

Monthly Current Affair March 2022

मासिक समसामयिकी
मार्च 2022



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International Relations

PM Narendra Modi addresses 5th BIMSTEC Summit

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the **5th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Summit** on 30 March 2022 hosted in virtual mode by Sri Lanka, the current chair of BIMSTEC.



Key Points

- The Summit's **theme** was "Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People".
- The main outcome of the Summit was the adoption and signing of the BIMSTEC Charter, which formalizes the grouping into an organization made up of member states that are littoral to, and dependent upon, the Bay of Bengal.
- Prime Minister Modi along with other leaders also witnessed the signing of three BIMSTEC agreements which represent progress being achieved in ongoing cooperation activities:
 - (i) BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters
 - (ii) BIMSTEC Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation in the field of Diplomatic Training
 - (iii) Memorandum of Association on Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility

Facts about BIMSTEC:

- Headquarters:** Dhaka, Bangladesh
 - Founded:** 6 June 1997
 - Member:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- Note:** With 21.7 percent of the world's population and combined GDP of USD 3.8 trillion, the BIMSTEC has emerged as an influential engine of economic growth.

Source: newsonair

UP's Moradabad 2nd most noise polluted city globally: UNEP Report



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Why in News

- The city of **Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh** is the second-most noise polluted city globally, according to the recent 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022' published by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- Moradabad has recorded noise pollution of a maximum of 114 decibels (dB).

NOISIEST CITIES

Dhaka (Bangladesh)	119 dB
Moradabad (UP, India)	114 dB
Islamabad (Pakistan)	105 dB
Rajshahi (Bangladesh)	103 dB
Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)	103dB

Key Points

- The report ranks 61 cities around the world.
- The highest noise pollution of 119 dB has been recorded in **Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh**.
- At third place is Pakistan's capital Islamabad, where the noise pollution level has been recorded at 105 dB.
- The report identifies 13 noise polluted cities in south Asia.
- Five of these, including Moradabad, are in India, which have recorded alarming levels of noise pollution: Kolkata (89 dB), Asansol (89 dB), Jaipur (84 dB), Delhi (83 dB).
- The quietest cities in the world are Irbrid at 60 dB, Lyon at 69 dB, Madrid at 69 dB, Stockholm at 70 dB, and Belgrade at 70 dB.
- The noise pollution figures given in the report relate to daytime traffic or vehicles.

Note:

- Sounds with a frequency over 70 dB are considered harmful to health.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) had recommended a 55 dB standard for residential areas in the 1999 guidelines, while for traffic and business sectors, the limit was 70 dB.
- The WHO set the limit of noise pollution on the road at 53 dB in 2018, taking into account health safety.

Source: TOI

Bucharest Nine (B9)

Why in News



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- Recently, the **Bucharest Nine** rejected the Russian claim about the eastward “expansion” of **NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)**.
- They underlined that North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is not an organisation that “expanded” to the east”, rather, these countries as the independent European states that decided on our own to go west.



Key Points

About Bucharest Nine (B9):

- It is a group of nine NATO countries in Eastern Europe that became part of the US-led military alliance after the end of the Cold War.
- It was founded on November 4, 2015, and takes its name from Bucharest, the capital of Romania.
- The group was created on the initiative of Klaus Iohannis, who has been President of Romania since 2014, and Andrzej Duda, who became President of Poland in August 2015, at the High-Level Meeting of the States from Central and Eastern Europe in Bucharest.

Composition:

- The B9 member states include Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- All members of the B9 are part of the European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Note: The B9 countries have been critical of President Vladimir Putin’s aggression against Ukraine since 2014, when the war in the Donbas started and Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula.

Source: Indian Express

Ministry of Ayush and WHO signs Host Country Agreement for WHO Global Centre of Traditional Medicine

Why in News



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- The Ministry of Ayush has signed the Host Country Agreement with **World Health Organization (WHO)** for establishing **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO-GCTM) in India** at Jamnagar, Gujarat, with its interim office at the Institute of Training and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) in Gujarat.
- The Agreement was signed in Geneva by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush and Director General, WHO Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.



Key Points

- This Centre will be supported by an investment of about USD 250 million from the Government of India.
- GCTM will be the first and only Global Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.
- It will focus on building a solid evidence base for policies and standards on traditional medicine practices and products and help countries integrate it as appropriate into their health systems and regulate its quality and safety for optimal and sustainable impact.
- Groundbreaking ceremony will take place on 21st April, 2022 in the august presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Source: PIB

NASA's Artemis I moon mission

Why in News

- Recently, the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** rolled out its **Artemis I moon mission** to the launchpad for testing at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, United States.

Key Points

- **NASA's Artemis mission** is touted as the next generation of lunar exploration.
- With the Artemis programme, NASA aims to land humans on the moon by 2024.
- **Artemis I (formerly Exploration Mission-1)** is the first of NASA's deep space exploration systems.



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- It is an uncrewed space mission where the spacecraft will launch on Space Launch System (SLS) — the most powerful rocket in the world — and travel 2,80,000 miles from the earth for over four to six weeks during the course of the mission.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Moon Exploration Efforts:

- Chandrayaan 1
- Chandrayaan-2
- ISRO recently announced India's third lunar mission **Chandrayaan-3**, which will comprise a lander and a rover.

Source: The Hindu

Delhi world's most polluted capital: World Air Quality Report 2021

Why in News

New Delhi continues to be the world's most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year, according to the **2021 World Air Quality Report**, prepared by Swiss organisation IQAir.



Key Points

- The report is based on PM2.5 air quality data from 6,475 cities in 117 countries, regions, and territories around the world.
- The data used to create this report was generated by tens of thousands of regulatory and low-cost air quality monitoring stations operated by governments, non-profit organizations, research institutions, educational facilities, companies, and citizen scientists around the world.

Globally:

- Bangladesh** was the most polluted country in 2021, followed by Chad, Pakistan and Tajikistan. India was the fifth most polluted country.
- Among the cities, Dhaka was the second most polluted city in the world with a PM 2.5 level of 78.1 just below New Delhi which had a PM 2.5 level of 85.1 in 2021.
- Notably, these exceeded the WHO PM2.5 limit of 0-5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ by over 10-15 times.
- The data reveals that not a single country in the world managed to meet the WHO's air quality standard in 2021.

In India:

- The index listed 35 Indian cities with the worst air quality tag for 2021 with Rajasthan's Bhiwadi topping the list followed closely by Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad.



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- In fact, none of the cities in India met the prescribed World Health Organization air quality standards of 5 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).

Source: TOI

Finlandization

Why in News

- Recently, the French President Emmanuel Macron suggested **Finlandization** might be a realistic outcome for Ukraine if and when the Russia-Ukraine war ends.



Key Points

About Finlandization:

- Finlandization refers to the policy of strict neutrality between Moscow and the West that Finland followed during the decades of the Cold War.
- The principle of neutrality was rooted in the Agreement of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance (or YYA Treaty, from the Finnish "Ystävyys-, yhteistyö- ja avunantosopimus") that Finland signed with the USSR in April 1948.
- Article 1 of the treaty (translated) reads: "In the eventuality of Finland, or the Soviet Union through Finnish territory, becoming the object of an armed attack by Germany or any state allied with the latter (meaning, essentially, the United States), Finland will, true to its obligations as an independent state, fight to repel the attack."

Note: It will soon be a month since Russia invaded Ukraine, and despite several rounds of talks between the representatives of the two sides, it remains unclear when and how the war might end. Russia invoked the threat of Ukraine joining NATO as a pretext for the invasion; President Volodymyr Zelenskyy however, appeared to acknowledge last week that his country will not be part of the US-led military alliance in the foreseeable future.

Source: Indian Express

World Happiness Report 2022



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Why in News

- **World Happiness Report 2022 (10th edition)** was released on March 18, 2022, which identified Finland as the happiest country of the world, for the fifth time in a row.



Key Points

Top 3 countries of the World Happiness Report, 2022:

1. Finland
 2. Denmark
 3. Iceland
- **India**, meanwhile, saw a marginal improvement in its ranking, jumping three spots to 136, from 139 a year ago.
 - Published since 2012, the World Happiness Report is based on two key ideas – happiness or life evaluation measured through opinion surveys and identifying key elements that determine well-being and life evaluation across countries.
 - Published by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**, the report contains rankings of national happiness based on several factors, and primarily on the responses by the individuals.
 - The World Happiness Report usually ranks 150 countries based on several factors such as real GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption.
 - This year, the report ranked 146 countries.

Note: **International Day of happiness** is observed every year around the world on March 20.

Source: HT

India emerges as the largest importer of arms in 2017-21: SIPRI Report

Why in News

- The latest report of the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021, released in March 2022, reveals that **India and Saudi Arabia** had emerged as the largest arms importers of arms between 2017-21.



Key Points

- SIPRI has identified 163 states as importers of major arms in 2017-21.
- The top 5 arms importers-India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Australia and China-together received 38 percent of total global arms imports in 2017-21.
- Between 2012-16 and 2017-21 Indian arms imports decreased by 21 percent.
- Despite this, India was the world's largest importer of major arms in 2017-21 and accounted for 11 percent of total global arms imports in the period.
- Russia was the largest supplier of major arms to India in both 2012-16 and 2017-21, but India's imports of Russian arms dropped by 47 percent between the two periods as several large programmes for Russian arms wound down.
- In contrast, India's arms imports from France increased more than tenfold, making it India's second largest arms supplier in 2017-21.

Source: ET

Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR)

Why in News

- U.S. President Joe Biden announced that the U.S. and others in the Group of Seven (G7) advanced economies would end **Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR)** with Russia as Moscow pursues its invasion of Ukraine.
- Additional steps announced by Mr. Biden included an effort by the G7 to stop Russia borrowing from international institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.



Key Points

About Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR):

- PNTR is a legal designation in the United States for free trade with a foreign nation.
- The designation was changed from Most Favored Nation (MFN) to normal trade relations by Section 5003 of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998.

About Most Favored Nation (MFN):

- In international economic relations and international politics, Most Favoured Nation (MFN) is a status or level of treatment accorded by one state to another in international trade.
- The term means the country which is the recipient of this treatment must nominally receive equal trade advantages as the "Most Favoured Nation" by



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the country granting such treatment (trade advantages include low tariffs or high import quotas).

- Article 1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), 1994, requires every WTO member country to accord MFN status to all other member countries.

Note: India suspended Pakistan's MFN status in 2019 after a suicide attack by a Pakistan-based Islamist group killed 40 police. Pakistan never applied MFN status to India.

- The **Group of Seven (G7)** is an inter-governmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Source: The Hindu

Biological and Chemical Weapons Convention

Why in News

- United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** members have accused Russia of spreading false information that Ukraine is developing biological weapons.



Key Points

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC):

- It is a multilateral treaty banning chemical weapons and requiring their destruction within the stipulated time.
- Negotiations for the CWC began in 1980 at the United Nations Conference on Disarmament.
- The convention was drafted in September 1992 and opened for signature in January 1993. It became effective from April 1997.

Biological Weapons Convention:

- It is a key element in the international community's efforts to address Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) proliferation and it has established a strong norm against biological weapons.
- Formally known as "The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction", the Convention was negotiated by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It opened for signature on 10th April 1972 and entered into force on 26th March 1975.
- It was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).



Source: newsonair

India, Canada to re-launch the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

Why in News

- India and Canada held the fifth Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment (MDTI).
- Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food, and Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal and Ms. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, Government of Canada co-chaired the MDTI.
- The Ministers agreed to formally re-launch the negotiations for **India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** and also consider an Interim Agreement or **Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA)** that could bring early commercial gains to both the countries.



Key Points

- The Interim Agreement would include high level commitments in goods, services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, and dispute settlement, and may also cover any other areas mutually agreed upon.
- Canada also agreed to examine expeditiously the request for Conformity Verification Body (CVB) status to APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) for facilitating Indian organic export products.

India's Current Trade Relation with Canada:

- India is Canada's 11th largest export market, and 12th largest trading partner overall.

Source: newsonair

Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)

Why in News



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- India, Bangladesh and Nepal finalised an enabling memorandum of understanding (MoU) for implementing the long-gestating **Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)** that is aimed at boosting regional trade and connectivity.

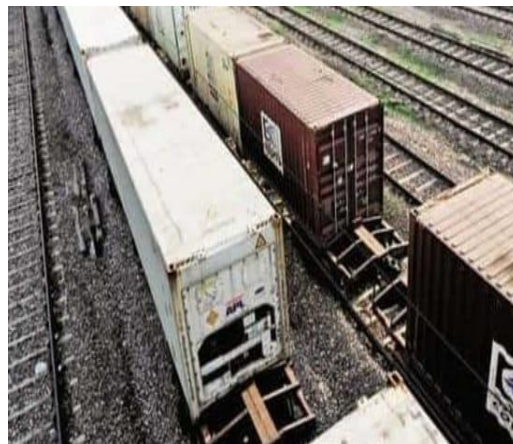
Key Points

- The BBIN connectivity project was conceived after the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) failed to agree on a regional motor vehicles agreement at a summit in Nepal in 2014.
- The BBIN project suffered a setback in 2017 when Bhutan temporarily opted out of it after being unable to get parliamentary approval for the MVA.
- The 3 other countries decided at the time to press ahead with the agreement.

Similar Connectivity Initiatives which India is a part of:

- India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway
- Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport (KMMTT)
- Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Corridor

Source: HT



Democracy Report 2022

Why in News

- According to the latest report from the V-Dem Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg, the level of democracy enjoyed by the average global citizen in 2021 is down to 1989 levels, with the democratic gains of the post-Cold War period eroding rapidly in the last few years.
- The study is titled 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?'

Key Points

- The report classifies countries into four regime types based on their score in the Liberal Democratic Index (LDI): Liberal Democracy, Electoral Democracy, Electoral Autocracy, and Closed Autocracy.

Main findings of the report:



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- **Sweden** topped the LDI index, other Scandinavian countries such as Denmark and Norway, along with Costa Rica and New Zealand make up the top five in liberal democracy rankings.
- Autocratisation is spreading rapidly, with a record of 33 countries autocratising.

