect upon employment generation and economic development.

About Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- It is a scheme of the Ministry of Tourism under Government of India.
- It was launched in 2015.
- This is a central sector scheme; i.e. - 100% funded by the Central Government of India.
- The funding available for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and Corporate Sector is also used in this scheme.
- Under the scheme fifteen thematic circuits have been identified for development namely; North-East Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Sufi Circuit, and Tirthankara Circuit.

Other Government Schemes Related to Tourism

- DekhoApnaDesh
- Adopt A Heritage Project
- Development of Iconic Tourist Sites

Source: PIB

Construction of bridge over Mahakali River at Dharchula (India) – Dharchula (Nepal)

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Nepal for construction of a bridge over **Mahakali River at Dharchula (India) - Dharchula (Nepal)**.

Key Points

- The bridge will help the people living in Uttarakhand (Dharchula) and in the area under Nepal territory.
- Both India and Nepal have been working together on different regional forums i.e. SAARC, BIMSTEC as well as global fora.

Mahakali River:

- It is also known as Sharda River or Kali Ganga in Uttarakhand.
- It joins the Ghagra River in Uttar Pradesh, which is a tributary of Ganga.
- **River Projects:** Tanakpur hydro-electric project, Chameliya hydro-electric project, Sharda Barrage.

Source: Indian Express

Drone use in Agriculture – Financial support under ‘Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization’

Why in News

- The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has issued guidelines to make drone technology affordable to the stakeholders of agriculture sector.
- The guidelines of “**Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization**” (**SMAM**) have been amended which envisages granting upto 100% of the cost of agriculture drone or Rs. 10 lakhs, whichever is less, as grant for purchase of drones by the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, ICAR institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and State Agriculture Universities.

Key Points

- The **Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs)** would be eligible to receive grants up to 75% of the cost of agriculture drone for its demonstrations on the farmers' fields.
- A contingency expenditure of Rs.6000 per hectare would be provided to implementing agencies that do not want to purchase drones but will hire drones for demonstrations from Custom Hiring Centres, Hi-tech Hubs, Drone Manufacturers and Start-Ups.
- The financial assistance and grants would be available until March 31, 2023.
- The drone operations are being permitted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) through the conditional exemption route. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has published '**Drone Rules 2021**' vide GSR No. 589(E) dated 25th August 2021 to regulate the use and operation of Drones in India.

Other Related Initiatives:

- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- Sub-Mission on Agroforestry Scheme
- National Food Security Mission
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
- Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee Yojana
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Source: PIB

India emerges as largest exporters of cucumber and gherkins in the world

Why in News

- India has emerged as the largest exporter of **cucumber and gherkins** in the world.
- India has exported cucumber and gherkins to the tune of 1,23,846 Metric Tonnes with a value of USD 114 million during April-October (2020-21).

Key Points

- In 2020-21, India had shipped 2,23,515 Metric Tonnes of cucumber and gherkins with a value of USD 223 million.
- Following directions of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** undertook a series of initiatives in infrastructure development, product promotion in the global market and adherence to food safety management system in processing units.
- **Gherkins** are exported under two categories -- cucumbers and gherkins, which are prepared and preserved by vinegar or acetic acid and cucumbers and gherkins, which are provisionally preserved.
- Gherkin cultivation, processing and exports started in India during the early 1990s with a modest beginning in Karnataka and later extended to the neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Note: Nearly 15% production of the world's gherkin requirement is grown in India.

Source: PIB

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar- 2022

Why in News

- 29 Children have been conferred the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2022**, selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Scholastic (1), Sports (8), Art & Culture (6) and Bravery (3) categories.
- There are 15 Boys and 14 Girls among the awardees belonging to 21 States and UTs.

Key Points

- During the function, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** gave digital certificates to the 61 winners of PMRBP 2021 and 2022 using a **Block Chain**-driven technology developed by IIT Kanpur under the **National Blockchain Project**.

About Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:

- The Government of India presents PMRBP awards to children for their exceptional achievement in six categories namely Innovation, Social Service, Scholastic achievements, Sports, Art & Culture and Bravery.
- Each awardee is given a medal, a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a certificate.

Source: PIB

DBT-BIRAC supported start-ups InnAccel and NIRAMAI have received World Bank Group and the Consumer Technology Association's Global Women's Health Tech Awards

Why in News

- **NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt. Ltd. and InnAccel Technologies Pvt. Ltd.**, two start-ups supported by **DBT-BIRAC**, have received the **World Bank Group and the Consumer Technology Association's Global Women's Health Tech Awards**.

Key Points

- The award recognises innovative startups that leverage tech to improve women's health and safety in emerging markets.

About Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC):

- BIRAC is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India as an Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

Source: PIB

Actress Harshaali Malhotra receives Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022

Why in News

- 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' actress **Harshaali Malhotra** received the prestigious 12th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022.

Key Points

- Harshaali Malhotra received the award from Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Governor of Maharashtra, for her performance in the film and for her contribution to the field of cinema.
- Harshaali featured in Bajrangi Bhaijaan, released in 2015, directed by Kabir Khan.

Source: HT

79th Golden Globe Awards (2022)

- The 79th Golden Globe Awards (2022) honored the best in film and American television of 2021, as chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA).
- The nominations were announced on December 13, 2021 by rapper Snoop Dogg and HFPA president Helen Hoehne.
- Two of the films namely The Power of the Dog and the West Side Story, won the most number of awards with 3 each.

List of winners in key categories:

MOVIES:

- BEST DRAMA: "The Power of the Dog"
- BEST COMEDY OR MUSICAL: "West Side Story"
- BEST ACTOR, DRAMA: Will Smith "King Richard"
- BEST ACTRESS, DRAMA: Nicole Kidman, "Being the Ricardos"
- BEST ACTOR, COMEDY OR MUSICAL: Andrew Garfield, "Tick, Tick... Boom!"
- BEST ACTRESS, COMEDY OR MUSICAL: Rachel Zegler, "West Side Story"
- BEST DIRECTOR: Jane Campion, "The Power of the Dog"
- BEST ANIMATED FILM: "Encanto"
- BEST NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE FILM: "Drive My Car"

TELEVISION:

- BEST TV DRAMA SERIES: "Succession"
- BEST TV COMEDY/MUSICAL SERIES: "Hacks"
- BEST ACTOR, TV DRAMA: Jeremy Strong, "Succession"
- BEST ACTRESS, TV DRAMA: Mj Rodriguez, "Pose"
- BEST ACTOR, TV COMEDY/MUSICAL: Jason Sudeikis, "Ted Lasso"
- BEST ACTRESS, TV COMEDY/MUSICAL: Jean Smart, "Hacks"
- BEST TV MOVIE OR LIMITED SERIES: "The Underground Railroad"

Source: goldenglobes.com

Amar Jawan Jyoti merged with National War Memorial flame

Why in News

- The flame of the **Amar Jawan Jyoti** at the India Gate in Delhi was merged with the eternal flame at the National War Memorial.

Key Points

About Amar Jawan Jyoti:

- The flame at Amar Jawan Jyoti in the India Gate memorial paid tributes to the martyrs of 1971 and other wars, however, none of the names who made that supreme sacrifice for the country were present there.
- The India Gate memorial, on the other hand, was built by the British government in memory of the British Indian Army soldiers who lost their lives between 1914-1921.
- The Amar Jawan Jyoti there was only included in the 1970s after the massive victory of India over Pakistan in which 93,000 troops of the enemy country surrendered.

About National War Memorial:

- The National War Memorial, which was built in the India Gate complex by the Narendra Modi government and was inaugurated in 2019, has the names of all the Indian defence personnel who have lost their lives in different operations from the 1947-48 war with Pakistan to the Galwan valley clash with Chinese troops.

- The names of troops who lost lives in the counter-terrorist operations are also included on the walls of the memorial.

Source: HT

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022

Why in News

- For the year 2022, (i) Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (in the Institutional category) and (ii) Professor Vinod Sharma (in the Individual category) have been selected for the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar** for their excellent work in Disaster Management.

Key Points

- They have been conferred with the Award, alongwith the awardees of the year 2019, 2020 and 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM)**, established in 2012, has been working to enhance the disaster risk reduction (DRR) capacity of Gujarat.
- **Professor Vinod Sharma**, a senior professor at the Indian Institute of Public Administration and Vice-Chairman of the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, was the founder co-ordinator of the National Centre of Disaster Management, now known as the National Institute of Disaster Management. He has worked tirelessly towards bringing disaster risk reduction (DRR) to the forefront of the national agenda.

About Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar:

- To recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management, Government of India has instituted an annual award known as Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.
- The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

PM Modi delivers the keynote address at the national launch ceremony of 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ke Ore'

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at the national launch ceremony of 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ke Ore'.
- He also flagged off seven initiatives of Brahma Kumaris.

Key Points

- The Prime Minister urged everyone to keep our culture, our civilization, our values alive and to preserve and promote our spirituality and our diversity.
- He flagged off seven initiatives of Brahma Kumaris. These include My India Healthy India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat-Self Reliant Farmers, Women-Flag Bearers of India, Power of Peace Bus Campaign, Andekha Bharat Cycle Rally, United India Motor Bike Campaign, and green initiatives under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

About Brahma Kumaris: It is a worldwide spiritual movement dedicated to personal transformation and world renewal. Founded in India in 1937, Brahma Kumaris has spread to over 130 countries.

About Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav:

- The nation is celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav as the country is going to complete 75th year of Independence this year.
- The Prime Minister launched the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 12th March last year from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav was launched 75 weeks before 15 August 2022 and will continue till 15 August 2023.

Source: PIB

Devas-Antrix deal

Why in News

- Recently, the **Supreme Court upheld a May 25, 2021 order** of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to liquidate Devas on the ground that the firm was created under fraudulent circumstances.

Key Points

- The investors have won separate compensation awards in international tribunals, including \$1.2 billion awarded by an International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) tribunal on September 14, 2015.
- The Supreme Court has kept the \$1.2 billion award in abeyance.
- A 2005 satellite deal between Antrix Corporation — the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) – and Devas Multimedia Pvt Ltd, a start-up headquartered in Bengaluru, is at the heart of a global legal tussle between the Indian government and foreign investors in Devas.
- The tussle is a fallout of the cancellation of the deal in 2011 by the then UPA government citing requirement of satellite spectrum allotted to Devas for security purposes.

Devas-Antrix deal:

- Under the deal, ISRO would lease to Devas two communication satellites (GSAT-6 and 6A) for 12 years for Rs 167 crore. Devas would provide multimedia services to mobile platforms in India using S-band transponders on the satellites.

Source: Indian Express

Cabinet approves extension of tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for three years

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of the tenure of the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** for three years beyond 31.3.2022.

Key Points

- The total implication of the extension for three years would be approximately Rs.43.68 crore.
- The major beneficiaries would be the Safai Karamcharis and identified manual scavengers in the country since the NCSK for 3 more years beyond 31.3.2022.
- The **NCSK** was established in the year 1993 as per the provisions of the **NCSK Act 1993** initially for the period upto 31.3.1997.

Background:

- The NCSK has been giving its recommendations to the Government regarding specific programmes for welfare of Safai Karamcharis, study and evaluate the existing welfare programmes for Safai Karamcharis, investigate cases of specific grievances etc.
- Also as per the provisions of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**, the NCSK has been assigned the work to monitor the implementation of the Act, tender advice for its effective implementation to the Centre and State Governments and enquire into complaints regarding contravention/non-implementation of the provisions of the Act.

Source: PIB

MoHUA announces winners of Streets for People and Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** organised an online event wherein it announced eleven winning cities for the **Streets for People Challenge**, and ten winning cities for the pilot stage of the **Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**.
- At the event, the Ministry also launched Season-2 of India Cycles4Change and Streets for People Challenges and a book titled 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge: Stories from the Field'.

Key Points

- These cities will now enter the scale up stage of the challenge wherein the projects undertaken in the pilot stage will now be scaled up in a sustainable manner.

Announcement of winning cities under Streets4People Challenge Pilot Phase:

- Since 2020, the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) has been anchoring inter-city challenges to make public spaces more people-friendly.
- This is in line with the 2006 National Urban Transport Policy, which called for a paradigm shift from car-centric roads to people-centric streets.
- 11 cities have been selected by a jury panel for the next phase of scale up and will be awarded Rs. fifty lakhs each by MoHUA.
- The challenge was conducted with technical support from the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP India).

Announcement of winning cities under Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge

- MoHUA announced ten winning cities for the **Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**, in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and technical partner World Resources Institute (WRI) India.

Source: PIB

Cabinet approves infusion of Rs. 1,500 crore in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited

Why in News

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, approved the equity infusion of Rs.1500 crore in **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**.

Key Points

- This equity infusion will help in employment generation of approximately 10200 jobs-year and CO2 equivalent emission reduction of approximately 7.49 Million Tonnes CO2/year.

About Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):

- IREDA, a mini ratna (Category-1) company under the administrative control of MNRE was set up in 1987 to work as a specialised non-banking finance agency for the Renewable Energy (RE) sector.

Note: At COP26 in Glasgow last November, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's aim to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 and also committed to achieving 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

Source: PIB

National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Textiles** cleared 20 strategic research projects worth INR 30 crores in the areas of Specialty fibres and Geotextiles.
- These strategic research projects fall under the Flagship Programme '**National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).**'

Key Points

- Amongst the 20 Research projects, 16 projects of Specialty fibres were cleared including 5 projects in Healthcare, 4 projects in Industrial and Protective, 3 projects in Energy Storage, 3 projects in Textile waste recycling, & 1 in Agriculture and 4 projects in Geotextiles (Infrastructure) were cleared.
- Previously, 11 research projects worth INR 78.60 Crores were cleared by the Ministry of Textiles on 26th March 2021.

About Technical textiles:

- Technical textiles are functional fabrics that have applications across various industries including automobiles, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, healthcare, industrial safety, personal protection etc.

About National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM):

- NTTM was approved in 2020 by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) with the aim to position the country as a global leader in technical textiles and increase the use of technical textiles in the domestic market.
- The Government has approved the proposal for creation of National Technical Textiles Mission for a period of 4 years (2020-21 to 2023-24) with an outlay of Rs.1480 crores.

Initiatives Related to Technical Textile:

- Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) Codes for Technical Textile
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles Sector
- 100% FDI under Automatic Route
- Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme
- Technotex India

Source: PIB

Valedictory function of Kala Utsav 2021

Why in News

- Minister of State for Education, Smt. Annpurna Devi and Minister of State for Education Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh addressed the valedictory function of **Kala Utsav 2021**.

Key Points

- **Kala Utsav 2021** was launched online on January 1, 2022 through a digital platform.
- A total of 35 teams have participated in Kala Utsav 2021, from different states, union territories, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti schools where 582 students demonstrated their talent.
- Out of these participants, 291 girls and 291 boys participated in Kala Utsav 2021 including 5 Divyang participants.

About Kala Utsav:

- The National **Kala Utsav** was launched by the National Council of Educational Research and Training and the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, in 2015.

Source: PIB

MeitY organises 26th CISO Deep Dive Training program under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative

Why in News

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is organizing **26th CISO (Chief Information Security Officers) Deep Dive Training program** under **Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative**.

Key Points

- The training program is a part of a series of workshops organised by the National e-Governance Division at MeitY under the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative.
- The program is being conducted from January 17 - 22, 2022 and will cover topics such as Governance Risk & Compliance and Data Privacy, Network Security, End Point Security, Application & Data Security, Cloud Security, Mobile Security, Cryptography, Cyber Security related provisions in IT Act, Security audit, guidelines for preparing CCMP and operation and monitoring of Security Operation Centre (SoC) etc.
- It will help the CISOs and other participants to equip themselves with better understanding of the emerging cyber threat landscape, understand best practices in cyber security.

About Cyber Surakshit Programme:

- To empower the CISOs with the emerging challenges of cyber security and train them to meet the challenges, MeitY had initiated the Cyber Surakshit Programme in January 2018 with active support of industry consortium.
- The objective of the programme is to train 1200 CISOs and frontline IT officials from Central and State Government, PSUs, Banks and government organizations.

Source: PIB

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches 'Open Data Week'

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** announced the initiation of the **‘Open Data Week’** to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India’s urban ecosystem.

Key Points

- Leading up to the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization’ conference scheduled to be held in Surat, during February 2022, the Open Data Week is part of a series of pre-event initiatives being undertaken by MoHUA to promote awareness and use of open data.
- It will be conducted during the third week of January, i.e., from 17th January 2022 to 21st January 2022.
- The Event will see participation from all **100 Smart Cities** that will be publishing high quality datasets and data blogs on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal.
- The Event aims to show the benefits of open data such as increased efficiency, transparency, a spur in innovation, and economic growth.

Source: PIB

Oxfam India's “Inequality Kills” Report

Why in News

- According to **Oxfam India's “Inequality Kills” Report**, the income of 84 percent of households in the country declined in 2021, but at the same time the number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142.

Key Points

- In 2021, the collective wealth of India’s 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 lakh crore (USD 775 billion).
- In the same year, the share of the bottom 50 percent of the population in national wealth was a mere 6 per cent.
- During the pandemic (since March 2020, through to November 30, 2021), the report says, the wealth of Indian billionaires increased from Rs 23.14 lakh crore (USD 313 billion) to Rs 53.16 lakh crore (USD 719 billion).
- India has the third highest number of billionaires in the world, just behind China and the United States, with more billionaires than France, Sweden and Switzerland combined — a 39 percent increase in the number of billionaires in India in 2021.
- The Oxfam India briefing also points out to the increase in indirect taxes as a share of the Union government revenue in the last four years, while the proportion of corporate tax in the same was declining.

Source: Indian Express

Minimum 6 airbags to be made mandatory in vehicles carrying up to 8 passengers: MoRTH

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has approved a draft notification, making it compulsory for the car manufacturers to equip a minimum of six airbags in motor vehicles that can carry up to 8 passengers.

Key Points

- To enhance the safety of occupants of the motor vehicle, it has been decided to enhance safety features by amending the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989**.

- The General Statutory Rules (GSR) have been mandated to the motor vehicles of category M1 (motor vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising not more than eight seats, in addition to the driver's seat), with the effective timeline of cars manufactured after 1st October 2022.
- Recently, dual airbags (driver and passenger) became mandatory on all motor vehicles (M1 category) from 1st January 2022. Earlier, a driver airbag was mandated for all passenger vehicles since July 1, 2019.
- An airbag is a vehicle occupant-restraint system that creates a safety layer (a bag of air) between the driver and the vehicle's dashboard during a collision, averting fatal injuries.

Road accidents in India: According to Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari, 23,483 pedestrians lost their lives in road crashes in 2020. As per NCRB data, 17,538 car occupants died in road crashes in 2020.

Source: newsonair

India marks 1st anniversary of nationwide vaccination drive against COVID-19

Why in News

- India marks the first anniversary of the nationwide vaccination drive against COVID-19 on January 16, 2022.
- Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya released a commemorative **postal stamp** on India's achievement in developing indigenous COVID19 vaccine.
- The postal stamp was released to mark one year of vaccination drive in the country.

Key Points

- India's COVID-19 vaccination drive was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 16 January, 2021.
- This is the world's largest vaccination program.
- 93 percent of people above 18 years are vaccinated with 1st dose and 70 percent of the population is fully vaccinated till date.

Source: newsonair

National Startup Awards 2021

Why in News

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal presented the **National Startup Awards 2021**.
- A total of 46 Startups have been recognized as winners of **National Startup Awards 2021** along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator.

Key Points

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) conceived the National Startup Awards to recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact.
- Shri Goyal called upon the Startups to focus mainly on five areas to make India the No. 1 Startup ecosystem in the world:
 1. Develop solutions & content in Indic languages
 2. Encourage products & solutions that have a larger social & economic impact

3. Promoting Startups in every district across the country, - Establish 'Startup Access centers' in every district
4. Creating Innovation zones at the level of Urban Local Bodies
5. Adopt best practices from across the globe & enhance India's global competitiveness

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that **January 16** will be celebrated as **National Startup Day**, to take the Startup culture to the far flung areas of the country.

Growth in Startup:

- In 2013, only 4000 patents were approved. However, in 2020-21, more than 28,000 patents have been registered. In 2013-14, 70,000 trademarks were registered. However, in 2020-21 more than 2.5 lakh trademarks were registered.
- India reached 46th spot in Global Innovation Index from 81st rank.

Source: PIB

India grants financial assistance of over USD 900 million to Sri Lanka to overcome forex crisis

Why in News

- **India** has announced a USD 900 million loan to **Sri Lanka** to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports.