India's Performance:

- India is part of a broader global trend of an anti-plural political party driving a country's autocratisation.
- Ranked 93rd in the LDI, India figures in the "bottom 50%" of countries.
- It has slipped further down in the Electoral Democracy Index, to 100, and even lower in the Deliberative Component Index, at 102.
- In South Asia, India is ranked below Sri Lanka (88), Nepal (71), and Bhutan (65) and above Pakistan (117) in the LDI.

Note: Earlier, the Global State of Democracy Report, 2021 was released by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

Source: The Hindu

Humanitarian Corridors

Why in News

- Recently, Russia declared a partial ceasefire in the Russia-Ukraine War to allow **humanitarian corridors** for civilians.

Key Points

Humanitarian corridors:

- The United Nations considers humanitarian corridors to be one of several possible forms of a temporary pause of armed conflict.
- For example through large-scale bombing of civilian targets — humanitarian corridors can provide crucial relief.
- They are demilitarized zones, in a specific area and for a specific time — and both sides of an armed conflict agree to them.
- Via these corridors, either food and medical aid can be brought to areas of conflict, or civilians can be evacuated.
- In most cases, humanitarian corridors are negotiated by the United Nations. Sometimes they're also set up by local groups.
- Humanitarian corridors were defined in resolution 45/100 of the UN's general assembly in 1990.



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- Access to humanitarian corridors is determined by the parties to the conflict. It's usually limited to neutral actors, the UN or aid organizations such as the Red Cross.

Source: Indian Express

PM Modi participates in virtual summit of Quad leaders

Why in News

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated at a virtual **summit of Quad leaders**, along with US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.



Key Points

- The meeting reviewed the progress on Quad initiatives since the September 2021 Quad Summit.
- The leaders agreed on accelerating cooperation, with an objective to achieve concrete outcomes by the summit in Japan later this year.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for concrete and practical forms of cooperation within the Quad, in areas like Humanitarian and Disaster Relief, debt sustainability, supply chains, clean energy, connectivity, and capacity-building.
- He reiterated the importance of adhering to the UN Charter, international law and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- The leaders also discussed other topical issues, including the situation in Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean region and the Pacific Islands.

About Quad:

- The Quad, or the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, is an informal grouping of four countries — Australia, Japan, India and the United States.
- It is aimed at ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific, a strategically vital region that witnessed increasing Chinese military assertiveness in recent years.
- Quad's first in-person summit was held in Washington in September 2021.

Source: newsonair



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Financial Action Task Force keeps Pakistan in Grey List

Why in News

- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has once again retained Pakistan on the increased monitoring list, also known as the "Grey List" and called the country to work on "complex money laundering investigations and prosecutions.



Key Points

- Pakistan has been on the FATF's grey list for deficiencies in its counter-terror financing and anti-money laundering regimes since June 2018.
- This greylisting has adversely impacted its imports, exports, remittances, and limited access to international lending.

Facts about Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- FATF is an intergovernmental organisation founded on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering. In 2001, its mandate was expanded to include terrorism financing.
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Founded:** 1989
- **Membership:** 39

Two lists of FATF:

- **Grey List:** Those countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering. 'Increased monitoring list' is another name for the 'Grey List'.
- **Black List:** Those countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries are put in the Black List. These countries support money laundering and terror funding activities.

Source: HT

UNGA adopts resolution deploring Russian aggression in Ukraine

Why in News

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has adopted a resolution deploring the Russian aggression in Ukraine and urged Russia to immediately withdraw all forces from Ukraine.



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Key Points

- The resolution came up for voting with 141 members voting for and five members voting against it.
- India and 34 other nations abstained from voting.
- The emergency session of the UN General Assembly was called by the Security Council amidst ongoing Russian military operations in Ukraine. It came after the 193-member assembly convened its first emergency session since 1997.

Note:

- The UNGA resolution was similar to the one circulated in the 15-nation Security Council recently.
- The UNSC resolution, which received 11 votes in favour and three abstentions, was blocked after permanent member Russia exercised its veto.

Source: newsonair

Montreux Convention

Why in News

- Turkey is set to activate the **Montreux Convention** in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Key Points

- Mevlut Cavusoglu, Turkey's foreign minister said that the situation in Ukraine had become a war, a declaration that authorises Turkey to activate the Montreux Convention and ban Russian war vessels from entering the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.



Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits:

- The Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, also known as the Turkish Straits or the Black Sea Straits, connect the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea via the Sea of Marmara.
- It is the only passage through which the Black Sea ports can access the Mediterranean and beyond.

About Montreux Convention:

- It was signed by Australia, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Japan, Romania, Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and Turkey and has been in effect since November 1936.
- Turkey has control over both the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.



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- In the event of a war, the pact gives Turkey the right to regulate the transit of naval warships and to block the straits to warships belonging to the countries involved in the conflict.

Source: Indian Express

Fifth UN Environment Assembly

Why in News

- Recently, the **Fifth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5)** concluded in Nairobi with 14 resolutions to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- The theme for UNEA-5 was "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals".
- The Assembly will be followed by "UNEP@50", a two-day Special Session of the Assembly marking UNEP's 50th anniversary.



Key Points

- The UN Environment Assembly concluded with 14 resolutions to curb pollution, protect and restore nature worldwide.
- The world's ministers for the environment agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with the mandate to forge an international legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution.
- This was the most significant environmental multilateral deal since the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Note:

- Earlier, India had piloted a resolution on addressing single use plastic product pollution in the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) held in 2019, bringing global focus on the issue.
- India had announced the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, which notified the instructions on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging.

About UN Environment Assembly:

- The Assembly is made up of the 193 UN Member States and convenes every two years to advance global environmental governance.
- It is the governing body of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Source: Business Standard



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Wealth Report 2022: India ranks 3rd in billionaire population globally

Why in News

- According to Knight Frank's latest edition of the **Wealth Report 2022 (16th edition)**, at 145 billionaires, India has the third-highest billionaire population globally, after the US and China.

Billionaires	2021	2020-21
US	748	15%
Chinese mainland	554	32%
India	145	24%
Germany	136	14%
Russia	121	20%

Source: Knight Frank Wealth Sizing Model

Key Points

- The number of Ultra-High Net Worth Individuals (UHNWIs) globally increased by 9.3% in 2021.
- Over the next five years, Knight Frank forecasts that the global UHNWIs population will grow by a further 28%.
- In India, the number of Ultra-High Net Worth Individuals (UHNWIs) with net assets of \$30 million (Rs 226 crore) or more, increased 11% in 2021. This is the highest percentage growth in Asia Pacific.
- Mumbai leads with the highest number of UHNWIs at 1,596, followed by Hyderabad at 467, Pune at 360, Bengaluru at 352, Kolkata at 257, Delhi at 210, Chennai at 160 and Ahmedabad at 121.

Note: The **Wealth Report** is Knight Frank's flagship annual publication, offering a unique perspective on global wealth, prime property and investment.

Source: TOI

Ukraine files an application before the International Court of Justice, instituting proceedings against the Russia

Why in News

- Ukraine has filed an application before the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, instituting proceedings against Russia.
- The dispute is related to the interpretation, application and fulfilment of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the "Genocide Convention").



Key Points

- Ukraine has accused Russia of falsely claiming that "acts of genocide have occurred in the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts of Ukraine", and of using that



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as a pretext to recognise the independence of these regions and of going to war against Ukraine.

About International Court of Justice (ICJ):

- The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The court is the successor to the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), which was brought into being through, and by, the League of Nations, and which held its inaugural sitting at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, in February 1922.
- After World War II, the League of Nations and PCIJ were replaced by the United Nations and ICJ respectively.
- The PCIJ was formally dissolved in April 1946, and its last president, Judge José Gustavo Guerrero of El Salvador, became the first president of the ICJ.
- Like the PCIJ, the ICJ is based at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

Judges of the court:

- The ICJ has 15 judges who are elected to nine-year terms by the UN General Assembly and Security Council, which vote simultaneously but separately.
- Four Indians have been members of the ICJ so far.

India at the ICJ:

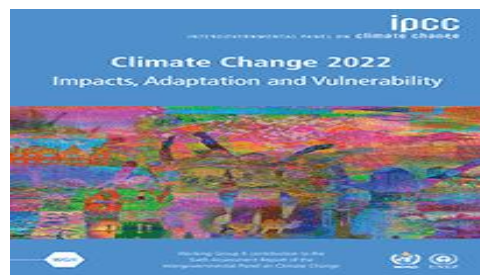
- India has been a party to a case at the ICJ on six occasions, four of which have involved Pakistan.

Source: Indian Express

IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) on Climate Change

Why in News

- India welcomes the release of the **Working Group II (WG2)** contribution to the **Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)** of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**.
- The report is about climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, and adaptation options.



Key Points

Key findings of the Report:

- The Report affirms that climate change due to historical emissions is leading to serious impacts which are already being felt globally including in developing countries with low contribution to cumulative emissions.



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- These impacts will rise as warming proceeds and will rise rapidly at higher levels of warming.
- The Report is a clarion call for the world to abandon their unsustainable production and consumption and move urgently to climate resilient development.
- The Report notes that the impacts and the consequent limitations to adaptation would rise beyond 1.5 degree warming above pre-industrial levels.

In India:

- India notes that the Working Group I contribution to AR6 released in August, 2021 had made clear that developed countries need to rapidly decrease their emissions and reach net zero by 2050.
- India faces multiple climate hazards and has high vulnerability to climate change.
- India reaffirmed its commitment to climate actions, including the goal of net zero by 2070.

About Report:

- The Assessment Reports, the first of which had come out in 1990, are the most comprehensive evaluations of the state of the earth's climate.
- The four subsequent assessment reports came out in 1995, 2001, 2007 and 2015. These have formed the basis of the global response to climate change.

The Assessment Reports – by three working groups of scientists:

- Working Group-I – Deals with the scientific basis for climate change.
- Working Group-II – Looks at the likely impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation issues.
- Working Group-III – Deals with actions that can be taken to combat climate change.

About Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):

- IPCC is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations responsible for advancing knowledge on human-induced climate change.
- It was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and later endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it is composed of 195 member states.

Source: PIB

Ukrainian President signs formal request to join European Union



Why in News

- **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy** has said that he has signed an official request for Ukraine to join the **European Union (EU)**.

Key Points

- Zelenskiy has asked the European Union to allow Ukraine to gain membership immediately under a special procedure as it defends itself from invasion by Russian forces.



Facts about the European Union (EU):

- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium
- **Founded:** 1 November 1993
- **Members Countries:** 27
- The **United Kingdom** became the first member state to leave the EU on 31 January 2020.
- In 2012, the EU was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**.
- **Note:** European Union has recently joined **India's International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure-CDRI**.

Source: newsonair

Removal of Russian banks from SWIFT system

Why in News

- Recently, in a move to counter Russia's war over Ukraine, the US and the European Union (EU) issued a joint statement to exclude some Russian banks from the **SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication)** messaging system.



Key Points

- The assets of Russia's central bank are also expected to be frozen, constraining Moscow's ability to access its overseas reserves.
- The intention of the moves is to further isolate Russia from the international financial system.
- Prior to this, only one country had been cut off from SWIFT — Iran.

About SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication):



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- The SWIFT is a secure platform for financial institutions to exchange information about global monetary transactions such as money transfers.
- While SWIFT does not actually move money, it operates as a middleman to verify information of transactions by providing secure financial messaging services to more than 11,000 banks in over 200 countries.
- Based in Belgium, it is overseen by the central banks from eleven industrial countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, besides Belgium.

Source: Indian Express

Canada approves world's first plant-based COVID-19 vaccine

Why in News

- Canada approved the use of **Covifenz**, the world's first plant-derived COVID-19 vaccine.

Key Points

- Covifenz was jointly developed by Medicargo Inc., a biopharma company and GlaxoSmithKline Plc.
- Covifenz is made from plant-based proteins that look like coronavirus and uses Glaxo's adjuvant that contains DL-alpha-tocopherol, squalene, polysorbate 80, phosphate-buffered saline.
- The other ingredients include potassium phosphate monobasic anhydrous, anhydrous sodium chloride, sodium phosphate dibasic anhydrous, and water for injection.
- In simple terms, the vaccine uses plant-based proteins to produce particles that resemble the target viral pathogen.



Source: HT

USCC's International IP Index 2022: India ranks 43rd

Why in News

- **India** has ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the **International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2022** (10th edition).
- This index was released by the Global Innovation Policy Center of the **US Chambers of Commerce (USCC)**.

Key Points

The top 3 countries in the ranking are:

- Rank 1- United States



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- Rank 2- United Kingdom
- Rank 3- Germany
- The International IP Index benchmarks the IP framework in 55 global economies across 50 unique indicators.
- India's overall score has increased from 38.40 percent in the ninth edition to 38.64 percent in the 10th edition.

Source: Business Standard

National

Meghalaya's Living Root Bridges in UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites

Why in News

- **Meghalaya's Living Root Bridges**, found in over 70 villages in the state, have been included in the **tentative list of World Heritage Sites of the UNESCO**.

Key Points

About Living Root Bridges:

- It is a type of simple suspension bridge formed by the method of tree shaping to form living plant roots across a stream or river.
- Once mature, some bridges can have as many as 50 people crossing them and can last for over 150 years.
- Locally known as *jingkieng jri*, these are very common in the southern part of Meghalaya where villages — from the Khasi and Jaintia tribes — grow them by training the '*ficus elastica*' tree on both sides of water bodies over a period of about 10-15 years where the roots form the bridge.
- At present, there are about 100 known living root bridges spread across 72 villages in the state.

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).



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- 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: Indian Express

Cabinet approves USD 808 million for “Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance”

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, approved a USD 808 million or Rs 6,062.45 crore, World Bank assisted programme on “**Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance**” (RAMP).
- RAMP is a new scheme and would commence in FY 2022-23.