Key Points

- Sri Lanka is currently experiencing a shortage of almost all essentials due to a shortage of dollars to pay for the imports.
- These comprise deferment of Asian Clearing Union settlement of over \$509 million and currency swap of \$400 million.

Note:

- In September 2021, The **President of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa** had declared an economic emergency due to rapidly **depleting forex reserves, depreciating currency, and rising food prices** in the country.
- Recently, the **Chinese Foreign Minister (CFM)** visited Sri Lanka.
- The CFM visit envisaged launching celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the historic Rubber-Rice Pact 1952 and the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Sri Lanka.

Facts about Sri Lanka:

- **Capitals:** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- **Currency:** Sri Lankan rupee
- **President:** Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- **Prime Minister:** Mahinda Rajapaksa

Source: ET

Important News: State

Kochi becomes India's first city with Water Metro Project

Why in News

- **Kochi (Kerala)** has become India's first city with a **Water Metro Project** as it launches the first in a series of battery-powered electric boats in the city.

Key Points

- The new project by the Kochi Metro Rail Ltd will likely have an integrated water transport system with 15 identified routes.
- It will connect 10 islands along a network of routes that span 76 km with a fleet of 78 fast, electrically propelled hybrid ferries plying to 38 jetties.
- The project intended to introduce modern, energy-efficient, environment-friendly and safe boats with low wake and draft characteristics at a high frequency to increase ridership.
- Constructed at Cochin Shipyard Ltd, the fully air-conditioned boats with wide windows offer comfortable travel which would be an exciting experience to passengers and tourists.

Source: India Today

Uttar Pradesh Govt declares 4 Villages near Nepal Border as Revenue Villages

Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** declared four villages located near the Nepal border in the Bahraich district as revenue villages.

Key Points

- These four villages are Bhavanipur, Tedhia, Dhakia and Bichhia located in Mihinpurwa tehsil of the Bahraich district.
- All these villages are Vantangiya villages.
- The Vantangiya' community comprises people brought from Myanmar during the colonial rule to plant trees.
- The people of these villages will now get the benefits of all the schemes of the government.

Revenue village:

- A revenue village is a small administrative region with defined borders. One revenue village may contain many hamlets.
- A village administrative officer is the head officer of a revenue village.

Note: Total of seven districts in UP share border with Nepal. These districts are- Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Balrampur, Shravasti, Maharajganj and Siddharthanagar.

Source: Business Standard

Kevadia railway station renamed as Ekta Nagar railway station

Why in News

- The Ministry of Railways has approved the renaming of the **Kevadiya railway station** as **Ekta Nagar railway station**.

Key Points

- The Statue of Unity's Kevadiya railway station falls under the Vadodara division.
- Facing the Narmada River, it is 7 kilometers away from the small town of Kevadiya.
- The construction of the station aims to make the **Statue of Unity** more accessible to tourists.

Note: The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind had laid the foundation stone on 15 December 2018. It is also India's first railway station with a Green Building Certificate.

Source: Financial Express

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

Home Minister Amit Shah releases country's 1st District Good Governance Index in Jammu and Kashmir

Why in News

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah released India's First "**District Good Governance Index**" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Points

- Under the index, the policies, schemes and programs of the central as well as the state governments have been monitored at the district level.
- The index will rank the districts and also present their comparative picture.
- The District Good Governance Index, which has been launched for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, has been prepared by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** in partnership with the Union Territory's administration.

Note:

- Previously, the Centre had released the **National Good Governance Index** on December 25, 2021 that indicated Jammu and Kashmir saw an increase of 3.7% in Good Governance Indicators from 2019 to 2021.

Source: HT

Election Commission defers February 14 Punjab Assembly election due to Guru Ravidas Jayanti

Why in News

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** decided to postpone the February 14 assembly election in Punjab due to **Guru Ravidas Jayanti**.

Key Points

- The Election Commission has announced that the voting for the state's 117 assembly seats will now take place on February 20.
- Commission has received several representations from State Government, Political Parties and other organizations drawing attention regarding movement of a large number of devotees from Punjab to Varanasi for participation in Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Jayanti celebrations, which is observed on 16th February 2022.

About Guru Ravidas Jayanti:

- "Guru Ravidass Jayanti" is the birthday of Guru Ravidas, celebrated on Magh Purnima, the full moon day in the month of Magh month.

Source: TOI

Important News: Polity

Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA)

Why in News

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) did not notify the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA)** rules, the third extended deadline after the Act was passed.
- January 9, 2022 was the last day of an extension sought from the two parliamentary committees in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to frame the rules.

Key Points

- Without rules, the CAA cannot be implemented.
- Earlier, it had sought time till April 9, 2021 and then July 9, 2021 from the committees to notify the rules which are to be published in the Gazette of India.
- On November 30 last, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed the Lok Sabha: "The persons covered under the CAA may apply for citizenship after the rules are notified under the CAA."

About CAA:

- The CAA was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019 and the Act was notified on December 12.
- In January 2020, the Ministry notified that the Act will come into force from January 10, 2020.
- The CAA provides citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians) from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before December 31, 2014.
- It exempts the members of the six communities from any criminal case under the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport Act, 1920.

- The two Acts specify punishment for entering the country illegally and staying here on expired visas and permits.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Economy

Report of second quarter of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)

Why in News

- Union Minister for Labour & Employment, Bhupender Yadav released the report of second quarter of **Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)** part of **All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES)**.
- The estimated total employment in the nine selected sectors in this round of QES (July-September, 2021) came out as 3.10 crore approximately, which is 2 lakhs higher than the estimated employment (3.08 crore) from the first round of QES (April-June, 2021).
- It is worthwhile to mention here that the total employment for these nine sectors taken collectively was reported as 2.37 crore in the sixth EC (2013-14).

Key Points

- The AQEES has been taken up to provide frequent (quarterly) updates about the employment and related variables of establishments in both organized and unorganized segments of nine selected sectors which account for a great majority of the total employment in the non-farm establishments.
- The nine selected sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation & Restaurant, IT/BPO and Financial Services.
- The report on Quarterly Employment Survey being a demand side survey along with supply side survey i.e. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) will bridge data gaps on employment in the country.

Source: PIB

Indian Government to become single largest shareholder in Vodafone Idea

Why in News

- **Vodafone Idea's** board has informed the telecom department that it will opt for converting the interest on spectrum and **Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)** dues into government equity.
- In this case, it would mean that the government will hold 35.8% stake and become the single largest shareholder in the third largest telecom of the country.

Key Points

- The Vodafone had to pay Rs 58,254 crores of Adjusted Gross Revenue to the Government of India. It has already paid around 7,000 crores of rupees.
- The company has converted this pending amount into shares.

Source: ET

FDI flows to India drop 26% in 2021: UNCTAD

Why in News

- According to the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**'s Investment Trends Monitor, **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** flows to India dropped 26 percent in 2021 as compared with the previous year.

Key Points

- Global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows showed a strong rebound in 2021, up 77 percent to an estimated \$1.65 trillion, from \$929 billion in 2020.
- Recovery of investment flows to developing countries is encouraging, but stagnation of new investment in least developed countries in industries important for productive capacities, and key Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) sectors - such as electricity, food or health - is a major cause for concern.
- Developed economies saw the biggest rise by far, with FDI reaching an estimated \$777 billion in 2021 - three times the exceptionally low level in 2020.
- FDI to India increased 27 percent to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019, pushed up by acquisitions in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry.

Source: ET

SEBI launches Saaṛthi mobile app

Why in News

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** launched “**Saaṛthi**” – a mobile app on investor education.

Key Points

- The Saaṛthi mobile app aims to create awareness among investors about the basic concepts of the securities market.
- The app will also explain about KYC process, trading and settlement, mutual funds (MF), recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc.

Need: According to NSE (National Stock Exchange) data, the share of Individual investors increased to 45% in 2021 from 39% in 2020.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- It was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Defence and Science

Western Naval Command conducts Joint Maritime Exercise: Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)

Why in News

- A joint maritime exercise **Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)** conducted by the Indian Navy off the West Coast was concluded on 25 January 2022.

Key Points

- 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.**

Source: PIB

Delivery of 50Ton Bollard Pull Tugs “Balbir” to Naval Dockyard Mumbai

Why in News

- Contract for construction of 50Ton Bollard Pull Tugs was concluded with M/s Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, Visakhapatnam in February 2019.
- The Fourth tug in the series, “**Balbir**” has been delivered to Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on **24 Jan 2022.**

Key Points

- These tugs have been designed and built under the classification rules of Indian Register for Shipping (IRS) with a service life of 20 years and are capable of assisting large naval ships, including Aircraft Carrier and Submarines in berthing, unberthing, turning and manoeuvring in confined waters and in harbour.
- With all major and auxiliary equipment/system sourced from indigenous manufacturers, these tugs are proud flag bearers of “Make in India, Make for the World” initiatives of Ministry of Defence in consonance with “Atmanirbhar Bharat”.

Note:

Tugs “**Veeran**” and “**Balraj**” were inducted on 22 Oct 2021 and 31 Dec 2021 at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam respectively and “**Balram**” on 30 Oct 2021 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

Source: PIB

Saab awarded Indian contract for AT4 Support Weapon

Why in News

- **Swedish defence company Saab** has been awarded a contract to supply single-shot **anti-armour weapon AT4** to the Indian armed forces.

Key Points

- The company has been awarded the contract for the lightweight and fully disposable weapon after going through a "competitive programme".
- AT4 will be used by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.
- The contract was signed by FFV Ordnance AB, responsible for Saab’s Ground Combat offer in India.
- Operated by a single soldier, this single-shot system has proven efficacy against structures, landing craft, helicopters, armoured vehicles and personnel.
- Its 84 mm calibre warhead offers enhanced power and performance.

Source: ET

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: Appointment

Vinodanand Jha appointed as new chairperson of the PMLA Adjudicating Authority

Why in News

- **Vinodanand Jha** has been appointed as the chairperson of the **PMLA Adjudicating Authority** for a period of 5 years.

Key Points

- Vinodanand Jha, a 1983-batch retired IRS officer has been serving as the Member (Finance and Accounts) in the Authority since September 2018.
- The PMLA Adjudicating Authority is a three-member body whose mandate is to adjudicate the cases of attachment of assets orders issued under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)**.

About Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002:

- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted by the NDA government to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from money-laundering.
- PMLA and the Rules notified there under came into force with effect from July 1, 2005.

Source: The Hindu

BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, with enhanced capability, successfully test-fired

Why in News

- **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**, with increased indigenous content and improved performance, was successfully test-fired from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

Key Points

- The launch was conducted by Brahmos Aerospace in close coordination with the teams of **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- BrahMos Aerospace has been continuously upgrading the powerful, highly versatile BrahMos to increase its effectiveness and lethality against sea and land targets.

BrahMos missiles:

- A combination of the names of Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers, BrahMos missiles are designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by DRDO and NPOM of Russia.
- The first test launch of the initial version Brahmos took place in 2001.

- Various types of the BrahMos including those which can be fired from land, warships, submarines and Sukhoi-30 fighter jets have already been developed and successfully tested since then.

Note: Earlier on January 11, 2022, the country had successfully test-fired BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile from the Indian Navy's INS Visakhapatnam warship.

Source: Indian Express

BSF's "Operation Sard Hawa"

Why in News

- The **Border Security Force (BSF)** will increase surveillance along the Pakistan border in Rajasthan under its "**Operation Sard Hawa**" from January 23 to 28, 2022.

Key Points

- Due to fog and haze on the border during winter, the force remains on "high alert" to deal with infiltration and other nefarious activities from across the border.
- All personnel and officers of the headquarters will remain on the border during this period and will monitor the situation 24 hours.

Note: The BSF conducts "Operation Garam Hawa" in summer and "Operation Sard Hawa" in winter every year.

Source: ET

In a first, India to export Brahmos missiles to the Philippines

Why in News

- **India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** will be exported first time and missiles will be purchased by Philippines.
- The Philippines has approved the purchase of anti-ship cruise missile BrahMos. This deal has been done for about \$ 374.9 million.

Key Points

- **BrahMos Aerospace**, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missile 'BrahMos' that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms.
- The BrahMos order is the first major military export by India.
- Last year, India and the Philippines signed a defence arrangement that would enable export of defence equipment to Manila.
- Other countries in Southeast Asia, including Vietnam and Indonesia, have also expressed their interest in buying BrahMos from India, to which end discussions are ongoing.

Note: Recently, the Indian Navy and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile.

Source: India Today

Indian Navy conducts Passage Exercise (PASEX) with Russian Navy

Why in News

- Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer, INS Kochi, conducted Passage Exercise (PASEX) with Russian Navy's RFS Admiral Tributs on 14 January 2022 in the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built Guided Missile Destroyer INS Kochi along with RFS Admiral Tributes of the Russian Navy undertook the Passage Exercise (PASEX) in the Arabian Sea on 14 January 2022.

Key Points

- This is for the first time that the Indian Navy has tested its indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer and was tested with the Russian Federation Navy to showcase India's defence capabilities.
- The exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies and included tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations and seamanship activities.

Exercise between India and Russia:

- Indra: Joint Exercise (Army, Navy, Air Force)

Source: TOI

Science

India's first coal to methanol plant built by BHEL

Why in News

- Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated **India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' (CTM) pilot plant** to the nation.
- The Minister also inaugurated an exhibition on Products Developed under Aatmanirbhar Bharat' organised at Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited's (BHEL) Hyderabad unit.

Key Points

- This conversion of high-ash Indian coal to methanol through the gasification route is the first-of-its-kind technology demonstration in India.
- The 0.25 TPD (tonnes per day) capacity CTM pilot plant that has been indigenously designed, developed and installed by BHEL is currently producing methanol with purity of more than 99 percent from high-ash Indian coal.

Note: BHEL will also assist Coal Gasification Mission and Coal to Hydrogen Production for Hydrogen Mission.

Source: Business Standard

Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan: ISRO

Why in News

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully conducted qualification tests of the **Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan human space programme**.

Key Points

- The ISRO Propulsion Complex in Tamil Nadu conducted the test for 720 seconds duration and met the test objectives.

- The engine will further undergo four more tests for a cumulative duration of 1810 seconds.
- The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III launch vehicle to be used for the Gaganyaan programme will use two cryogenic engines.
- This engine developed by ISRO is named as Vikas.

Note:

- India's first Human Space Mission '**Gaganyaan**' will be launched in 2023.
- ISRO is planning to conduct the first Unmanned Mission under Gaganyaan program by the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

Source: The Hindu

Awards and Honours

President approves 384 Gallantry awards for Armed Forces personnel; Neeraj Chopra honoured with PVSM

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has approved awards of **384 Gallantry** and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day celebrations.
- These include **12 Shaurya Chakras** including, 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 4 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 53 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 13 Yudh Seva Medals, 3 Bar to Vishisht Seva Medals, 122 Vishisht Seva Medals, 3 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry). Besides, 81 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 2 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), 40 Sena Medals for Devotion to Duty, 8 Nao Sena Medals and 14 Vayu Sena Medals have been approved Devotion to Duty.
- Out of the total 12 Shaurya Chakra Awardees, 9 of them have been awarded posthumously. They include Subedar Sreejith M of 17th Battalion of the Madras Regiment, Havildar Anil Kumar Tomar, Rajput Regiment, the 44th Battalion The Rashtriya Rifles and Havildar Pinku Kumar, the Jat Regiment, 34th Battalion the Rashtriya Rifles.
- Olympian **Neeraj Chopra** who is a Subedar in the Indian Army has been honoured with **Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM)** on the eve of Republic Day. Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal for India in the javelin throw event at Tokyo Olympics.

Source: newsonair

Padma Awards 2022

About Padma Awards:

- Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.
- The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.
- These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.

Padma Awards 2022:

- This year the President has approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 2 duo case (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one).
- The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards.
- 34 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.
- 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.

Following are some notable names from the Padma awards:

- **Padma Vibhushan:** Kalyan Singh, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh (posthumous); General Bipin Rawat, India's first chief of defence staff (posthumous)
- **Padma Bhushan:** Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, former West Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Covaxin maker Bharat Biotech's chairman Krishna Ella and his co-founder wife Suchitra Ella, Serum Institute of India (SII) managing director Cyrus Poonawalla
- Key names from Big Tech, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai, were also named as Padma Bhushan recipients.
- **Padma Shri:** Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, Olympians Pramod Bhagat, and Vandana Kataria, singer Sonu Nigam

Source: PIB

Jai Bhim and Marakkar eligible for Best Feature Film at Oscars 2022

Why in News

- Suriya's Jai Bhim and Mohanlal's Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham are eligible for Best Feature Film at Oscars 2022.

Key Points

- Suriya's Jai Bhim, directed by TJ Gnanavel, premiered on Amazon Prime Video in November 2021.
- Jai Bhim is the only Tamil film to get shortlisted for the Best Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards.
- Among the 276 films that have been shortlisted across the world, Jai Bhim and the Malayalam film, Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham, have been chosen from India.
- The award ceremony is scheduled on March 27, 2022, in Hollywood, US.

Source: Indian Express

Former Japan PM Shinzo Abe conferred Netaji Award 2022

Why in News

- **Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe** was conferred with the **Netaji Award 2022** by Netaji Research Bureau.

Key Points

- 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.

- Moreover, in January 2021, India bestowed the Padma Vibhushan on former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the country's second-highest civilian honour.

Source: India Today

Prajakta Koli becomes India's first UNDP Youth Climate Champion

Why in News

- Prajakta Koli has become India's first **UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion.**

Key Points

- Prajakta Koli is a content creator on various online platforms like youtube, Instagram, etc.
- 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.

About UN Development Programme (UNDP):

- It is a United Nations organization tasked with helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.
- **Headquarters:** New York, United States
- **Founded:** 22 November 1965
- **Parent organization:** United Nations General Assembly

Source: Business Standard

India's Koozhangal wins best film award at 20th Dhaka International Film Festival

Why in News

- 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.
- Apart from this, four more Indian entries were included among the 17 awards given away for the films.

Key Points

Koozhangal:

- It's a Tamil-language drama directed by director PS Vinodraj and is produced by top South Indian actress Nayanthara and her husband Vignesh Shivan under their banner Rowdy Pictures.
- The film was screened at the 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam held in the Netherlands last year, where it received the Tiger Award at the festival.
- It was also selected as India's entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards, but did not make the final nomination.

Source: newsonair

Babar Azam named Captain Of ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year for 2021

- **Pakistani skipper Babar Azam** has been named as the captain of the **ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year for 2021.**

- The ICC Team of the Year recognises the 11 best players in men’s cricket who have impressed one and all with their performances in a calendar year, either with the bat, ball or their all-round performance.
- No Indian male player has found a place in the team of 11.
- However, in ICC Women’s T20I Team of the Year for 2021, **Smriti Mandhana** is the only Indian women player named in the 11 member team.
- England’s Nat Sciver has been made the captain of ICC Women’s T20I Team of the Year for 2021.

Source: India Today

Lavni artist from Maharashtra wins gold medal at International Folk Art Festival in Dubai

Why in News

- A young Lavni artist from Maharashtra, Sumit Bhale has won a gold medal at the **International Folk Art Festival in Dubai.**

Key Points

- **Lavani** is a genre of music popular in Maharashtra, India.
- Lavani is a combination of traditional song and dance, which is particularly performed to the beats of Dholki, a percussion instrument.
- Lavani is noted for its powerful rhythm. Lavani has contributed substantially to the development of Marathi folk theatre.
- Lavani dance originated from Maharashtra in 18th and 19th century.
- This dance form was popular in the Peshawari Dynasty that was situated in Pune.

Source: newsonair

Obituaries

Noted Kathakali Dancer & Padma Shri recipient Milena Salvini of France passes away

- **Noted Kathakali dancer Milena Salvini** of France passed away.
- Italian-born Salvini was a regular visitor to India, especially Kerala where she learnt Kathakali, and ran ‘Centre Mandapa’, a school for Indian dance forms, in Paris.
- The Government of India conferred the **Padma Shri** award on Salvini in 2019 for her contribution in the field of performing arts.

Source: Business Standard

Veteran archaeologist and epigraphist Ramachandran Nagasamy passes away

- Veteran archaeologist and epigraphist **Ramachandran Nagasamy** passed away.
- Nagasamy is known for his epigraphy research on the sculptures in Mahabalipuram.
- He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan award in 2018 for his research work in archeology and was also the recipient of Kalaimamani award — the highest civilian award, from the Tamil Nadu government.
- He was the first director of Tamil Nadu government’s Department of Archaeology.

Source: India Today

Shaoli Mitra, eminent theatre personality, actress passes away

- **Shaoli Mitra**, an eminent Bengali theatre personality, passed away.