Key Points

- RAMP is a World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme, supporting various Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID) Resilience and Recovery Interventions of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).
- RAMP programme with impacts across the country will directly or indirectly benefit all 63 million enterprises that qualify as MSMEs
- However, a total of 5,55,000 MSMEs are specifically targeted for enhanced performance and, in addition, expansion of target market to include service sectors and increase of about 70,500 women MSMEs is envisaged.

Background:

- RAMP was formulated and proposed by the Government of India, for strengthening MSMEs in line with the recommendations made by U K Sinha Committee, KV Kamath Committee and Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC).

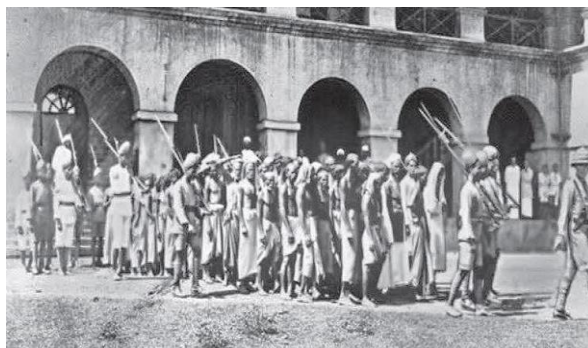
Source: HT



Malabar Rebellion

Why in News

- Recently, the **Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR)** has deferred its decision on a recommendation to remove the **1921 Malabar Rebellion martyrs** including Variamkunnaathu Kunhahamad Haji and Ali Musliyar from the list of India's freedom fighters.



Key Points

- The **Malabar rebellion**, Moplah massacre, Moplah riots or Mappila riots occurred between August 1921 and 1922 in the southern part of the Malabar district of the Madras Presidency.

About Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR):

- It is a captive body of the Ministry of Education established by an Administrative Order.
- It provides financial assistance to historians and scholars through fellowships, grants, and symposia.
- Headquarters:** New Delhi
- Founded:** 27 March 1972

Source: The Hindu

States can identify minorities: Centre

Why in News

- In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs said "state governments can also declare a religious or linguistic community as a 'minority community' within the state".



Key Points

- The affidavit was filed in response to a 2020 petition by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, who said that as per the 2011 Census, Hindus were a minority in Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, J&K, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Punjab and that they should be given minority status in these states in accordance with the principle laid down by the Supreme Court in its 2002 TMA Pai ruling.



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- In the TMA Pai case, the SC had said that for the purposes of Article 30 that deals with the rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions, religious and linguistic minorities have to be considered state-wise.

Centre's Stand:

- The Centre said the petitioners' argument is not correct since states can also certify institutions as being minority institutions as per the rules of the said state.
- The Centre gave the example of how Maharashtra notified 'Jews' as a minority community within the State. Again, Karnataka notified Urdu, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi, Tulu, Lambadi, Hindi, Konkani and Gujarati as minority languages within the State.

Minorities notified by the Government of India:

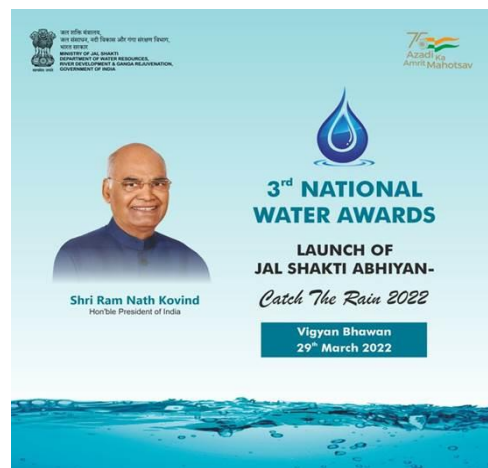
- Parliament has the legislative competence and the Central government has the executive competence to notify a community as a minority under Section 2(c) of the **National Commission for Minorities Act of 1992**.
- The Central government notified six communities, namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains, as minorities under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act of 1992.
- Similarly, Section 2(f) of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act provides that 'minority' means a community notified as such by the Central government.

Source: Indian Express

President felicitates winners of 3rd National Water Awards & launches Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain Campaign 2022

Why in News

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind felicitated the winners of the **3rd National Water Awards** instituted by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti and launched the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022** on 29th March 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The First Information Brochure of the **7th edition of India's International Water Resources Event India Water Week -2022**, planned to be organized from 1-5 November, 2022 at India



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Expo Centre, Greater Noida, was released by the Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Key Points

- The States of **Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu** have got the first, second and third prizes respectively in the Best State category.

About National Water Awards:

- The first National Water Award was launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in 2018.
- The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti gave 57 awards to States, Organizations, Individuals etc. in 11 different categories.

Note:

- In India, the situation is particularly challenging as India is home to about 18% of the world's population but we have just 4% of the fresh water resources of the world.
- In May 2019, the Ministry of Jal Shakti was created after the merger of erstwhile Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- To transform *Jal Andolan* into a *Jan Andolan*, Jal Shakti Abhiyan and Jal Jeevan Mission were launched in 2019.
- On 22nd March 2022, the Prime Minister of India launched the "Catch the Rain, where it falls, when it falls" campaign.

Source: PIB

National Commission for Women launches Legal Services Clinic in Collaboration with DSLSA

Why in News

- The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** in collaboration with **Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA)** has launched a legal aid clinic.

Key Points

- NCW is also planning to set up similar legal services clinics in other State Commissions for Women.
- Under the new legal aid clinic, counseling will be provided for walk-in complainants, women in distress will be given legal assistance, advice and information on various schemes of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)/ DSLSA, assistance in mahila jansunwai, free legal aid, hearings in matrimonial cases and other complaints registered with the Commission will be provided among other services.

About National Commission for Women:



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- It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act.
- The first head of the commission was Jayanti Patnaik.
- Rekha Sharma is the current chairperson.

Women Empowerment Schemes:

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- One Stop Centre Scheme
- Women Helpline Scheme
- Working Women Hostel
- SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
- Nari Shakti Puruskar
- Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman
- Mahila police Volunteers
- Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)
- NIRBHAYA

Source: newsonair

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and UAE unveiled

Why in News

- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry announced the unveiling of the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** between **India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** on 28 March 2022 during his visit to the UAE.
- Shri Goyal is in UAE to participate in 'Investopia Summit' and 'World Government Summit' being held in Dubai on 28th March 2022 and 29th March 2022 respectively.



Key Points

- India-UAE CEPA was signed on 18 February 2022 in New Delhi during the India-UAE Virtual Summit held between Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Chairman of the Executive Council.

The salient features of India-UAE CEPA are as follows:

- The India-UAE CEPA is the first deep and full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in the past decade.

Timelines:



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- The negotiations for India-UAE CEPA were concluded in a record span of 88 days.
- The Agreement is expected to enter into force on 01 May 2022.

Note:

- From US\$ 180 million per annum in the 1970s, India-UAE bilateral trade has steadily increased to US\$ 60 billion (₹4.55 lakh crore) in FY 2019-20 making the UAE, India's third largest trading partner.
- With exports to the UAE valued at US\$ 29 billion for the year 2019-20, the UAE is also the second largest export destination of India, while Indian imports from the UAE were valued around US\$ 30 billion, including 21.83 MMT (US\$ 10.9 billion) of crude oil.
- The UAE is also the 8th largest investor in India with an estimated investment of US\$ 18 billion.

Other Types of Trade Agreements:

- Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
- Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)
- Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA)
- Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)

Source: Business Standard

Union Minister Anurag Thakur launches TEJAS skilling project at Dubai Expo

Why in News

- Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched **TEJAS (Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills)** at Dubai Expo 2020, a Skill India International Project to train overseas Indians.



Key Points

- The project is aimed at skilling, certification and overseas employment of Indians.
- Tejas is aimed at creating pathways to enable the Indian workforce to get equipped for skill and market requirements in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Tejas aims at creating a 10,000 strong Indian workforce in UAE during the initial phase.

Note: Dubai Expo 2020 is a World Expo, currently hosted by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Source: HT



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Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata

Why in News

- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the ten-day mega **Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata** (25th March, 2022- 3rd April, 2022) at the iconic 17th-century monument, Red Fort in Delhi.



Key Points

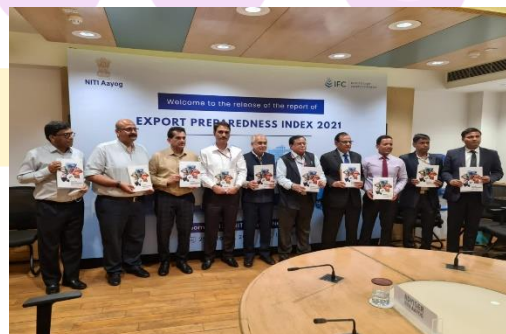
- The Red Fort festival-Bharat Bhagya Vidhata is being organised by the Ministry of Culture.
- More than 70 master craftsmen have displayed their craftsmanship at the venue.
- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, along with **Red Fort's "Monument Mitra", Dalmia Bharat Ltd.** have conceptualized the mega event as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Source: PIB

NITI Aayog releases Second Edition of Export Preparedness Index 2021

Why in News

- NITI Aayog, in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness, released the **Second Edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021**.
- This edition has shown that most of the 'Coastal States' are the best performers, with Gujarat as the top-performer.



Key Points

- Gujarat** has retained the top position at the NITI Aayog's second edition of the Export Preparedness Index 2021 followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as the top 10 performers.
- Among union territories, **Delhi** has topped the index followed by Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh and Puducherry while Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Sikkim and Manipur were at the top five paces among Himalayan states.
- The report is a comprehensive analysis of India's export achievements.
- The index can be used by states and union territories (UTs) to benchmark their performance against their peers and analyse potential challenges to



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develop better policy mechanisms to foster export-led growth at the subnational level.

About Export Preparedness Index (EPI):

- The Export Preparedness Index is a data-driven endeavour to identify the fundamental areas critical for subnational export promotion.
- The EPI ranks states and UTs on 4 main pillars—Policy; Business Ecosystem; Export Ecosystem; Export Performance—and 11 sub-pillars—Export Promotion Policy; Institutional Framework; Business Environment; Infrastructure; Transport Connectivity; Access to Finance; Export Infrastructure; Trade Support; R&D Infrastructure; Export Diversification; and Growth Orientation.

Source: PIB

President of India presents President's Colour to INS Valsura

Why in News

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind presented the prestigious President's Colour to INS Valsura.

Key Points

About President's Colour:

- The President's Colour is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation, both in peace and in war.
- The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force to be awarded the President Colour by Dr Rajendra Prasad on 27 May 1951.



About INS Valsura:

- The legacy of INS Valsura dates back to 1942, when the operational necessity mandated creation of an advanced Torpedo Training Facility to enhance the firepower of the Royal Indian Navy during World War-II.
- Post India becoming a Republic, the unit was renamed as INS Valsura on 01 July 1950.

Source: PIB

October 5 to be designated as National Dolphin Day



Why in News

- The Union Environment Ministry has designated **October 5 as National Dolphin Day**, to be observed annually starting this year.
- The decision to designate a National Dolphin Day was taken by the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).



Key Points

- Dolphins act as ideal ecological indicators of a healthy aquatic ecosystem and conservation of the Dolphins will, therefore, benefit the survival of the species and also, the people dependent on the aquatic system for their livelihood.
- The Gangetic dolphin is an indicator species, whose status provides information on the overall condition of the ecosystem and of other species in that ecosystem, for the Ganga ecosystem and is extremely vulnerable to changes in water quality and flow.
- It is categorised as endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List.
- A WWF-India and the Uttar Pradesh forest department assessment in 2012 and 2015 recorded 1,272 dolphins in the Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ken, Betwa, Son, Sharda, Geruwa, Ghagra, Gandak and Rapti.

Note: Recently, the World Bank has issued the **world's first wildlife bond**, the money from which will be used to resuscitate the population of rhinoceros in South Africa.

Source: HT

About 7% of India's workforce will need digital skills training in next year: Report

Why in News

- About 27.3 million workers, representing 7% of the country's workforce, will require digital skills training for their jobs over the next year, as demand for such skills, especially cloud-related skills, became more acute during the pandemic, according to a new report.

Key Points



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- The report – ‘**Building Digital Skills for the changing workforce**’, has been prepared by AlphaBeta and commissioned by Amazon Web Services, Inc. (AWS).
- It is based on a survey of 1,012 digitally skilled workers in both technology and non-technology roles, and 303 employers in India, with representation from the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Related Initiatives:

- IndiaSkills 2021
- DigiSaksham initiative
- YuWaah Platform
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- National Career Service Project
- Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP)
- Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors’ (YUVA) scheme
- Kaushalacharya Awards
- Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)
- National Skills Qualification Framework
- Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)

Source: The Hindu

Ministry of Education to conduct first-of-its-kind 'Foundational Learning Study'

Why in News

- The Ministry of Education will be conducting a ‘**Foundational Learning Study**’ in order to draw a first-hand understanding of the learning levels of the students at the foundational learning stage (at the end of Grade 3).
- The study is first of its kind in the world as it aims to set-up benchmarks for reading with comprehension in 22 Indian languages.



Key Points

About Foundational Learning Study:



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- The Foundational Learning Study will be conducted by the NCERT in all States and UTs over a window of four days i.e., 23rd, to 26th March, 2022 in the sampled schools.
- Approximately, 10000 schools and 1 lakh students are expected to participate in this study.

Specific objectives of the foundational learning study:

- To conduct a large-scale assessment of the foundational learning of grade 3 students to establish a baseline for the NIPUN Bharat mission
- To establish reading proficiency benchmarks for fluency with comprehension for each of the languages being assessed under the study
- To provide the data for SDG 4.1.1. (Covering aspects of foundational literacy and numeracy)

Note: The Ministry of Education, has launched the '**National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy**' (NIPUN-BHARAT) mission to provide the roadmap for strengthening the domain of foundational learning at the national level.