- Mitra, who was the recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2003, Padma Shri in 2009, and Banga Bibhusan in 2012, will be remembered by her fans and critics alike for her solo performances as Draupadi in "Naathvati Anaathbat" and as Sita in "Sitakatha" or Bitata Bitangso.

Source: India Today

Renowned cartoonist Narayan Debnath passes away

Why in News

- Eminent cartoonist Narayan Debnath — the creator of unforgettable characters like Batul The Great, Nante and Fante — passed away.

Key Points

- Debnath was conferred with Padma Shri in 2021. He was conferred with the Sahitya Akademi award in 2013 and the West Bengal government also honoured him with Banga Bibhushan.
- The Rabindra Bharati University gave him an honorary D.Litt in 2015.

Source:TOI

Kathak maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj passes away

- Padma Vibhushan awardee and legendary Kathak dancer Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away at 83.
- Pandit Birju Maharaj, better known simply as Birju Maharaj, was an Indian dancer, composer, singer and exponent of the Lucknow "Kalka-Bindadin" Gharana of Kathak dance in India.
- **Kathak** is one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance.

Source: TOI

Padma Shri awardee Shanti Devi passes away

- Padma Shri awardee and social activist Shanti Devi passed away at 88.
- President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the Padma Shri upon Shanti Devi on January 25, last year, for her social work in the Maoist-hit Rayagada region.
- She served the poor for nearly six decades, dedicating her life to the education and upliftment of tribal girls.
- She was also associated with the Bhoodan movement and worked with Acharya Vinoba Bhave.

Source: TOI

Ranks and Indices

Books and Authors

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

A new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose titled 'Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist'

Why in News

- A new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose titled 'Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist' is all set to release in February, 2022.

Key Points

- The biography is authored by researcher and founder of 'Mission Netaji' **Chandrachur Ghose** and published by Penguin Random House India.
- The biography attempts to bring new perspectives on Netaji's thoughts on independent India's development, the problem of communalism, geopolitics, his political ideology, and how he negotiated with the political parties, revolutionary societies, and the government.

Source: TOI

New Appointments

Vikram Dev Dutt appointed as CMD of Air India

Why in News

- The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions appointed **Vikram Dev Dutt** as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Air India Limited**.

Key Points

- Vikram Dev Dutt is a 1993-batch IAS officer of **AGMUT** (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.

Note:

- In October 2021, the government accepted the highest bid made by a Tata Sons company for 100 percent equity shares of Air India and Air India Express along with its 50 percent stake in ground-handling company AISATS.
- The government had signed the share purchase agreement with Tata Sons for the sale of national carrier Air India for Rs 18,000 crore.

Source: Business Today

Roberta Metsola becomes European Parliament's new president

Why in News

- **Roberta Metsola**, Centre-right Maltese lawmaker, was chosen to head the **European Parliament**.
- Her election comes a week after the shock death of outgoing parliament president David Sassoli.

Key Points

- Roberta Metsola has become the only third woman to hold the position.
- She is also viewed as a political moderate despite the controversy over her anti-abortion stance.
- She is a member of the biggest Parliamentary bloc, the European People's Party.

About European Parliament:

- The European Parliament is one of three legislative branches of the European Union and one of its seven institutions.
- Together with the Council of the European Union, it adopts European legislation, commonly on the proposal of the European Commission.
- The Parliament is composed of 705 members.
- **Headquarters:** Strasbourg, France
- **Founded:** 10 September 1952, Europe

Source: newsonair

Narendra Goenka takes over as new Chairman of AEPC

Why in News

- **Narendra Kumar Goenka** took charge of **Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)** as its new Chairman.
- Padma Shri Dr A Sakthivel handed over the charge to him.

Key Points

- Narendra Kumar Goenka was the Vice Chairman of the apex body of Indian apparel exporters before taking charge as Chairman, AEPC.

About Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC):

- AEPC is the official body of apparel exporters in India, under the aegis of Ministry of Textiles that provides invaluable assistance to Indian exporters as well as importers/international buyers.

Source: PIB

Eminent rocket scientist S Somanath appointed new chairman of ISRO

Why in News

- Eminent rocket scientist **S Somanath** has been appointed the new chairman of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** as well as the Space Secretary.

Key Points

- S Somanath will succeed K Sivan who completes his extended tenure as ISRO chief.
- He will be the 10th chairman of ISRO.
- He is currently Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- The post of the ISRO chairman, the Space Secretary and the Space Commission chief is usually held by one person only.

Source: newsonair

Alikhan Smailov named Kazakhstan's Prime Minister

Why in News

- Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev nominated **Alikhan Smailov** as the Prime Minister.

Key Points

- Alikhan Smailov has served as First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2019.

- This year, he served as the acting Prime Minister after the government resigned due to the fuel protests followed by terrorist uprising.

Source: TOI

IMF names Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas as next chief economist

Why in News

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** said that it has appointed French-born University of California-Berkeley economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas as the IMF's next chief economist.
- He will succeed Gita Gopinath, who as previously announced will join the IMF's management team as First Deputy Managing Director.

Key Points

- Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas will start part-time on January 24, 2022 and transition to full-time Fund work on April 1, 2022.

Facts about IMF (International Monetary Fund):

- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., U.S
- **Formation:** December 1945
- **Membership:** 190 countries
- **Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva

Source: The Hindu

Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel appointed vice-president of AIIB

Why in News

- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Urjit Patel** has been appointed as a vice-president of the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**.

Key Points

- Urjit Patel will succeed outgoing Vice President D J Pandian.
- Urjit Patel is currently the chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.
- He had taken over as the 24th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) succeeding Raghuram Rajan in September 2016 and was with RBI till December 2018.
- India has emerged as AIIB's biggest beneficiary by obtaining \$6.8 billion funding for 29 projects.

Facts about Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

- It is a multilateral development bank that aims to improve economic and social outcomes in Asia.
- **Headquarters:** Beijing, China
- **Membership:** 104 Members
- **Formation:** 16 January 2016

Source: newsonair

Chinese diplomat Zhang Ming takes over as new Secretary-General of SCO

Why in News

- Veteran Chinese diplomat, **Zhang Ming**, has taken over as the new Secretary-General of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.

Key Points

- Zhang Ming took over from Vladimir Norov, a former diplomat from Uzbekistan.
- Before joining SCO, Zhang served for four years as the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

- SCO or Shanghai Pact is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance.
- **Formed:** 15 June 2001
- **Members:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India & Pakistan.
- **Headquarter:** Beijing, China
- India became a full member of the SCO in 2017. Prior to that, India had an observer status, which was granted to it in 2005.

Note: 2022 will be an important year for India at SCO as, for the first time, it will assume the presidency of SCO, after Uzbekistan, for the period 2022-2023 which will culminate with the SCO Summit to be hosted by the Indian side in 2023.

Source: newsonair

Justice Ayesha Malik to be Pakistan's first woman Supreme Court judge

Why in News

- Pakistan has moved closer to appoint the first woman judge of the Supreme Court, after a high-power panel approved the elevation of Lahore High Court judge **Ayesha Malik** to the apex court.

Key Points

- The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) – headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed – approved Malik's elevation by a majority of five votes against four.
- Justice Malik became a high court judge in March 2012, and currently she is number four on the Lahore High Court (LHC) judge seniority list.

Source: Indian Express

Important Days

January 27, International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Why in News

- International Holocaust Remembrance Day or the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is an international memorial day on 27 January.

Key Points

- The day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust, which resulted in the murder of one third of the Jewish people, along with countless members of other minorities by Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945.
- 27 January was chosen to commemorate the date that Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated by the Red Army in 1945.
- It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 1 November 2005.

Source: un.org

January 25, National Voters' Day

Why in News

- **National Voters' Day (NVD)** is observed on January 25 every year.

Key Points

- **Theme** for NVD 2022 is 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.
- The day was established to mark Election Commission's foundation day on January 25 in 2011, by the Government of India.
- On the occasion, National Awards for the Best Electoral Practices for the year 2021-22 will be conferred on State and District level officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections in different spheres.

About ECI (Election Commission of India):

- It is a permanent and independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- **Formed:** 25 January 1950
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Commission executives:**

Sushil Chandra, Chief Election Commissioner

Rajeev Kumar, Election Commissioner

Anup Chandra Pandey, Election Commissioner

Source: India Today

January 25, National Tourism Day

Why in News

- **National Tourism Day** is celebrated on January 25 every year across the country.

Key Points

- This day is observed by the Government of India to encourage tourism and explain the essential role of tourism in the growth of the country.

Note: The **World Tourism Day** is celebrated on 27 September.

Source: India Today

January 23, Parakram Diwas

Why in News

- **Parakram Diwas (Bravery Day)** is celebrated in India on January 23rd.
- January 23, 2022, marks the 125th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.

Key Points

- It was introduced by the Government of India in 2021 ahead of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary.
- The day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- The central government has decided to start the Republic Day celebrations from January 23 to include Bose's anniversary.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was born in Cuttack, Orissa on 23 January 1897.
- He played a pivotal role in the Indian independence movement.
- He was the head of the Japanese-supported Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fouj).

- He was the founder-head of the Azad Hind Government.

Note: On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate.

Source: HT

January 24, National Girl Child Day

Why in News

- **National Girl Child Day** in India is celebrated on January 24 every year.
- The Ministry of Culture is organizing a rangoli making event 'Umang Rangoli Utsav' on 24th January 2022.

Key Points

- **History:** National Girl Child Day was first initiated in 2008 by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- The day is celebrated with organized programs including awareness campaigns about Save the Girl Child, child sex ratios, and the creation of a healthy and safe environment for girls.

Note: Every year, October 11 is observed as the **International Day of the Girl Child**.

Source: India Today

January 15, Indian Army Day

Why in News

- **Indian Army Day** is celebrated every year on January 15 in recognition of Field Marshal KM Cariappa as the first commander-in-chief of the Indian army.
- This year marks the 74th Army Day.

Key Points

- Indian Army Day's theme for the year 2022 was "**In Stride with the Future**".
- The Indian Army originated from the East India Company, which was known as the British Indian Army and later named the National Army after India's independence.

Note:

- **28th Chief of Army Staff:** General Manoj Mukund Naravane
- The new uniform of the Indian Army was unveiled on the occasion of the Army Day Parade.
- On the occasion of 74th Army Day, the world's largest Khadi national flag was displayed on the highest hill near Jaisalmer military station in Rajasthan.

Source: India Today

January 12, National Youth Day

Why in News

- **National Youth Day** is celebrated on January 12, every year in India to honor the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

Key Points

- In 1984 the Government of India declared this day as National Youth Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.
- Swami Vivekananda was born on January 12, 1863, in Kolkata.

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **25th National Youth Festival** on 12th January, 2022 in Puducherry.

Source: IndiaToday

January 10, World Hindi Day

Why in News

- **World Hindi Day** is celebrated every year on January 10.

Key Points

- Hindi is not only the country's most-spoken language, but it is **the third most-spoken language in the world** with 615 million speakers after English, Mandarin, according to the UN.
- Every year on January 10, World Hindi Day is marked to commemorate the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference that took place in 1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, had inaugurated the conference.
- World Hindi Day was observed for the first time in 2006.

Note: National Hindi Divas is celebrated annually on September 14.

Source: India Today

Sports

Lucknow's IPL team to be called Lucknow Super Giants

Why in News

- The Lucknow franchise of the IPL (Indian Premier League) will be called **Lucknow Super Giants**.

Key Points

- Last year, the franchise was purchased by the Sanjiv Goenka-owned RPSG group for an amount of Rs 7090 Crores.
- The other new team to enter the competition is from Ahmedabad who was bought by the Irelia Company Pvt Ltd. for Rs 5635 Crores.

Source: Indian Express

Smriti Mandhana named ICC Women's Cricketer of 2021

Why in News

- India's **Smriti Mandhana** has been named the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year for 2021.

Key Points

- Smriti has won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy awarded to the ICC Women's Cricketer of the year for the second time after 2018.
- Smriti has also become the second women's cricketer after Australia's Ellyse Perry to win the honour more than once.
- Mandhana was also named in the ICC Women's T20 International Team of the Year.

Source: newsonair

Syed Modi India International 2022

- The **Syed Modi India International** is an international badminton tournament, which is held annually in India.
- The tournament was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Badminton Association (UPBA) in 1991 as the 'Syed Modi Memorial Badminton Tournament' in memory of the Commonwealth Games champion Syed Modi.
- Venue: Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium, Lucknow, India

- Two-time Olympic medalist, **P.V. Sindhu** has won the **Women's singles title** at the Syed Modi International tournament 2022. Sindhu defeated compatriot Malvika Bansod.

List of winners:

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Winner- Not awarded	Winner- P V Sindhu (India)	Winner- Man Wei Chong (Malaysia), Tee Kai Wun (Malaysia)	Winner- Anna Cheong (Malaysia), Teoh Mei Xing (Malaysia)	Winner- Ishaan Bhatnagar (India), Tanisha Crasto (India)

Source: newsonair

Best FIFA Football Awards 2021

- The Best FIFA Football Awards is an association football award presented annually by the sport's governing body, FIFA.
- The first awarding ceremony was held on 9 January 2017 in Zürich, Switzerland

Best FIFA Football Awards 2021:

- The Best FIFA Men's Player: Robert Lewandowski
- The Best FIFA Women's Player: Alexia Putellas
- The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper: Edouard Mendy
- The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper: Christiane Endler
- The Best FIFA Men's Coach: Thomas Tuchel
- The Best FIFA Women's Coach: Emma Hayes
- FIFA Puskas Award: Erik Lamela
- FIFA Special Award: Cristiano Ronaldo

Note: Qatar will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Facts about FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association):

Founded: 21 May 1904

Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland

Membership: 211 national associations

President: Gianni Infantino

Source: HT

India tennis star Sania Mirza to retire after 2022 season

Why in News

- Former Wimbledon doubles champion **Sania Mirza**, one of India's most celebrated sports stars, has announced she will retire from tennis after 2022.

Key Points

- Sania Mirza's comments came after her first-round loss in the women's doubles in the Australian Open.
- She became the first Indian to win a WTA singles title in 2005.
- She has six Grand Slam titles in women's doubles and mixed doubles to her name.

Source: HT

2022 India Open (badminton)

- The 2022 India Open (officially known as the Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022 for sponsorship reasons) was a badminton tournament that took place at the K. D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, India, from 11 to 16 January 2022.
- The 2022 India Open was the first tournament of the 2022 BWF World Tour and was part of the India Open championships, which had been held since 1973.
- The tournament was organized by the Badminton Association of India with sanction from the Badminton World Federation.

List of winners:

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Winner- Lakshya Sen (India)	Winner- Busanan Ongbamrunghan (Thailand)	Winner- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (India), Chirag Shetty (India)	Winner- Benyapa Aimsaard (Thailand), Nuntakarn Aimsaard (Thailand)	Winner- Terry Hee (Singapore), Tan Wei Han (Singapore)
Runner-up- Loh Kean Yew (Singapore)	Runner-up- Supanida Katethong (Thailand)	Runner-up- Mohammad Ahsan (Indonesia), Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)	Runner-up- Anastasiia Akchurina (Russia), Olga Morozova (Russia)	Runner-up- Chen Tang Jie (Malaysia), Peck Yen Wei (Malaysia)

Note: Young shuttler **Tasnim Mir** became the first Indian to grab the **world no 1 ranking in the under-19 girls singles** in the latest BWF junior rankings.

Source: newsonair

Virat Kohli steps down as Indian Cricket Team's Test Captain

Why in News

- **Virat Kohli** has stepped down as the Test captain of the Indian Men's cricket team.

Key Points

- Less than three months after he decided to step down as skipper of India's T20I and ODI teams, Virat Kohli has relinquished the captaincy of the Test side.
- Kohli replaced MS Dhoni as the captain of the Indian team and became the most successful Test captain with 40 wins in 68 matches.
- He became the first-ever Asian captain to win a Test series in Australia.
- His decision to leave Test captaincy comes a day after India lost the three-match Test series against South Africa.

Source: newsonair

West Indies legend Clive Lloyd awarded knighthood for his services to Cricket

Why in News

- **Clive Lloyd**, the former Captain of the West Indies Cricket team, has been given the honour of knighthood for his services to the game of Cricket.

Key Points

- He was also a former West Indies team manager and selector, and ICC Match Referee. In 2009 he was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
- A **knighthood** is a title that is given to a man by a British king or queen for his achievements or his service to his country. A man who has been given a knighthood can put ' Sir' in front of his name instead of ' Mr'.

Source: ndtv



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January Month Current Affairs Quiz

1. National Girl Child Day is celebrated every year on which day in India?

- A. 04 January
- B. 23 January
- C. 24 January
- D. 25 January

2. Parakram Diwas (Brave Day) is celebrated on which day in India?

- A. 04 January
- B. 23 January
- C. 24 January
- D. 25 January

3. Who has been named as the captain of the ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year for 2021?

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. Kane Williamson
- C. Babar Azam
- D. Dasun Shanaka

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022-

- i. Professor Vinod Sharma (in the Individual category) have been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.
- ii. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 10 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

5. Consider the following statements regarding the FDI Flows into India in 2021-

- i. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s Investment Trends Monitor, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India dropped 26 percent in 2021 as compared with the previous year.
- ii. Global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows showed a strong rebound in 2021, up 77 percent to an estimated \$1.65 trillion, from \$929 billion in 2020 .

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

6. Which company has been awarded the contract to supply single-shot anti-armor weapon AT4 to the Indian Armed Forces?

- A. Lockheed Martin
- B. Saab
- C. Goodrich
- D. Boeing

7. National Tourism Day is celebrated every year on which date across the country?

- A. 24 January
- B. 25 January
- C. 28 January
- D. 30 January

8. Consider the following Statements regarding the National Voters' Day-

- i. National Voters' Day (NVD) is observed on January 25 every year.
- ii. The theme for this year is, 'Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed',

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii

D. Neither i nor ii

9. Which Indian film won the Best Film award at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival?

- A. Koozhangal
- B. Sunny
- C. The Seventh String
- D. Aandaal

10. Who has become India's first United Nations Development Program (UNDP) youth climate champion?

- A. Kriti Tula
- B. Sneha Shahi
- C. Laxmi Agarwal
- D. Prajakta Koli

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Netaji Award 2022-

i. Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by Netaji Research Bureau.

ii. Japan's Consul General in Kolkata Nakamura Yutaka received the honor on behalf of Abe on the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

12. PV Sindhu has won the women's singles title in the Syed Modi International Tournament 2022 by defeating whom?

- A. Jwala Gutta
- B. Ashwini Ponnappa
- C. Malvika Bansod
- D. Gayathri Gopichand

13. Ramachandran Nagaswamy who passed away recently was an acclaimed _____.

- A. Politician
- B. Musician
- C. Actor

D. Epigraphist

14. Who was declared the ICC Women's Cricketer of 2021?

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

15. Marakkar and which other film has been selected for Best Feature Film at Oscar 2022?

- A. Mandela
- B. Jai Bheem
- C. Bhuj
- D. Karnan

16. Consider the following statements regarding Padma Awards 2022 –

- i. This year the President has approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards, the list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards.
- ii. 30 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

17. Consider the following statements regarding India, Israel friendship-

- i. India and Israel have launched a commemorative logo to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.
- ii. The logo features the Star of David and the Ashoka Chakra- the two symbols that adorn the national flags of both countries

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

18.Which section of the Vision Document on Electronics Manufacturing was released by the Ministry of Electronics and IT?

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth

19.What is the name of IPL team of Lucknow?

- A. Lucknow Warrior
- B. Lucknow Super Giants
- C. Lucknow Giants
- D. Lucknow Kings

20.International Holocaust Remembrance Day or International Day in Commemoration of the Victims of the Holocaust is observed on which date?

- A. 12 January
- B. 24 January
- C. 25 January
- D. 27 January

21.Milena Salvini who passed away recently was related to which field?