Source: India Today

Union Minister of Rural Development felicitates 75 trained candidates of Project UNNATI under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

Why in News

- Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh felicitated 75 trained candidates of **Project UNNATI** under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi as part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Along with 75 Trained Candidates of Project UNNATI, the Minister also felicitated Bankers associated with RSETI of States/UTs, who have contributed towards the successful completion of training of Project UNNATI candidates.



Key Points

About Project 'UNNATI':

- Project 'UNNATI', as a skilling project intends to upgrade the skill base of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA beneficiaries, and thereby improving their livelihoods, so that they can move from the current partial employment to full-time employment and hence reduce their dependence on Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.



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- This project is meant for providing training for one adult member (of age 18-45 years old) of a household who has completed 100 days of work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in the previous financial year from the year of commencement of the project. The households from which candidates are selected for the training, are continuing to enjoy 100 days of work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.
- As of now, a total of 2,00,000 beneficiaries shall be imparted training under this project in a span of three years in 26 States and 2 UTs. A total number of 18,166 candidates have been trained under Project UNNATI.

Source: PIB

4th Poshan Pakhwada

Why in News

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the **4th Poshan Pakhwada** from 21st March to 4th April, 2022.

Key Points

- For the celebration of Poshan Pakhwada, the emphasis is on two broad areas viz. identification & celebration of Healthy Child, and integration of modern and traditional practices for healthy India within the thematic areas around Poshan MITRA (**M**odern, **I**T based, **T**raditional & **R**egional Activities).

Under the theme for integration of modern and traditional practices, special focus will be on the following:

- Measurement of Height and Weight of Children under 6 years who are beneficiaries in the Anganwadi Centres
- Activities focused around Gender Sensitive Water Management and generating awareness in women about the importance of water conservation and promoting rainwater harvesting structures including in Anganwadi Centres
- Test Treat and Talk Anaemia
- Promote traditional food for healthy mother and child esp. in Tribal Areas



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About POSHAN Abhiyan:

- POSHAN Abhiyan launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8th March 2018 has reached a long way in ensuring wider people's participation.
- Poshan Abhiyan endeavours to improve nutritional outcomes in a holistic manner in convergence with other Ministries.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development will be the nodal Ministry for coordinating activities during the Poshan Pakhwada.

Source: newsonair

WINGS INDIA 2022

Why in News

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) and FICCI are jointly organizing **WINGS INDIA 2022** - Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation) from 24th - 27th March 2022 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, India.

Key Points

- As part of the country's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the **theme** of the event is "India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry".
- WINGS INDIA 2022 is Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation, providing a congenial forum catering to the rapidly changing dynamics of the sector, focusing on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation and regional connectivity.
- "**WINGS INDIA AWARDS**" will be conferred upon the Aviation-related Companies/Institutions/Organizations that have created benchmarks and made notable contributions in the area of Civil Aviation in India.

Opportunities under Indian Aviation Market:

- The government aims to develop 100 airports by 2024 (under the UDAN Scheme).
- 100% Foreign Direct Investment allowed under Automatic route for Ground Handling Services and Maintenance Repair and Overhaul Services and for both green and brownfield projects.

Source: PIB



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Cabinet approves extension of applicability of New Investment Policy-2012 for three units of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited

Why in News

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given approval for the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for extension of applicability of **New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012** for the three units of **Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL)** viz. Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni.



Key Points

- The government had announced the New Investment Policy (NIP) - 2012 in January, 2013 and its amendment in October, 2014 to facilitate fresh investment in the urea sector and to make India self-sufficient.

About Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL):

- HURL, incorporated on 15th June, 2016 is a Joint Venture Company by Coal India Limited (CIL), NTPC Limited (NTPC) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL).
- The cost of three HURL Urea projects is Rs. 25,120 crore.
- The commissioning of the three units will add 38.1 LMTPA indigenous urea production in the country.
- HURL-Gorakhpur unit has India's first Air Operated Bullet Proof Rubber Dam of 65 mtrs length and 2 mtrs height.

Source: The Hindu

Union Jal Shakti Minister launches Sujlam 2.0 Campaign

Why in News

- Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the **Sujalam 2.0 campaign** for greywater management at a virtual event hosted by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti to mark the World Water Day, 2022.



Key Points



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- A Joint Advisory was also signed by 9 Ministries namely the Ministry of (M/o) Jal Shakti, M/o Rural Development, M/o Women & Child Development, M/o Youth Affairs and Sports, M/o Tribal Affairs, M/o Health and Family Welfare, M/o Education, M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change and M/o Panchayati Raj, on how greywater management will be taken up at their level based on convergence model with all those who are directly associated in programme implementation.
- The **theme** for this year is 'Groundwater: making the invisible visible.'
- Funds to execute the activities for greywater management can be sourced from SBM-G Phase II or through 15th Finance Commission tied-grants or MGNREGS or through convergence of all.
- It is estimated that 31 billion litres of greywater is generated every day in India.
- Under Sujlam 2.0 campaign, over 6 lakh villages will see intense activity on solid and liquid waste management.

Note: With active participation from all States and local communities' great success was achieved under Sujlam 1.0 campaign which was started in August 2021. More than 1 million soak pits were built at household and community level across the country.

Source: PIB

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

Why in News

- The **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** has been dysfunctional for the last four years and has not delivered a single report to Parliament, a parliamentary committee has said in a recent report.



Key Points

About National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST):

- It is an Indian constitutional body that was established through Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003.
- On the 89th Amendment of the Constitution coming into force on 19 February 2004, the National Commission for scheduled Tribes has been set up under Article 338A on bifurcation of erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to oversee the implementation of various safeguards provided.

Composition:

- The Commission comprises a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and three full-time Members (including one female Member). The term of all the



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Members of the Commission is three years from the date of assumption of charge.

Legal Provisions:

- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 against Untouchability
- Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
- Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

Source: The Hindu

Cabinet approves Minimum Support Price of Raw Jute for 2022 -23 season

Why in News

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, approved the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for Raw Jute for 2022-23 season.

Key Points

- The approval is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
- The MSP of Raw Jute (TDN₃ equivalent to TD₅ grade) has been fixed at Rs.4750/- per quintal for 2022-23 season.
- This would ensure a return of 60.53 percent over all India weighted average cost of production.
- The announced MSP of raw jute for 2022-23 season is in line with the principle of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all India weighted average cost of production as announced by the Government in the Budget 2018-19.
- The **Jute Corporation of India (JCI)** will continue as Central Government Nodal Agency to undertake Price Support Operations and the losses incurred, if any, in such operations, will be fully reimbursed by the Central Government.

Source: PIB



Monthly Current Affairs

2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison held the **2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit** on 21 March 2022 during which they reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views on regional and global developments.



Key Points

- Both the leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress made under the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** established during the 1st Virtual Summit in June 2020.
- Prime Minister Modi expressed his satisfaction at the enhanced scope of the relationship which now covers diverse areas such as trade and investments, defence and security, education and innovation, science and technology, critical minerals, water management, new and renewable energy technology, COVID-19 related research, etc.

Note:

- Prime Minister Modi thanked PM Scott Morrison for the special gesture in returning 29 ancient artefacts to India.
- These artefacts comprise sculptures, paintings and photographs, across centuries, some dating back to the 9th-10th century, from different parts of India.
- The artefacts include 12th century Chola bronzes, 11th-12th century Jain sculptures from Rajasthan, 12th-13th century sandstone Goddess Mahisasuramardini from Gujarat, 18th-19th century paintings and early gelatin silver photographs.

Source: PIB



14th India-Japan Annual Summit

Why in News

- Prime Minister of Japan, Kishida Fumio made an official visit to India, as his first bilateral visit, from 19 to 20 March 2022 for the **14th India-Japan Annual Summit** with Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.
- The Prime Ministers recognized that the Summit was taking place at a significant time as the two countries were celebrating the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations and India was celebrating the 75th anniversary of its independence.



Key Points

- India and Japan signed six agreements in the areas of cyber-security, sustainable urban development, wastewater management, water supply and connectivity and India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership Roadmap.
- India and Japan launched a Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) for cooperation towards achieving sustainable economic growth, addressing climate change and ensuring energy security.
- The two leaders expressed their commitment to promoting peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: PIB

India's Arctic Policy

Why in News

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, released **India's Arctic policy** titled 'India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development' from the Ministry of Earth Sciences Headquarters in New Delhi.



Key Points

About India's Arctic policy:

- India's Arctic policy lays down six pillars: strengthening India's scientific research and cooperation, climate and environmental protection,



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economic and human development, transportation and connectivity, governance and international cooperation, and national capacity building in the Arctic region.

- The **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)** in Goa, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is the nodal institution for programme, which includes Arctic studies.

Background:

- India has a significant stake in the Arctic. It is one of thirteen nations holding Observer status in the **Arctic Council**, a high-level intergovernmental forum that addresses issues faced by the Arctic governments and the indigenous people of the Arctic.
- India's engagement with the Arctic dates back to a century when 'Svalbard Treaty' was signed in February 1920 in Paris and, today India is undertaking several scientific studies and research in the Arctic region.
- In 2007, India launched its first scientific expedition to the Arctic.
- In 2014 and 2016, India's first multi-sensor moored observatory in Kongsfjorden and the northernmost atmospheric laboratory in Gruvebadet, Ny Alesund, were launched in the Arctic region.
- Until 2022, India has successfully conducted thirteen expeditions to the Arctic.

Source: PIB

1. Disaster Management Plan of Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Why in News

- Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh released the **"Disaster Management Plan of Ministry of Panchayati Raj" (DMP-MoPR)**.



Key Points

About "Disaster Management Plan of Ministry of Panchayati Raj" (DMP-MoPR):

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has developed the Disaster Management Plan with an aim to develop disaster resilience at the grassroots level among the Panchayats and establish a framework to align the disaster management measures in rural areas to that of the **National Disaster Management Authority**.
- Under the Plan, every Indian village would have a "Village Disaster Management Plan" and every Panchayat would have their Disaster Management Plan.



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- It is noteworthy that the Disaster Management Plan incorporates many innovations in addition to being in compliance with **Disaster Management Act 2005, National Disaster Management Policy 2009**, and guidelines issued by National Disaster Management Authority.

Source: PIB

PM Modi inaugurates centenary year celebrations of Mathrubhumi

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the year-long celebrations of the centenary year of **Mathrubhumi** – the Malayalam daily.



Key Points

- Mathrubhumi started functioning on March 18, 1923.
- It has been at the forefront of pushing across social reforms and developmental agenda, while constantly highlighting issues of national interest.
- Mathrubhumi has 15 editions and 11 periodicals.
- Also, Mathrubhumi Books division publishes titles on a wide range of issues of contemporary interest.

Source: PIB

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India declines by 10 points

Why in News

- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India** has declined by 10 points as per the Special Bulletin on MMR released by the Registrar General of India.

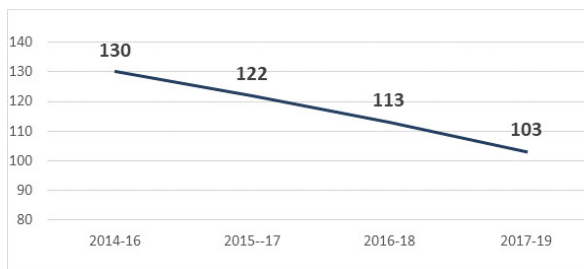
Key Points

- MMR has declined from 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19 (8.8 % decline).
- The country has been witnessing a progressive reduction in MMR from 130 in 2014-2016, 122 in 2015-17, 113 in 2016-18, and to 103 in 2017-19.



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- With this persistent decline, India is on the verge of achieving the National Health Policy (NHP) target of 100/lakh live births by 2020 and certainly on track to achieve the SDG target of 70/lakh live births by 2030.
- The number of states which have achieved the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target has now risen from 5 to 7 viz. Kerala (30), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (56), Tamil Nadu (58), Andhra Pradesh (58), Jharkhand (61), and Gujarat (70).
- There are now nine (9) States that have achieved the target of MMR set by the NHP which include the above 7 and the States of Karnataka (83) and Haryana (96).



Interventions for improving Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR):

- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)
- Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative (LaQshya)
- POSHAN Abhiyaan
- Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB)
- Surakshit Matratva Ashwasan (SUMAN)
- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)
- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)
- Comprehensive Abortion Care Services

Source: The Hindu

Legal considerations of blockchain gaming in India

Why in News

- The vast scope and potential of blockchain technology has attracted the gaming industry over the past few years.

Key Points

- With the success that CryptoKitties has garnered, more blockchain games, such as Axie Infinity, have now been introduced.
- CryptoKittie is a Non-Fungible Token (NFT).



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- Launched in 2017 as the first ever blockchain game, CryptoKitties now has over 1,28,000 current users worldwide.

Blockchain:

- Blockchain is a decentralised database that stores information. It relies on technology that allows for the storage of identical copies of this information on multiple computers in a network.

Blockchain games:

- Blockchain games are online video games that are developed integrating blockchain technology into them.
- It includes elements that use cryptography-based blockchain technologies like Cryptocurrency or Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs).

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs):

- NFTs represent in-game virtual assets that can be owned by players, such as maps, armor or land.

Cryptocurrency:

- Cryptocurrency, such as tokens based on the Ethereum blockchain, may be used for the purchase of in-game assets.
- These in-game purchases usually enable gamers to buy items like extra lives, coins and so on directly from the game.

Source: Indian Express

Draft National Medical Devices Policy 2022

Why in News

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has released on its website, an *Approach Paper for the Draft National Policy for the Medical Devices, 2022*, inviting feedback and remarks of the Industry and stakeholders, till the 25th of March 2022.



Key Points

Salient Features of the Draft Policy:

- The proposed policy strives to put in place a comprehensive set of measures for ensuring sustained growth and development of the sector and addressing the further challenges of the Sector such as regulatory streamlining, skilling of human resources and lack of technology for high



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end equipment and lack of appropriate infrastructure, through a coherent policy framework.