- A. Kathakali Dancer
- B. Scientist
- C. Author
- D. Social Activist

22.Consider the following statements regarding Gallantry awards-

- i. President Ram Nath Kovind has approved awarding of 384 Gallantry awards.
- ii. Olympian Neeraj Chopra who is a Subedar in the Indian Army has been honoured with Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM)

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

23.Consider the following statements regarding the Fit India Quiz 2021-

i. Divyanshu Chamoli of Delhi Public School, Greater Noida won the top spot, he was closely followed by Shashwat Mishra of Sunbeam School, Lahartara, Varanasi in fit India Quiz.

ii. The Quiz has a prize money of 2.25 crores which will be given out to winning schools and students at various phases of the quiz.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

24. Who has been appointed as the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority chairman?

- A. Ananya Ray
- B. Vinodanand Jha
- C. Dinesh Kumar Khara
- D. Ajay Tyagi

25. How many new districts have been formed by the Andhra Pradesh government?

- A. 10
- B. 13
- C. 16
- D. 17

26. India's first Graphene Innovation Center will open in which state?

- A. Gujrat
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Kerala

27. Country's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot to be a part of Indian Air Force (IAF) tableau at Republic Day Parade 2022 is –

- A. Avani Chaturvedi
- B. Mohana Singh
- C. Shivangi Singh
- D. Bhawana Kanth

28. Consider the following statements regarding the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021-

i. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021 was released by Transparency International and India ranks 84th in the index.

ii. Finland, Denmark, New Zealand and Norway topped the list with the highest score.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

29. Consider the following statements regarding the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-

i. The ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) chairman Dr S Somanath has mentioned the launch of an "SSLV-D1 Micro SAT" in April 2024

ii. 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).

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

30. India paid how many million USD to the United Nations regular budget assessment for 2022?

- A. 25 million
- B. 27 million
- C. 28.9 million
- D. 29.9 million

31. Indian Army Day is celebrated on which day?

- A. 24 January
- B. 25 January
- C. 15 January
- D. 09 January

32. Indian Navy recently conducted Passage Exercise (PASEX) with which country's Navy?

- A. United State of America
- B. Russia
- C. Indonesia

D. Sri Lanka

33. India has provided financial assistance of more than USD 900 million to which country to overcome the foreign exchange crisis?

- A. Nepal
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Madagascar

34. Consider the following statements regarding the National Startup Awards 2021-

- i. A total of 46 Startups have been recognized as winners of National Startup Awards 2021
- ii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that January 15 will be celebrated as National Startup Day

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

35. Consider the following statements regarding the Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan Mission of ISRO-

- i. The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III launch vehicle to be used for the Gaganyaan program.
- ii. This engine developed by ISRO is named as Vikas.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

36. To which country will India export BrahMos missile for the first time?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Philippines
- D. Thailand

37. Pandit Birju Maharaj was related to which dance form?

- A. Bharatnatyam
- B. Kathak
- C. Kathakali
- D. Kuchipudi

38. Who has won the 2022 India Open (Badminton) men's singles title?

- A. LOH Kean Yew
- B. NG Tze Yong
- C. Lakshya Sen
- D. Sameer Verma

39. For which art form Sumit Bhale of Maharashtra won the gold medal at the International Folk Art Festival in Dubai?

- A. Kathkali
- B. Lavani
- C. Povadas
- D. Koli

40. Consider the following statements regarding the Oxfam India's "Inequality Kills" Report –

- i. India has the fourth highest number of billionaires in the world, just behind China, United States and France.
- ii. In 2021, the collective wealth of India's 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 lakh crore (USD 775 billion).

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

41. Consider the following statements regarding the CISO Deep Dive Training program under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative-

- i. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is organizing 25th CISO (Chief Information Security Officers) Deep Dive Training program.
- ii. The objective of the program is to train 1500 CISOs and frontline IT officials.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

42.The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has asked to make at least how many airbags mandatory in vehicles carrying 8 passengers?

- A. 5
- B. 6
- C. 7
- D. 8

43.The book 'Bose: The Untold Story of an Inconvenient Nationalist' has been authored by

- A. Ramchanda Guha
- B. Chandrachur Ghosh
- C. Sagarika Ghose
- D. Rupesh Singh

44.Narayan Debnath, who passed away recently, was related to which field?

- A. Politician
- B. Musician
- C. Scientist
- D. Cartoonist

45.Who has been appointed as the new chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)?

- A. A . Sakthivel
- B. Narendra Kumar Goenka
- C. Virendra Uppal
- D. Premal Udani

46.Consider the following statements regarding WEF (World Economic Forum)'s Davos Agenda -

- i. Davos Agenda 2022 will be held from 17th to 21st January 2022
- ii. The theme of the event is "The State of the Universe."

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii

- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

47. Consider the following statements regarding the BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee-

- i. India has successfully handed over the BRICS Chairmanship to Russia from January 2022
- ii. The theme for BRICS 2022 is "Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development".

Which of the statements given above is /are Incorrect?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

48. India's first coal to methanol plant has been built by-

- A. Bharat Electronics Limited
- B. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- C. Steel Authority of India Limited
- D. National Thermal Power Corporation Limited

49. Which tennis star of India has recently announced to retire after the 2022 season?

- A. Rohan Bopanna
- B. Sania Mirza
- C. Somdev Devvarman
- D. Karman Kaur Thandi

50. Who has been given the Best FIFA men's player at the FIFA Football Awards 2021?

- A. Cristiano Ronaldo
- B. Edouard Mendy
- C. Lionel Messi
- D. Robert Lewandowski

51. Who has been chosen as the new President of the European Parliament?

- A. Kosma Złotowski
- B. Sira Rego
- C. Roberta Metsola
- D. Alice Bah Kuhnke

52. Consider the following statements regarding the International Labour Organization (ILO) World Employment and Social Outlook-Trends 2022-

- i. Global unemployment is projected to stand at 207 million in 2022
- ii. International Labour Organization (ILO) headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

53. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)-

- i. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, approved the equity infusion of Rs.2000 crore in IRDEA.
- ii. This equity infusion will help in the employment generation of approximately 10,200 jobs-year.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

54. The cabinet has approved the extension of the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis by how many years?

- A. 2 Years
- B. 3 Years
- C. 4 Years
- D. 5 Years

55. Who has been appointed as the CMD of Air India?

- A. Ashwani Lohani
- B. Rohit Nandan
- C. Vikram Dev Dutt
- D. M. Damodaran

56. "Operation Sard Hwa " is conducted by?

- A. Delhi government
- B. Border Security Forces
- C. Indian Meteorological Department
- D. Central Reserved Police force

57. "Saaṛthi" mobile app has been launched by?

- A. Reserve Bank of India
- B. State Bank of India
- C. Life Insurance Corporation
- D. Security and Exchange Board of India

58. Consider the following Statements regarding the Social Housing Units Project in Mauritius-

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth jointly laid the foundation stone of a state-of-the-art civil service college and 20 MW solar PV farm
- ii. Government of India will provide Line of Credit of US\$ 190 million to Mauritius.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

59. Consider the following statements regarding the Devas-Antrix deal-

- i. Under the deal, ISRO would lease to Devas two communication satellites (GSAT-6 and 6A) for 15 years for Rs 167 crore.
- ii. The Supreme Court has kept the \$1.5 billion awarded by International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) tribunal award in abeyance.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

60. The first meeting of the BRICS Sherpas of 2022 was held under the chairmanship of which country?

- A. Brazil
- B. South Africa

- C. India
- D. China

61. World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on which day?

- A. 12 January
- B. 09 January
- C. 10 January
- D. 24 January

62. Who has authored the book "Gandhi Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India"?

- A. Jhumpa Lahiri
- B. Amitav Ghosh
- C. Amish Tripathi
- D. Dharendra K Jha

63. Who has taken over as the new Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

- A. Vladimir Norov
- B. Zhang Ming
- C. Zhang Haizhou
- D. Yerik Sarsbek Ashimov

64. Consider the following statements regarding the National Water Awards-2020-

- i. Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced 3rd National Water Awards-2020.
- ii. In the Best State category, Rajasthan has been awarded first prize, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

65. Consider the following statements regarding The Election Commission-

- i. The Election Commission announced the schedule for assembly elections in 4 states Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Manipur.

ii. The name of the Chief Election Commissioner is Rajiv Kumar.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

66. Which of the following countries is not involved in the Sea Dragon 22 exercise?

- A. Australia
- B. India
- C. Indonesia
- D. Canada

67. Who has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?

- A. D J Pandian
- B. Urjit Patel
- C. Raghuram Rajan
- D. Mr. Jin Liqun

68. Who has become the 73rd Chess Grandmaster (GM) of India?

- A. Mitrabha Guha
- B. Sankalp Gupta
- C. Bharath Subramaniam
- D. Raja Rithvik

69. On the auspicious occasion of Prakash Parv of Shri Guru Gobind Singh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to observe which date as 'Veer Bal Diwas'?

- A. 01 January
- B. 26 December
- C. 04 January
- D. 29 December

70. Consider the following statement regarding the Startup India Innovation Week-

- i. This is the first-ever Startup India Innovation Week (National Innovation Week) from 10th – 16th Jan 2022.
- ii. Startups are the key reason behind India's meteoric rise in Global Innovation Index from 76 in 2014 to 50 in 2021.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

71.Consider the following statements regarding the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) Guidelines and Standards for Universal Accessibility in India 2021-

- i. The guidelines state that the minimum apparent width of the ramp should be 1,500 mm.
- ii. The guidelines provide the gradient and length of ramps — for example, for a length of six metres, the gradient should be 1:8.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

72.Famous Prof. Chandrashekar Patil who passed away recently was related to which field?

- A. Politician
- B. Actor
- C. Writer
- D. Scientist

73.National Youth Day is celebrated on which date?

- A. 04 January
- B. 09 January
- C. 12 January
- D. 24 January

74.The Ministry of Railways has approved the renaming of Kevadiya Railway Station as Ekta Nagar Railway Station. This station is located at –

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujrat
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Haryana

75.Which has become the first city in India to launch the Water Metro Project?

- A. Palakkad
- B. Kozhikode
- C. Kochi
- D. Kollam

76. Consider the following statements regarding the India Skills 2021-

- i. 270 winners of India Skills 2021 National Competition felicitated with 61 gold, 77 silver, 53 bronze and 79 medallions of excellence.
- ii. Maharashtra topped the chart with 51 winners, followed by Odisha, 30 and Kerala, 25 winners.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

77. Consider the following statements regarding the 79th Golden Globe Awards (2022)-

- i. Best film in Drama category is "The Power of the Dog".
- ii. In Drama category Best Actor is Will Smith and Best Actress is Nicole Kidman.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

78. In which district of Uttar Pradesh government has declared four villages located near Nepal border as revenue villages?