This Policy envisions that by 2047, our Country

- Will be having few National Institutes of Medical Devices Education and Research (NIMERs) on the lines of NIPERs
- Will be home & originator to 25 high-end futuristic technologies in MedTech
- Will have a MedTech Industry of \$100-300 Bn size with 10-12% of Global Market Share

State of the Medical Device Industry in India:

- The medical devices sector in India is an essential and integral constituent of the Indian healthcare sector, particularly for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of all medical conditions, diseases, illnesses, and disabilities.
- The Medical Device Sector has remained largely unregulated till 2017 when Medical Device Rules, 2017 were framed by CDSCO for comprehensive regulation of MDs in a phased manner, especially on the quality, safety, and efficacy aspects, under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940.
- The Indian medical device market has a significant presence of multinational companies with about 80% of the sales by value generated from imported medical devices.

Source: PIB

25 Years of TRAI Act

Why in News

- Recently, Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) organised a seminar on “25 Years of TRAI Act: Way Forward for Stakeholders (Telecom, Broadcasting, IT, AERA and Aadhaar)”.
- The seminar was inaugurated by Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, to commemorate the 25 years long journey of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act.
- At the event, Shri Vaishnaw also released the updated TDSAT Procedures 2005 and TDSAT Rules, 2003.

Key Points



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- The objective of the seminar was to enhance awareness regarding regulatory mechanism, including dispute resolution, amongst stakeholders in Telecom, Broadcasting, IT, Airport Infrastructure and Aadhaar Sectors.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act:

- In the year 1997, TRAI Act was enacted to regulate the telecommunications sector in India.
- It also provided for a mechanism of dispute resolution among the stakeholders of the telecom sector.
- It was amended in 2000, establishing a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI.

Source: PIB

'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge' under AMRUT 2.0

Why in News

- Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) & Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri launched the '**India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge**' under the Ministry's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.



Key Points

- In line with the vision of the Prime Minister of India, Technology Submission to engage startups as 'Technology Partner' has been approved by the Cabinet under AMRUT 2.0.
- The Mission aims to empower startups in the water/ used-water sector to grow through innovation and design that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate employment opportunities.
- Under this initiative, the Ministry will select 100 start-ups which will be provided Rs.20 lakhs as funding support as well as mentorship.

About AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation):

- AMRUT was launched in 500 cities on 25 June 2015, with an aim to provide universal coverage of water supply in 500 selected AMRUT cities and substantial improvement in sewerage coverage.
- Recently, the Government has launched Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 on 1 October 2021 aimed to create water secure cities, providing universal coverage of water in all statutory



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towns and 100% coverage of sewerage/ septage management in 500 AMRUT cities.

Source: Business Standard

3rd edition of National Youth Parliament Festival 2022

Why in News

- Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla addressed the valedictory function of the **3rd edition of National Youth Parliament Festival -2022** in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi.



Key Points

- National Youth Parliament is an innovative programme to equip youth with the understanding of parliamentary procedures and democratic processes.

About National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF):

- It is organised to hear the voice of the youth, who will join various careers in coming years, including public services.
- NYPF is based on the idea given by the Prime Minister in his Mann Ki Baat Address on 31st December, 2017.
- Taking inspiration from the idea, the 1st edition of NYPF was organised in 2019.

Source: PIB

"Strengthening of Pharmaceutical Industry (SPI)" scheme

Why in News

- Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has released the guidelines for the scheme **"Strengthening of Pharmaceutical Industry (SPI)"**, with a total financial outlay of Rs.500 Cr for the period from FY 21-22 to FY 25-26.



Key Points

- The scheme will address the rising demand in terms of support required to existing Pharma clusters and MSMEs across the country to improve their productivity, quality and sustainability



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- Under the Scheme, financial assistance to pharma clusters will be provided for creation of Common Facilities.
- Further, in order to upgrade the production facilities of SMEs and MSMEs so as to meet national and international regulatory standards (WHO-GMP or Schedule-M), interest subvention or capital subsidy on their capital loans will be provided, which will further facilitate the growth in volumes as well as in quality.

Schemes Related to the Pharma Sector:

- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme
- Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks Scheme

Source: PIB

PM Modi dedicates building of Rashtriya Raksha University to the nation

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated a building of Rashtriya Raksha University to the nation and delivered its first Convocation address at Ahmedabad.



Key Points

- Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) was set up to meet the need for high quality trained manpower in various wings of policing, criminal justice and correctional administration.
- Government set up a national police university named Rashtriya Raksha University by upgrading the Raksha Shakti University which was established by the Government of Gujarat in 2010.
- The University, which is an Institution of National Importance, commenced its operations from 1st October, 2020.

Note: Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 11th Khel Mahakumbh at Ahmedabad.

Source: India Today

Project Dolphin



Why in News

- Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat expressed his displeasure over the slow pace of the approval process for Project Dolphin at a meeting of the **Empowered Task Force (ETF)** on Ganga.



Key Points

- The ETF on Ganga is the second highest decision-making body on Ganga, after the **National Ganga Council (NGC)** headed by the Prime Minister.

Project Dolphin:

- Project Dolphin is one of the activities planned under Arth Ganga, an ambitious inter-ministerial initiative of the government, which was approved at the first meeting of the NGC under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on December 14, 2019.
- Special conservation programme needs to be taken up for Gangetic Dolphin which is the national aquatic animal and also indicator species for the river Ganga spread over several states.
- Project Dolphin is being “handled” by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Gangetic Dolphin:

- **Scientific Name:** Platanista gangetica
- **Discovery:** It was officially discovered in 1801.
- **Habitat:** They live in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.

Conservation Status:

- Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972: Schedule I
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): Appendix I (most endangered)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered

Note: The National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrates 5th October as National Ganga River Dolphin Day.

Source: Indian Express



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Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

Why in News

- According to the latest **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, India's urban unemployment rate jumped to 12.6 percent in the April-June quarter of 2021, compared to 9.3 percent in the January-March quarter.
- The unemployment rate had shot up sharply during the nationwide lockdown in 2020 during the first wave of the pandemic.



Key Points

- Data shows that in the 15-29 age group, 25.5 percent of urban youth remained unemployed in April-June 2021 as against 34.7 percent in April-June 2020 and 22.9 percent in January-March 2021.
- The **unemployment rate** is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.
- **Labour force**, according to current weekly status (CWS), is the number of persons either employed or unemployed on an average in a week preceding the date of the survey.

National Statistical Office (NSO):

- NSO is the central statistical agency of the Government-mandated under the Statistical Services Act 1980 under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Recent Initiatives by the Government to fight Unemployment:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
- Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE)
- PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi)
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- Start Up India Scheme

Source: Indian Express



PM-DAKSH Scheme

Why in News

- The amount of funds earmarked under PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) Yojana during 2020-21 and 2021-22 are Rs.44.79 crores and Rs.79.48 crores respectively.
- Recently, this information was given by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in the Lok Sabha.



PM DAKSH

Key Points

- Earlier, PM-DAKSH Portal and PM-DAKSH Mobile App were launched by the Ministry.
- PM-DAKSH portal offers on-line registration for free of cost Skill Development Training Programmes.
- The main purpose of the scheme is to increase the skill levels of the target youth by providing for long term and short term skills, followed by settlement in employment/self-employment.
- The scheme is to be implemented through three Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), of the Ministry, i.e. National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC).
- The Ministry aspires to reach out to 2.71 lakh people between calendar year 2021-22 and 2025-26.

Initiatives Related to Skill Development:

- National Career Service Project
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0
- Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP)
- Kaushalacharya Awards
- Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)
- Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)

Source: PIB



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Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs announces winners of EatSmart Cities Challenge

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** announced 11 winning cities for the **EatSmart Cities Challenge**.
- Top 11 Awardees of the pilot stage of the EatSmart Cities Challenge are Chandigarh, Indore, Jammu, Jabalpur, Panaji, Rajkot, Rourkela, Sagar, Surat, Tumakuru and Ujjain.



Key Points

- The EatSmart Cities Challenge was launched by MoHUA in collaboration with **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** on 15th April, 2021, to scale up the **Eat Right India** approach to city level.
- The EatSmart Cities Challenge has the objective of motivating Smart Cities to develop a plan that supports a healthy, safe and sustainable food environment supported by institutional, physical, social, and economic infrastructure along with application of 'smart' solutions to combat food related issues.
- All cities under the Smart Cities Mission, capitals of States/UTs and cities with a population of more than 500,000 were invited to participate in the challenge.
- These winning cities will be awarded Rs. Fifty lakh each from MoHUA and be involved for deep engagement over a period of next 12 months to scale up their plan including implementation of the Eat Right India initiatives.

Source: PIB

Union Panchayati Raj Minister to launch SMS sending functionality to inform MPs/MLAs about the commencement of drone flying in their constituency under SVAMITVA Scheme

Why in News

- Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Giriraj Singh will launch the new functionality developed wherein SMS will be rolled out to MPs and MLAs informing about the commencement of drone



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flying in their respective Constituency scheduled for survey under the **SVAMITVA scheme**.

Key Points

- The Minister will launch the functionality on 11th March 2022 in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Survey of India (SoI), National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- This new functionality will help in wider outreach and transparency of the scheme.

About SVAMITVA scheme:

- SVAMITVA, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj was launched nationally by the Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April 2021.
- The scheme aims to provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners in rural Abadi areas and issuance of Property cards.
- The Scheme is being implemented across the country in a phased manner over a period of five years (2020-2025) and would eventually cover all villages across the country by 2025.
- Scheme is achieving a different milestone in its journey of saturating the scheme across the country, so far drone flying has been saturated in 108 districts across various States and Union Territories with many more on the verge of completion.

Source: PIB

India gets first Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Centre in Manesar

Why in News

- Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh launched the **Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC)** and Innovation Park as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Programme.

Key Points

- The new Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center located within the powergrid centre in Manesar (Haryana), is the first of its kind initiative by the Union government.
- The SGKC has been established by POWERGRID for demonstration and advancement of frontier smart grid technologies.
- It has been set up with technical assistance from the US Agency for International Development (USAID).



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- SGKC aims to be one of the leading Centers of Excellence globally to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and research in smart grid technologies and create capacities in the power distribution sector.

Other Related Initiatives:

- National Smart Grid Mission (NSGM) and Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP)
- Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA)
- Green Energy Corridor (GEC)

Source: ET

MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR) & MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022

Why in News

- Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane launched the **MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR)** along with the **MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022**.

Key Points

- MSME Innovation Scheme will promote and support untapped creativity of the MSME sector.
- It will act as a hub for innovation activities facilitating and guiding development of ideas into viable business propositions which benefits society directly.
- MSME Innovative is a new concept for MSMEs with a combination of innovation in incubation, design intervention and by protecting IPR in a single mode approach to create awareness amongst MSMEs about India's innovation and motivate them to become MSME Champions.

Details of the sub-schemes are as under:-

- Incubation
- Design
- IPR (Intellectual Property Rights)

Source: PIB



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Indian Railways' 1st Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal commissioned in Asansol Division of Eastern Railway

Why in News

- In pursuance to Prime Minister's vision "Gati Shakti" and Ministry of Railways' Policy regarding '**Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal**' (GCT), Asansol division of Indian Railways has successfully commissioned private siding of *Maithan Power Limited* at *Thaparnagar*.
- This is the first such GCT commissioned in Indian Railways since publication of GCT policy in Dec.'2021.

Key Points

- The *Maithan* Power Project was initiated in the year 2009 and subsequently the power generation was started in the year 2011.
- Till now the requirement of coal to the power project was being made through a road which is expected to convert into 120 inward coal rakes per month.
- Also 02 to 04 outward rakes of Fly Ash is projected to be handled from the siding.
- This will enhance Railways' earnings by approximately Rs. 11 crores per month.

Source: PIB



Minister of State for Culture inaugurates Sahityotsav

Why in News

- **Sahityotsav**, the Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi, India's most inclusive literature festival commenced in New Delhi.

Key Points

- Festival of Letters 2022 is being celebrated to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.
- The Festival started with the inauguration of the Akademi Exhibition by Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Culture.
- The Exhibition showcases Akademi's achievements and seminal events held in the previous year.
- The prestigious **Sahitya Akademi Awards** will be presented to the 24 Award winners during Sahityotsav.



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Source: PIB

Ministry of Education releases Report on Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2020-21

Why in News

- The Ministry of Education released the report on **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2020-21** on school education of India.

Key Points

- The UDISE+ system of online data collection from the schools was developed by Department of School Education & Literacy in the year 2018-19 to overcome the issues related to erstwhile practice of manual data filling in paper format and subsequent feeding on computer at the block or district level in the UDISE data collection system since 2012-13.
- The present publication relates to UDISE+ data for the reference year 2020-21.

Main Findings of the Report:

- In 2020-21 **total students enrolled** in school education from primary to higher secondary stood at 25.38 crore. There is an increase of 28.32 lakh enrolments as compared to the 25.10 crore enrolment in 2019-20.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** which measures the general level of participation has improved in 2020-21 at all levels of school education compared to 2019-20. Level wise GER in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20 are: 92.2% from 89.7% in upper primary, 99.1 % from 97.8% in elementary, 79.8% from 77.9% in secondary and 53.8% from 51.4% in higher secondary respectively.
- 96.96 lakh teachers are engaged in school education during 2020-21. This is higher by about 8800 in comparison with the number of teacher in school education in 2019-20.
- In 2020-21 the **Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR)** stood at 26 for primary, 19 for upper primary, 18 for secondary and 26 for higher secondary, showing an improvement since 2018-19. The PTR for primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary was 28, 20, 21, and 30-respectively during 2018-19.
- In 2020-21 over 12.2 crore girls are enrolled in primary to higher secondary showing an increase of 11.8 lakh girls compared to the enrolment of girls in 2019-20.

Source: PIB



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Cabinet approves establishment of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM)** in Jamnagar, Gujarat by signing a Host Country agreement between the Government of India and the World Health Organization (WHO).