- A. Balrampur
- B. Bahraich
- C. Lakhimpur – Kheri
- D. Basti

79. Who has received the 12th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022?

- A. Richa Chaddha
- B. Harshaali Malhotra
- C. Sunil Shetty

D. Mary kom

80. Who has been appointed as the next Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

- A. Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas
- B. Geeta Gopinath
- C. Carmen Reinhart
- D. Albert Park

81. Who has been nominated as the new Prime Minister of Kazakhstan?

- A. Kassym-Jomart
- B. Alikhan Smailov
- C. Askar Mamin
- D. Bakytzhan Sagintayev

82. Consider the following statement regarding the Henley Passport Index 2022-

- i. India ranks at 85th position in the Henley Passport Index 2022
- ii. Japan and Singapore have been ranked 1st, with passport holders having access to 192 destinations visa-free.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

83. Consider the following statement

- i. Indian Government to become single largest shareholder in Vodafone Idea with 35.8% stake.
- ii. Vodafone had to pay Rs 58,254 crore of adjusted gross revenue to the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

84. Where did PM Modi inaugurate MSME Technology Center?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Mumbai
- C. Puducherry
- D. Pune

85. The book titled "Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership" is based on whose autobiography?

- A. Nita Ambani
- B. Indra Nooyi
- C. Arundhati Roy
- D. Arundhati Bhattacharya

86. Who has been appointed as the new chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)?

- A. S. Ramakrishnan
- B. S. Somanath
- C. Mylswamy Annadurai
- D. P. Kunhikrishnan

87. The 17th edition of the Global Risk Report 2022, is published by?

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. World Economic Forum
- D. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

88. Consider the following statements regarding the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021-

i. The total forest and tree cover of the country is 80.9 million hectares which is 30.62 percent of the geographical area of the country.

ii. Top three states showing increase in forest cover are Telangana (647 sq km) followed by Andhra Pradesh (632 sq km) and Odisha (537 sq km).

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

89. Consider the following statements regarding the Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge-

i. India is the 3rd largest exporter of fish in the world as it contributes 7.7% to the global fish production.

ii. Government of India is providing all necessary assistance to achieve the export target of one lakh crore from this sector by 2024-25.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

90. David Bennett, the world's first human received a heart transplant of which animal?

- A. Monkey
- B. Pig
- C. Chimpanzee
- D. Baboons

91. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh?

- A. Amir Subhani
- B. Rajendra Kumar Tiwari
- C. Durga Shankar Mishra
- D. Anirudh Tiwari

92. Which of these personalities has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva?

- A. Pankaj Sharma
- B. Anupam Ray
- C. Subhashini Narayanan
- D. Ajit Kumar

93. Jhansi railway station in Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as-

- A. Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station
- B. Rani Laxmibai Railway Station
- C. Laxmibai Railway Station
- D. Vir Stri Laxmibai Railway Station

94. Which author has been given the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar for his/her debut novel "A Burning"?

- A. Himanshu Bajpai
- B. Namita Gokhale
- C. Raj Rahi
- D. Megha Majumdar

95. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Padhe Bharat' Campaign'-

- i. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a 150 days Reading Campaign 'Padhe Bharat'.
- ii. Padhe Bharat campaign will focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8th.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

96. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme-

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 10th instalment of financial benefit under PM-KISAN scheme.
- ii. Under the PM-KISAN scheme, a financial benefit of six thousand rupees per year is provided to the eligible family of farmers.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

97. World Braille Day is celebrated every year on which day?

- A. 09 January
- B. 10 January
- C. 04 January
- D. 12 January

98. India has won the Cricket U-19 Asia Cup 2021 by defeating which team?

- A. Pakistan
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Bangladesh

D. Nepal

E.

None of the above/More than one of the above

99.The new Director General for the National Mission for Clean Ganga is –

A. G. Asok Kumar

B. Vishal Kapoor

C. Jithesh John

D. Krishna Pal

100.Who among the following has assumed the charge of the new Director-General of Coast Guard?

A. Harish Bisht

B. Krishnaswamy Natarajan'

C. Virender Singh Pathania

D. Rajendra Singh

101.

Consider the following statements regarding the National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)-

i. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the ed-tech platform NEAT 3.0

ii. NEAT has 100 Education Technology Companies with 100 products to help students.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

A. Only i

B. Only ii

C. Both i and ii

D. Neither i nor ii

102.Consider the following statements regarding the National Air Sports Policy' 2022-

i. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has released draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP) 2022 for public feedback.

ii. The vision is to make India one of the top air sports nations by 2025

Which of the statements given above is /are incorrect?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

103. Who has been appointed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Vistara airline?

- A. Leslie Thng
- B. Vinod Kannan
- C. Ajay Singh
- D. Rono Dutta

104. Who is the first Indian-origin employee to be hired for Tesla's Autopilot team?

- A. Saurabh Chandra
- B. Saad Nasser
- C. Ashok Elluswamy
- D. Sanjeev Sharma

105. Which state ranks first in the list of most Open Defecation Free (ODF+) villages as of December 31, 2021, under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II program?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Karnataka
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Telangana

106. Consider the following statements regarding the PM's Excellence Award-

- i. The total number of Awards under the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2021 would be 20
- ii. Prize money for PM's Excellence Award doubled from Rs10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh in 2021

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

107. Consider the following statements regarding the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) –

- i. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) celebrated 65th Raising Day on January 01, 2022

ii. The DRDO Chairman is Dr G Satheesh Reddy.

Which of the statements given above is /are incorrect?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

108. Which is the first Union Territory in the country to have Good Governance Index at the district level?

- A. Delhi
- B. Chandigarh
- C. Jammu and Kashmir
- D. Lakshadweep

109. World Day for War Orphans is observed every year on which day?

- A. 10 January
- B. 4 January
- C. 6 January
- D. 24 January

110. Padma Shri recipient Sindhutai Sapkal who passed away recently was –

- A. Music Copmoser
- B. Social worker
- C. Actress
- D. Scientist

111. Prime Minister Abdullah Hamdok who recently announced his resignation is the Prime Minister of which country?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Somalia
- C. Sudan
- D. Libya

112. Consider the following statements regarding the One District One Product (ODOP) Scheme-

- i. One District One Product (ODOP) brands under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.
- ii. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has signed an agreement with NAFED for

developing 20 brands of selected ODOPs under the branding and marketing component of the PMFME scheme.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

113.Consider the following statements regarding the Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR) program-

- i. It is a joint initiative of MoHUA, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.
- ii. The first activity envisaged under SAAR is to prepare a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects in India under the Smart City Mission.

Which of the statements given above is /are incorrect?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

114.Who has become the first Indian-origin woman to travel solo to the South Pole?

- A. Harpreet Chandi
- B. Aparna Kumar
- C. Harmeet Chandi
- D. Purvi Gupta

115.Who authored the book titled 'Mamata: Beyond 2021'?

- A. Ayaj Memon
- B. Abhijit Banerjee
- C. Bhaskar Chattopadhyay
- D. Jayanta Ghosal

116.Who has been appointed as the interim Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)?

- A. Vartika Shukla
- B. Alka Mittal
- C. Usha Ananthasubramanian

D. Ranjana Kumar

117.The 25th National Youth Festival is being organized by which state or union territory?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Puducherry
- C. Orissa
- D. Jammu Kashmir

118.Consider the following statements regarding the United Nation Security Council (UNSC)-

- i. United Nation Security Council (UNSC) got five new non-permanent members (Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates).
- ii. Ghana is joining for the first time while Brazil is taking an 11th turn. Gabon and Albania each have been on the council three times before and the UAE once.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

119.Consider the following statements regarding the Green Energy Corridor Phase-II-

- i. Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II Provision for Intra-State Transmission System (INSTS) has been made to connect about 10,750 circuit kilometers of transmission lines.
- ii. The scheme will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of approximately 20 GW of Renewable Energy (RE) power projects in seven States namely, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. Only i
- B. Only ii
- C. Both i and ii
- D. Neither i nor ii

120.Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology; Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Earth Sciences inaugurated India's first unique Open Rock Museum in which city?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Delhi

D. Pune

Answer Key

1. Ans. C.	21. Ans. A.	41. Ans. D.	61. Ans. C.	81. Ans. B.	101. Ans. A.
2. Ans. B.	22. Ans. C.	42. Ans. B.	62. Ans. D.	82. Ans. B.	102. Ans. B.
3. Ans. C.	23. Ans. A.	43. Ans. B.	63. Ans. B.	83. Ans. C.	103. Ans. B.
4. Ans. A.	24. Ans. B.	44. Ans. D.	64. Ans. A.	84. Ans. C.	104. Ans. C.
5. Ans. C.	25. Ans. B.	45. Ans. B.	65. Ans. D.	85. Ans. D.	105. Ans. D.
6. Ans. B.	26. Ans. D.	46. Ans. A.	66. Ans. C.	86. Ans. B.	106. Ans. B.
7. Ans. B.	27. Ans. C.	47. Ans. A.	67. Ans. B.	87. Ans. C.	107. Ans. A.
8. Ans. A.	28. Ans. B.	48. Ans. B.	68. Ans. C.	88. Ans. D.	108. Ans. C.
9. Ans. A.	29. Ans. B.	49. Ans. B.	69. Ans. B.	89. Ans. B.	109. Ans. C.
10. Ans. D.	30. Ans. D.	50. Ans. D.	70. Ans. A.	90. Ans. B.	110. Ans. B.
11. Ans. C.	31. Ans. C.	51. Ans. C.	71. Ans. D.	91. Ans. C.	111. Ans. C.
12. Ans. C.	32. Ans. B.	52. Ans. C.	72. Ans. C.	92. Ans. B.	112. Ans. A.
13. Ans. D.	33. Ans. C.	53. Ans. B.	73. Ans. C.	93. Ans. A.	113. Ans. D.
14. Ans. C.	34. Ans. A.	54. Ans. B.	74. Ans. B.	94. Ans. D.	114. Ans. A.
15. Ans. B.	35. Ans. C.	55. Ans. C.	75. Ans. C.	95. Ans. B.	115. Ans. D.
16. Ans. A.	36. Ans. C.	56. Ans. B.	76. Ans. A.	96. Ans. C.	116. Ans. B.
17. Ans. B.	37. Ans. B.	57. Ans. D.	77. Ans. C.	97. Ans. C.	117. Ans. B.
18. Ans. B.	38. Ans. C.	58. Ans. B.	78. Ans. B.	98. Ans. B.	118. Ans. A.
19. Ans. B.	39. Ans. B.	59. Ans. D.	79. Ans. B.	99. Ans. A.	119. Ans. C.

20. Ans. D.	40. Ans. B.	60. Ans. D.	80. Ans. A.	100. Ans. C.	120. Ans. B.