Key Points

- The WHO GCTM will be established under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- This would be the first and only global outposted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organization announced the establishment of WHO GCTM in India on the occasion of 5th Ayurveda Day on 13th November, 2020.
- A Joint Task Force (JTF) is constituted for coordination, execution and monitoring of activities for the establishment of this Centre.
- JTF comprises representatives from the Government of India, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva and the World Health Organization.

Facts about World Health Organization (WHO):

- Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- Founded:** 7 April 1948
- As of January 2021, the WHO has 194 member states.

Source: The Hindu

Cabinet approves setting up of National Land Monetization Corporation for undertaking surplus land monetization

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up **National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC)** as a wholly owned Government of India company with an initial authorized share capital of Rs 5000 crore and paid-up share capital of Rs 150 crore.



Key Points

- NLMC will undertake monetization of surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).



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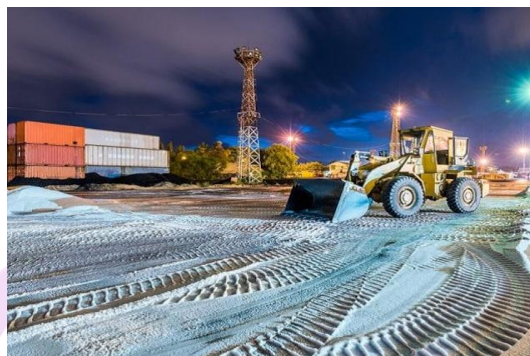
- The proposal is in pursuance of the Budget Announcement for 2021-22.
- With monetization of non-core assets, the Government would be able to generate substantial revenues by monetizing unused and under-used assets.
- For CPSEs undergoing strategic disinvestment or closure, monetization of these surplus land and non-core assets is important to unlock their value.

Source: ET

Cabinet approves amendment of the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Mines for amendment of Second Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act') for specifying the rate of royalty in respect of Glauconite, Potash, Emerald, Platinum Group of Metals (PGM), Andalusite, Sillimanite and Molybdenum.



Key Points

- The approval would ensure auction of mineral blocks in respect of Glauconite, Potash, Emerald, Platinum Group of Metals, Andalusite and Molybdenum thereby reducing import of these minerals, generating empowerment opportunity in the mining sector as well as manufacturing sector which will help in ensuring inclusive growth of a large section of the society.
- The Ministry of Mines will also provide methodology for calculation of Average Sale Price (ASP) of these minerals required for enabling auction of these mineral blocks.
- With further impetus given by the reforms made in the year 2021, more than 146 blocks have been put up for auction in the financial year 2021-22. Of this, 34 blocks have been successfully auctioned in the financial year.

Source: Business Standard

National Medical Commission removes upper age limit for appearing in NEET-UG exam



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Why in News

- The National Medical Commission has removed the upper age limit for appearing in the NEET-UG examination.

Key Points

- The process for official notification to suitably amend the regulations on Graduate Medical Education 1997 to this effect has been initiated.
- Earlier, the age limit was 25 years for general category candidates and 30 years in the case of reserved category candidates.
- The National Medical Commission is the top regulatory body of medical education in the country.

About The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) or NEET (UG):

- NEET (UG), formerly the All India Pre-Medical Test (AIPMT), is an all India pre-medical entrance test for students who wish to pursue undergraduate medical (MBBS), dental (BDS) and AYUSH (BAMS, BUMS, BHMS, etc.) courses.
- The exam is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Source: newsonair



Union Minister of State Kailash Choudhary inaugurates Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela – 2022

Why in News

- Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Kailash Choudhary inaugurated Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2022 in New Delhi.
- On this occasion, Shri Choudhary dedicated “Pusa Agri Krishi Haat Complex” developed in two acres.

Key Points

- The three day Krishi Mela is being organized by the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI).
- Farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations will be able to do direct marketing of their products in the 'Pusa Agri Krishi Haat Complex'.
- With this facility, consumers will be able to buy the products of farmers directly, which will free them from middlemen.



Monthly Current Affairs

Source: PIB

Brahmaputra (NW2) gets connected with Ganga (NW1)

Why in News

- Recently, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal received the maiden voyage of food-grains from Patna to Pandu via Bangladesh in Guwahati.



Key Points

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** is planning to run a fixed schedule sailing between **Ganga (NW1)** and **Brahmaputra (NW2)** heralding a new age of inland water transport for Assam & the Northeast India.
- The sustained effort to rejuvenate the historical trade routes via Bangladesh got a fillip under PM Gati Shakti.
- In line with the "Act East" policy of Prime Minister, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), has taken up several infrastructure projects on **National Waterways-1 (NW1)**, Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route, and NW2, through the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
- These steps will improve the connectivity with the North Eastern Region (NER) through waterways.
- The Government has undertaken the ambitious **Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)** with an investment of about Rs. 4600 crore for the capacity augmentation of NW-1 (River Ganga) for safe and sustainable movement of vessels upto 2000 tonnes.

Note:

- India has about 14,500 km of navigable waterways which consist of rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, etc.
- As per the National Waterways Act 2016, 111 waterways have been declared as National Waterways (NWs).
- NW-1: Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (Prayagraj-Haldia) with length 1620 km is the longest National Waterway in India.
- The Inland Vessels Bill, 2021, was also approved to regulate safety, security and registration of inland vessels.

Source: PIB

Ministry of Women And Child Development launches campaign 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav'



Monthly Current Affairs

Why in News

- On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), in partnership with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, launched a landmark campaign '**Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav**' to bring back out of school adolescent girls in India to the formal education and/or skilling system.



Key Points

- The campaign has been launched with the objective of enhancing enrolment and retention of girls between 11-14 years of age in school.
- The initiative intends to build on the existing schemes and programmes like Schemes for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and National Education Policy (NEP) to work on a comprehensive system for out of school girls.
- The campaign will be rolled out under the umbrella of MoWCD's BBBP initiative by targeting more than 400,000 out of school adolescent girls as primary beneficiaries.

About UNICEF:

- UNICEF, also known as the United Nations Children's Fund, is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Founded: 11 December 1946

Source: Indian Express

Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women – “SAMARTH”

Why in News

- On the occasion of International Women's Day 2022, Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women - "**SAMARTH**".

Key Points

Under the Samarth initiative of the MSME Ministry, following benefits will be available to aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs:



Monthly Current Affairs

- **20% Seats in free Skill Development Programs** organized under skill development schemes of the Ministry will be allocated for Women. More than **7500 women** will be benefitted.
- **20% of MSME Business Delegations** sent to domestic & international exhibitions under the schemes for Marketing Assistance implemented by the Ministry will be dedicated to women owned MSMEs.
- **20% Discount** on annual processing fee on **NSIC's Commercial Schemes**
- **Special Drive** for **registration** of women-owned MSMEs under **Udyam Registration**

Note: In the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, India is one of the worst performers in South Asia, it is now ranked 140 among 156 countries in 2021.

Legislative Framework related to Women:

- The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013

Source: PIB

NIESBUD signs an MoU with Ministry of Rural Development for implementing the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme

Why in News

- **National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD)** — an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)**.



Key Points

- SVEP is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- It aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set-up enterprises at the village-level in non-agricultural sectors.
- Under the partnership rural entrepreneurs will be able to access banking systems for receiving financial support for starting their enterprises, including support from MUDRA bank.



Monthly Current Affairs

- The beneficiaries of the project are from the Self-Help Group (SHG) ecosystem of DAY-NRLM and the scheme not only supports existing enterprises but new enterprises as well.

Source: ET

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav presents Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar, National Safety Awards and National Safety Awards Mines

Why in News

- Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change presented Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP), National Safety Awards (NSA) for the performance year 2018 and National Safety Awards (Mines) [NSA (Mines)] for the contest years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.



Key Points

- The Ministry of Labour & Employment has been operating the "Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP)" and "National Safety Awards (NSA)" since 1965 and National Safety Awards (Mines) [NSA (Mines)] since 1983.
- VRP and NSA are operated by the Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai and NSA (Mines) is operated by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Dhanbad.

Source: PIB

Govt launches Donate-a-Pension programme

Why in News

- Minister for Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav launched **Donate-a-Pension programme**.
- It is an initiative under **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM)** pension scheme where citizens of India can donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers, care givers, nurses, in their household or establishment.



Key Points



Monthly Current Affairs

- Under the programme, workers in the unorganised sector with the age group of 18 to 40 years can register themselves and deposit a minimum of 660 to 2400 rupees every year depending on their age.
- After they attain 60 years they will receive the minimum assured pension of 3000 rupees per month.

About Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) pension scheme:

- The Government of India has introduced a pension scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) to ensure old age protection for Unorganised Workers.
- PM-SYM is a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment

Other Government Schemes for Unorganised Sector:

- Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)
- PM SVANidhi: Micro Credit Scheme for Street Vendors
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission
- PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)
- Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

Source: newsonair

ECI hosts International Election Visitors Programme 2022

Why in News

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted the virtual **International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) 2022** for Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from nearly 32 Countries.
- An overview of the ongoing Elections for Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh was presented to more than 150 EMB Delegates participating online.



Key Points

- India has been hosting the International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) since 2012 elections where International delegates are invited to visit the Polling stations and see the electoral processes in practice for themselves in person.

About ECI (Election Commission of India):



Monthly Current Affairs

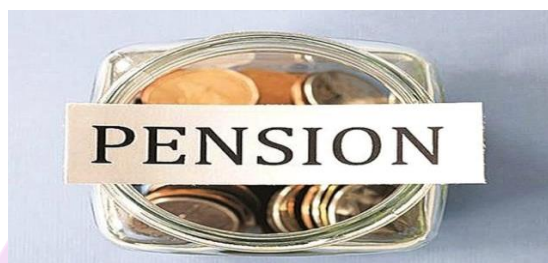
- It is a permanent and independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- **Formed:** 25 January 1950 (Later celebrated as National Voters Day)
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Commission executives:**
Sushil Chandra, Chief Election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

Source: PIB

Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY)

Why in News

- The Government has approved the continuation of the **Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY)** and its components beyond 31.03.2021 for the Financial Years 2021-22 to 2025-26, with a total financial outlay of Rs.3,274.87 crore.



Key Points

- The proposal for continuation of the SSSY was received from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The decision shows the commitment of the Government to remember sacrifices of Freedom Fighters and taking inspiration from them during the year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Background:

- Freedom Fighters and their eligible dependents have been sanctioned the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension and presently, there are 23,566 beneficiaries across the country covered under this scheme.

Source: Business Standard

'Sagar Parikrama' Programme

Why in News



Monthly Current Affairs

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the 'Sagar Parikrama', organised by The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India and National Fisheries Development Board along with Department of Fisheries, Government of Gujarat, Indian Coast Guard, Fishery Survey of India, Gujarat Maritime Board and fishermen representatives.



Key Points

- The Parikrama, starting from Mandvi at Shyamiji Krishna Varma Memorial, Gujarat, as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava', is an endeavour to know the problems of Coastal Fisher folk.
- It will be organised in other districts of Gujarat and other State/UTs in subsequent phases.
- During the event, certificates /sanctions related to Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampadha scheme (PMMSY), Kisan Credit Card & State Scheme shall be awarded to the progressive fishermen, especially costal fishermen, fishers and fish farmers, young fishery entrepreneurs etc.

Fisheries Sector in India:

- 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.

Initiatives related to Fisheries:

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

Source: PIB



Monthly Current Affairs

Centre approves the scheme - Modernisation Plan-IV for Central Armed Police Forces

Why in News

- The Centre has approved the scheme - Modernisation Plan-IV for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in continuation of the scheme Modernisation Plan-III for CAPFs.
- The Modernisation Plan-IV will run from 01.02.2022 to 31.03.2026.



Key Points

- Modernisation Plan-IV for CAPFs with a total financial outlay of Rs.1,523 crore is to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It will equip the CAPFs with modern state-of-the-art weapons and equipment as per their operational requirement, keeping in view their deployment pattern in different theatres.
- This would bolster the Government's ability to address the challenges being faced on the International Border/LoC/LAC as well as in the different theatres, such as areas affected by Left Wing Extremism, Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and insurgency affected North Eastern States.

Source: India Today

India slips 3 spots to rank 120 on 17 SDG goals adopted as UN's 2030 agenda: Report

Why in News

- According to the Centre for Science and Environment's State of India's Environment Report, 2022, India has slipped three spots from last year's 117 to rank 120 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 192 United Nations member states in 2015.



Key Points

- With the latest rankings, India is now behind all south Asian nations except Pakistan, which stands at 129.
- The south Asian countries ahead of India are Bhutan ranked 75, Sri Lanka 87, Nepal 96 and Bangladesh 109.



Monthly Current Affairs

- India's overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) score was 66 out of 100.
- India's rank dropped primarily because of major challenges in 11 SDGs including zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, gender equality and sustainable cities and communities.
- India also performed poorly in dealing with quality education and life on land aspects.
- On the state-wise preparedness, Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year 2030.
- Kerala ranked first.
- Among the Union Territories, Chandigarh was ranked first.

Source: ET

Union Minister for Women & Child Development launches “Stree Manoraksha Project”

Why in News

- Union Minister for Women & Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani launched the “**Stree Manoraksha Project**”.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the International Women’s Day week from 1st to 8th March, 2022.



Key Points

- The ‘Stree Manoraksha Project’ was launched in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru.
- The project is aimed at extending mental health training to 6000 One Stop Centres (OSC) functionaries across India.
- The project would emphasise on the psychosocial well-being and aim to improve the mental health of women in India.

Women Empowerment Schemes:

- One Stop Centres (OSC) Scheme
- Women Helpline Scheme
- NIRBHAYA Fund
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- KIRAN Scheme
- Mahila e-haat
- Mahila Police Desks and Anti Human Trafficking Units
- Nari Shakti Puraskar
- Mahila Shakti Kendras



Monthly Current Affairs

Note: International Women's Day is celebrated annually on 8 March.

Source: PIB

India signs Host Country Agreement with the International Telecommunication Union for establishment of Area Office & Innovation Centre at New Delhi

Why in News

- Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Communications and Houlin Zhao, Secretary General of **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** signed the **Host Country Agreement (HCA)** for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi.



Key Points

- The agreement was signed in a virtual ceremony during the World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly-20 (WTSA-20) being held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- WTSA is a four-yearly global conference of ITU dedicated to standardisation of the Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs).
- India has proposed to host the next WTSA to be held in 2024.

Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi:

- The Area Office and Innovation Centre of ITU at New Delhi is expected to serve South Asian countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India.
- The Host Country Agreement provides the legal and financial framework for establishment and operations of the Area Office.

Note: India has been taking concrete steps towards development of telecom standards. The 5Gi standards developed within India have now been recognised by ITU as one of the three technologies for 5G.

About International Telecommunication Union (ITU):

- ITU is the United Nations specialised agency for information and communication technologies.
- ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries and over 900 private-sector entities and academic institutions.

Source: PIB

Ministry of Tourism starts Swadesh Darshan Awards

Why in News



Monthly Current Affairs

- In order to acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and various implementation agencies, the Ministry of Tourism has constituted **Swadesh Darshan Awards** in different categories.

अतुल्य भारत



Incredible India

**SWADESH
DARSHAN**

Key Points

- The awards will highlight best practices including achievement of planned objectives, innovative approach, adoption of sustainability principals in planning, design and operations, efficient project monitoring, ability to attract private investments in peripheral development and efforts undertaken to ensure optimal operations and maintenance etc.

Note:

- The Ministry of Tourism under its flagship scheme of 'Swadesh Darshan' has sanctioned 76 projects in 31 States / Union Territories of India for more than Rs.5500 Crore.
- As part of this scheme, tourism related infrastructure has been developed at more than 500 tourist destinations.

About Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- Swadesh Darshan Scheme is a Central Sector scheme launched in 2014-15 by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India for the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits.

Source: PIB

India and Japan renew Bilateral Swap Arrangement of \$75 billion

Why in News

- India and Japan renewed their **Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA)** to the extent of \$75 billion.

Key Points

- The Bank of Japan, acting as an agent for the Minister of Finance Japan, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed the amendment and restatement agreement of the BSA.
- BSA** is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for dollars.

Note:

- The BSA was negotiated between India and Japan during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Japan in 2018.



Monthly Current Affairs

- Consequently, the swap arrangement was signed to the tune of \$75 billion in October 2020, to bring greater stability to foreign exchange.

Source: Business Standard

Field assessment of Swachh Survekshan 2022 launched

Why in News

- The field assessment for the seventh consecutive edition of world's largest urban cleanliness survey, **Swachh Survekshan (SS)**, was launched on 1st March 2022 by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.



Key Points

- MoHUA kicked off the SS 2022 survey with around 3,000 assessors of the Assessment Agency - Ipsos Research Pvt. Ltd., ready to go on the field to assess the performance of cities.
- The scope of the survey has been expanded to now cover 100% wards for sampling, as compared to 40% in previous years.

About Swachh Survekshan (SS):

- SS was introduced by MoHUA in 2016 as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation while encouraging large scale citizen participation.
- The journey that started in 2016 with only 73 cities with million plus population, has grown manifold, with 434 cities in 2017, 4,203 cities in 2018, 4,237 cities in 2019, 4,242 cities in SS 2020 and 4,320 cities in SS 2021, including 62 Cantonment Boards.

Source: PIB

Government has approved proposal for continuation of seven existing sub-schemes under Umbrella Scheme "Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates"

Why in News



Monthly Current Affairs

- The Centre Government has approved the proposal for continuation of the seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme **“Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates”** for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs.1,452 crore.



Key Points

- The approval will ensure that assistance under the Umbrella Scheme, continues to reach beneficiaries through the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The scheme enables migrants and repatriates, who have suffered on account of displacement, to earn a reasonable income and to facilitate their inclusion in mainstream economic activities.

The Government, at different points of time, had started different schemes. These seven schemes provide assistance for –

- Relief and Rehabilitation of displaced families of Pakistan Occupied Areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Chhamb,
- Relief assistance to Sri Lankan Tamil refugees,
- Relief assistance to Brus lodged in relief camps in Tripura,
- Enhanced relief to 1984 Anti-Sikh Riot Victims,
- Financial Assistance and other facilities to the families of affected civilian victims of terrorist violence,
- Grants-in-aid to Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC),
- Grants-in-Aid to Government of West Bengal for infrastructure development in 51 erstwhile Bangladeshi enclaves in India, situated in Cooch Behar District and for resettlement of 922 returnees from erstwhile Indian enclaves in Bangladesh.

Source: PIB

MyGov launches “Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz” series of 14 episodes

Why in News

- In order to build awareness amongst citizens about good governance, MyGov has launched the **“Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz” series**, on 1st March, 2022.



Monthly Current Affairs

- This is a year-long project and consists of 14 episodes.

Key Points

- "Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz series" aims to sensitise the participants about the various government schemes and initiatives.
- This includes yojanas that resulted in the unprecedented number of houses built (PM Awas Yojana), water connections given (Jal Jeevan Mission), bank accounts (Jan Dhan), direct benefit transfer to farmers (PM KISAN) or free gas connections (Ujjwala) and many more life changing interventions for the poor.
- The first quiz is on Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY). PM-GKAY is a pro-poor package intended to reduce the challenges encountered by the poor as a result of disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: PIB

Smriti Irani launches new motto of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Why in News

- Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani launched the new motto of **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** -

'भविष्यो रक्षति रक्षितः' on its 17th foundation day (1st March, 2022).



Key Points

- Smriti Irani also complemented the collaboration between NCPCR & Border Security Force for the special initiative called 'SAHARA', which is an initiative to provide psycho-social counselling & support to children of BSF jawans who made the supreme sacrifice.

About National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

- NCPCR is an Indian statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- The Commission works under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The Commission began operations on 5 March 2007.

Source: newsonair



Monthly Current Affairs

Finance Minister Smt. Sitharaman will launch a major e-governance initiative - the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system

Why in News

- Finance Minister Smt. Sitharaman will launch a major **e-governance initiative - the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system** as part of ease of doing business and Digital India eco-system on 2nd March 2022.
- The electronic bill processing system launch will be a part of the **46th Civil Accounts Day** celebration.



Key Points

- The Finance Minister had announced this major e-governance initiative in the Union Budget 2022-23 presented in Parliament on February 1.
- The e- Bill system will be implemented across all Central Ministries and Departments.
- This will be a further step to enhance transparency, efficiency, and a faceless- paperless payment system.
- Suppliers and contractors will now be able to submit their claim online which will be trackable on a real-time basis.

Note: The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) observes the “Civil Accounts Day” since its inception in 1976. ICAS is one of the Civil Services of India, under the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance.

Source: Business Standard

National Conclave on ‘Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities’

Why in News

- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**, under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), is organizing a **National conclave on ‘Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities: Encouraging Women Entrepreneurs in Waste management’** in Raipur, in collaboration with the Government of Chhattisgarh, on 3 March 2022.



Monthly Current Affairs

Key Points

- The day-long event will serve as a platform for peer learning for States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) on various centralised and decentralized waste management practices, as part of the Mission's capacity building initiatives.
- The event will also witness the release of the "National Capacity Building Framework for Garbage Free Cities" under SBM-Urban 2.0, which will help build capabilities of relevant stakeholders to strengthen the urban sanitation sector in the country.

About Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0:

- On 1st October 2021, the Prime Minister launched the **Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0** with the overall vision of creating "Garbage Free Cities".
- The Mission is being implemented under the overarching principles of "waste from wealth", and "circular economy" for maximising resource recovery.
- Recently, a **Swachhata Startup Challenge** has been launched by the Mission, in partnership with the Government of France.

Source: PIB

President of India inaugurates 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan

Why in News

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated a newly developed 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Key Points

- Spread in 6.6 acres, the Arogya Vanam has been developed in the shape of a human sitting in the Yoga Mudra.
- It consists of around 215 herbs and plants used for therapeutic purposes in Ayurveda.
- The concept of Arogya Vanam has been conceived with the aim of publicising the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body.

Source: newsonair

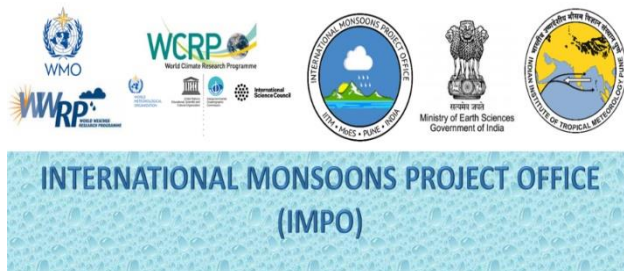


International Monsoons Project Office launched



Why in News

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)** on the occasion of National Science Day 2022.



Key Points

- The **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)** will be hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India, initially for five years.
- It would encompass activities and connections related to international monsoon research that would be identified and fostered under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.
- Both the World Climate Research Programme and World Weather Research Programme are international programmes coordinated by the United Nations World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- As part of its core responsibilities, the IMPO would support activities of the Monsoons Panel, jointly established by the World Climate Research Programme's CLIVAR (Climate and Ocean Variability, Predictability, and Change) and GEWEX (Global Energy and Water Exchanges) projects.

Note: It also precedes the 7th WMO International Workshop on Monsoons which is being organized in India jointly by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, World Climate Research Programme, and World Weather Research Programme in March 2022.

Source: PIB

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

Why in News

- Recently, Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar inaugurated a Camp in Maharashtra for distribution of daily living aids and assistive devices to Senior citizens under '**Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**' (**RVY Scheme**) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.



Key Points



Monthly Current Affairs

- In the inauguration camp, 4800 Daily Living aids and assistive have been distributed among as much as 895 senior citizen beneficiaries.

About Rashtriya Vayoshree Yojana:

- It was launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It is a central sector scheme funded from the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund.
- It aims to provide aids and assistive living devices to senior citizens belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category who suffer from age-related disabilities.

Note: As per the Census figures of 2011, the population of senior citizens in India is 10.38 crore. More than 70% of the population of senior citizens lives in rural areas of the country.

Other Schemes Related to Elderly:

- SACRED Portal for Elderly
- SAMPANN Project
- Elder Line: Toll-Free Number for Elderly
- SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) Initiative
- Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP)
- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
- Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPS) Act, 2007
- The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana
- Vayoshreshtha

Source: PIB

Janaushadhi Diwas week to be observed from 1st March to 7th March 2022

Why in News

- Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals is going to celebrate their 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas by organizing weeklong (1st March to 7th March 2022) celebrations at different locations across the country covering all States/UTs.
- The last day of the week i.e. 7th March will be celebrated as 'Janaushadhi Diwas'.

Key Points

- The theme of 4th Janaushadhi Diwas is "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi".



PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JAN AUSHADHI PARIYOJANA



Monthly Current Affairs

- This will generate awareness about the usages of generic medicines and benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.

About Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):

- PMBJP was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers in November, 2008.
- As on 31st January, 2022, the number of stores has increased to 8,675.
- Under the PMBJP, all 739 districts of the nation have been covered.
- The scheme ensures easy reach of affordable medicine to the people in every nook and corner of the country.
- The Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,500 by the end of March 2025.

Source: PIB

Ministry of Education launches Bhasha Certificate Selfie campaign

Why in News

- The Ministry of Education launched a campaign '**Bhasha Certificate Selfie**' to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.

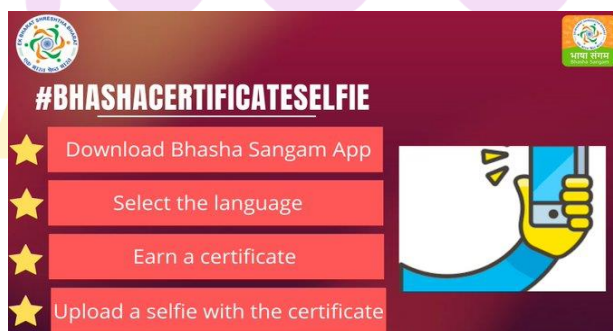
Key Points

- **Bhasha Certificate Selfie initiative** aims to promote Bhasha Sangam mobile app, developed by the Ministry of Education and MyGov India.
- Using the app, people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages.
- The initiative will aim to ensure that people acquire basic conversational skills in Indian languages.
- To achieve this, a target of 75 lakh people acquiring basic conversational skills has been set.
- The initiative is encouraging people to upload their selfie with the certificate from their social media accounts.

About Bhasha Sangam Initiative:

- It is an initiative to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in 22 Indian languages (Eighth Schedule languages).
- It is developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Source: PIB



Cabinet approves implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission with a budget of Rs.1,600 crore for five years

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the national roll-out of the Central Sector Scheme, **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, with a budget of Rs.1,600 crore for five years.



Key Points

- The **National Health Authority (NHA)** will be the implementing agency of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- Under the ABDM, citizens will be able to create their ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) numbers, to which their digital health records can be linked.
- The pilot of ABDM was completed in the six Union Territories of Ladakh, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep with successful demonstration of technology platform developed by the NHA.
- During the pilot, a digital sandbox was created in which more than 774 partner solutions are undergoing integration.
- As on 24th February 2022, 17,33,69,087 Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts have been created and 10,114 doctors and 17,319 health facilities have been registered in ABDM.

Source: PIB

Union Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launches the National Polio Immunization Drive, 2022

Why in News

- Dr. Mansukh Mandavia, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched the **National Polio Immunization Drive for 2022** by administering polio drops to children below five years of age.



Key Points

- Universal Immunization Programme** is focusing to protect children from more diseases than ever before and has introduced several new vaccines like



Monthly Current Affairs

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV), Rotavirus vaccine, and Measles-Rubella vaccine (MR) in the recent past.

About Polio National Immunization Drive and Polio National Immunization Day 2022 (NID):

- The Polio National Immunization Day 2022 (NID) has been organized across the country on 27th February 2022.
- India conducts one nationwide NID and two Sub-National Immunization Day (SNIDs) for polio every year to maintain population immunity against wild poliovirus and to sustain its polio free status.
- During the Polio NID, Over 15 crore children will be covered across all 36 States and UTs in 735 districts.
- India has been free of polio for more than a decade, with the last case of wild poliovirus reported on 13th January 2011.
- However, India continues to remain vigilant to prevent re-entry of the poliovirus into the country from neighboring countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan, where wild poliovirus continues to cause the disease.

Source: PIB

Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme

Why in News

- The Government has approved the continuation of the **Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme** beyond March 31, 2021 for a period of five years from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 with a financial outlay of Rs.1,364.88 crore.



Key Points

- The Ministry of Home Affairs aims to provide a secure and integrated service delivery framework that facilitates legitimate travelers while strengthening national security, through this scheme.
- The project has a global outreach and seeks to interlink and optimize functions relating to immigration, visa issuance, registration of foreigners and tracking of their movements in India by covering 192 Indian Missions across the globe, 108 Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) in India, 12 Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs) and offices and more than 700 Foreigners Registration Officers (FROs), Superintendents of Police (SPs)/Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) across the country.
- After the commencement of IVFRT, the number of Visa and OCI cards issued increased from 44.43 lakh in 2014 to 64.59 lakh in 2019 at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.7 percent.



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- Average visa processing time of 15 to 30 days (during pre-IVFRT period) has been reduced to a maximum of 72 hours in e-visas, with 95 percent of e-visas issued within 24 hours.
- International traffic to and from India grew from 3.71 crore to 7.5 crore during the last 10 years at a CAGR of 7.2 percent.

Source: ET

Flights under 'Operation Ganga' to evacuate stranded Indian nationals in Ukraine

Why in News

- Following the closure of Ukrainian airspace, India is facilitating evacuation of stranded Indians from Ukraine through its land border crossings with Romania, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.
- India has named the evacuation mission as 'Operation Ganga'.



Key Points

- The Ukrainian airspace has been closed for civil aircraft operations since February 24 when the Russian military offensive began.

Note:

- **Ukraine** is in the east of Europe, and is bound by Russia to its northeast, east, and southeast, and the Black Sea in the south.
- In the southwest, west, and north, Ukraine shares borders, in the clockwise direction, with Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, and Belarus
- Recently, Russia recognised two independent republics out of Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk - Donbass region), signaling the inevitable war that followed.

Source: India Today

State

Assam and Meghalaya signed historic agreement for settlement of inter-state border dispute



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Why in News

- In presence of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a historic agreement was signed in New Delhi by the Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma, and the Chief Minister, Meghalaya Conrad K. Sangma, for settlement of the interstate boundary between the States of Assam and Meghalaya, in respect of 6 out of 12 areas of difference.



Key Points

- Since July last year, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad Sangma have been in talks to resolve the long-standing dispute along its 884-km-long border.
- While there are 12 areas of dispute between the two states, in July 2021, both governments identified six areas (Hahim, Gizang, Tarabari, Boklapara, Khanapara-Pilingkata, Ratacherra) for resolution in the first phase.

Note:

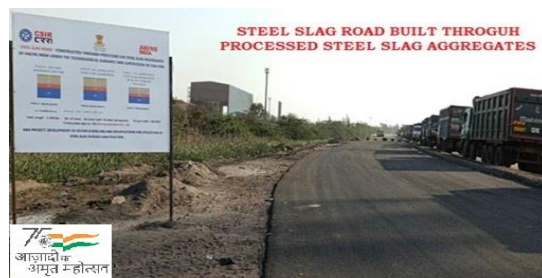
- During British rule, Assam included present-day Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya besides Mizoram, which later became separate states.
- Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972, and has held a different interpretation of the border since.

Source: Indian Express

Gujarat gets India's first 'steel road'

Why in News

- The Diamond City of India, Surat, Gujarat has become the first in India to get a road that is made out of steel waste.



Key Points

- Built by Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India with CSIR India (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) & CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) along with the government think tank NITI Aayog, the steel slag road is a stellar example of sustainable development.
- Millions of tonnes of steel slag are produced by steel industries and these have had no alternate use thus far.



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- Laid in the Hazira Industrial Area, the road consists of 100% processed steel slag.

Source: ET

Yogi Adityanath takes oath as Uttar Pradesh CM for second term

Why in News

- Yogi Adityanath took oath as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for the second consecutive term at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow.
- Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak also took oath as the deputy chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh.



Key Points

- The oath was administered by Governor Anandiben Patel.
- Adityanath is the 33rd chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. He is the first CM of Uttar Pradesh to win a second successive term after completing a full five-year tenure.
- The BJP retained power in Uttar Pradesh by winning 255 out of 403 constituencies.

Source: India Today

Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram, the classical musical instrument of Tamil Nadu gets GI tag

Why in News

- **Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram**, the classical wind musical instrument of Tamil Nadu has been granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** under the category of musical instruments of class 15.

Key Points

- The musical instrument is traditionally made by artisans based in a village near Kumbakonam who make them through specialized processing skills, a technique inherited from their forefathers.



About Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram:



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- Nagaswaram is a wind instrument made of wood and metal. The instrument has also been accorded a high status as a 'Mangala Vadyam' and is played in religious ceremonies, auspicious occasions, and classical concerts.

Geographical Indication tag:

- The Geographical Indication tag is issued for agricultural, natural, or manufactured goods that have a unique quality, reputation, or other characteristics attributable to their geographical origin.

Source: newsonair

35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela

Why in News

- Governor of Haryana Bandaru Dattatraya and Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal inaugurated the **35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2022** at Faridabad near Delhi.



Key Points

- More than 20 countries are participating in the event and the partner nation is Uzbekistan.
- Jammu & Kashmir is the 'Theme State' of the 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2022, which is showcasing its unique culture and rich heritage through various art forms and handicrafts from the state.
- Jointly hosted by the Surajkund Mela Authority and Haryana Tourism in collaboration with the Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture, External Affairs and Government of Haryana, this festival has come to occupy a place of pride and prominence on the international tourism calendar for its display of crafts, culture & cuisine of India in aesthetically created ambience.
- The Surajkund Crafts Mela was hosted for the first time in 1987 to showcase the richness and diversity of the handicrafts, handlooms, and the cultural heritage of India.

History of Surajkund:

- Surajkund, the site of the popular Surajkund International Crafts Mela is located at a distance of 8 km from South Delhi in Faridabad.
- Surajkund derives its name from the ancient amphitheatre, meaning 'lake of the sun' constructed here in the 10th century by Raja SurajPal, one of the Tomar chieftains.

Source: TOI



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Nagaland Legislative Assembly becomes first in country to have operationalised National e-Vidhan Application programme

Why in News

- Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) has become the first in the country to have operationalised the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme for conducting a session in paperless mode.



Key Points

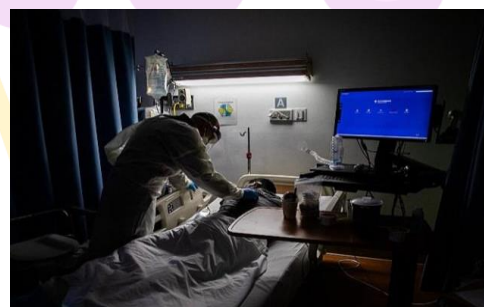
- E-Book installed in the NLA is the medium through which the member will be using the NeVA application in the Assembly in pursuit of the paperless Assembly.
- The NeVA is a project which is funded by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India with 10 percent State share.

Source: newsonair

India's first medical city 'Indrayani Medicity' to come up in Maharashtra

Why in News

- Maharashtra Government has announced to set up the country's first medical city named 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune district's rural area.



Key Points

- Indrayani Medicity will not only provide medical education and research facilities, but also all kinds of specialty treatment under one roof.
- The Medicity will be set up by the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA).
- It will be developed through a public-private partnership (PPP) with an investment of over Rs10,000 crore.

Source: HT

Andhra Pradesh retains top rank in Skoch State of Governance ranking in 2021



Why in News

- The Andhra Pradesh government has once again bagged the top rank in the Skoch State of Governance rankings 2021.
- The second rank was bagged by West Bengal and Odisha was ranked 3, Gujarat was ranked 4 and Maharashtra was ranked 5.



Key Points

- Andhra Pradesh also bagged top position in police and safety, agriculture, district administration and rural development.
- According to a release, Andhra Pradesh retained the first rank for the second consecutive year.
- In 2020 too, Andhra Pradesh bagged top rank in governance.

About SKOCH Group:

- SKOCH Group is India's leading think tank dealing with socio-economic issues with a focus on inclusive growth since 1997.
- The group companies include a consulting wing, a media wing and a charitable foundation.
- The SKOCH Group has released the SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021 in New Delhi, ranking the states according to their performance in various projects at state, district, and Email Article Print Article municipal levels.

Source: The Hind

Country's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park launched in IISc Bengaluru

Why in News

- The country's first **Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK)** with seed money of Rs 230 crore was launched at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.



Key Points

- Of the Rs 230 crore, Rs 170 crore would be borne by the Centre and the rest by the Karnataka government.



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- The ARTPARK has the objective of channelizing innovations to create a societal impact by executing ambitious mission-mode R&D projects in healthcare, education, mobility, infrastructure, agriculture, retail, and cyber-security aiming to solve problems unique to India.

India's first 100% women-owned FLO Industrial Park inaugurated in Hyderabad

Why in News

- India's first 100% women-owned FLO industrial park in Hyderabad, promoted by **FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)** in partnership with the Government of Telangana, was inaugurated.



Key Points

- The 50-acres FLO Industrial Park was established with an investment of Rs. 250 Crores, is the Flagship project and the first of its kind at a national level with participation open to Chapter Members and the national members of FLO.
- The park became operational by 25 women-owned and operated units representing 16 Green Category Industries.

About FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO):

- FLO was established in 1983, as a division of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) which is the apex body of industry and commerce in India.
- As an All India Organisation for women, FLO has 18 Chapters pan India - Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Northeast, Pune, Amritsar, Northeast & Uttarakhand, with its Head Office in New Delhi.

Source: India Today

Demand for Rajya Sabha Seat to Chandigarh

Why in News

- The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation approved a proposal to amend Article 80 of the Constitution so that its councillors could send a representative to the Rajya Sabha.



Key Points



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Private Member Bill — the Constitution (Amendment Bill, 2021) and Amendment of Article 80:

- The Private Member Bill is a bill introduced by a Member of Parliament (MP), who is not a minister. MPs sitting in the Opposition mostly bring Private Member Bills in the house.
- Article 80 of the Constitution of India deals with the composition of the council of states also called the Upper House.

Where does Chandigarh stand?

- Chandigarh is a Union Territory without any legislative assembly.
- Chandigarh has a seat of Member of Parliament (MP) in the lower house (Lok Sabha) or House of the People.
- Chandigarh residents elect an MP every five years through direct voting.

Note:

- The union territories of Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir and the National Capital Territory of Delhi have representation in the Rajya Sabha, while Ladakh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli — Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep are unrepresented in the upper house.

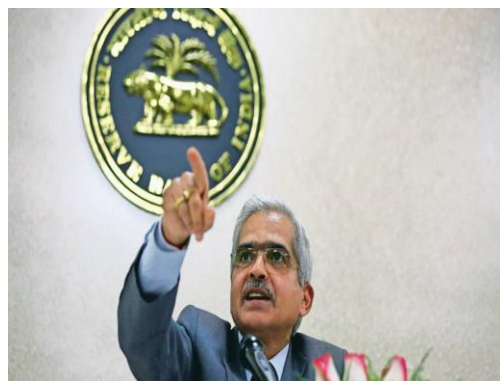
Source: Indian Express

Economy

RBI launches UPI123Pay that allows UPI payments on feature phones

Why in News

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das launched the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** service for feature phones.
- Termed as **UPI123Pay**, the service will allow 40 crore feature phone users across India to access the payment service.
- Additionally, the central bank also launched a 24×7 helpline for digital payments called DigiSaathi.



Key Points

- So far UPI was available only across all smartphones in India but with the latest move, feature phone users will also be allowed to send and receive payments.



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- The UPI123Pay service is a three-step method to initiate and execute services for users, which will work on phones which do not have an option for internet connection.

Note:

- UPI recorded 453 crore transactions worth Rs 8.26 lakh crore in February 2022, which is almost double in comparison to a year ago.

About Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

- UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) facilitating inter-bank peer-to-peer and person-to-merchant transactions. NPCI is an umbrella organisation for all digital payments.

Source: Indian Express

Cabinet allows up to 20% FDI in LIC under automatic route

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a proposal to allow **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** up to 20 percent in **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** through the automatic route.



Key Points

- The decision is expected to open doors for foreign investors who are keen to participate in the upcoming initial public offering (IPO) of LIC scheduled for next month.
- The LIC public issue would be the biggest IPO in the history of the Indian stock market.
- The existing FDI policy did not prescribe any specific provision for foreign investment in LIC, which is a statutory corporation established under LIC Act, 1956.

About Life Insurance Corporation of India:

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Chairman:** M R Kumar
- **Founder:** Government of India
- **Founded:** 1 September 1956

Source: Business Standard



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Polity

Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Why in News

- The Rajya Sabha passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022.**



Key Points

- The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to omit Bhogta community from the list of Scheduled Castes in Jharkhand and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 for inclusion of certain communities in the lists of Scheduled Tribes in the State.
- The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Upper House of Parliament on February 7, 2022.
- The Scheduled Castes order specifies the castes, races and tribes deemed to be Scheduled Castes in various states and Union territories, while the Scheduled Tribes order specifies the same for tribes and tribal communities.

Note: Earlier, Lok Sabha passed a bill to include the 'Darlong' community as a sub-tribe of the 'Kuki' in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tripura

Legal Provisions:

- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 against Untouchability
- Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
- Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

Source: TOI

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022



Monthly Current Affairs

Why in News

- Union Minister of State for Home, Ajay Misra Teni, introduced the **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill 2022** in the Lok Sabha.



Key Points

- The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill 2022 authorises law enforcement agencies to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples of convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation in criminal matters.
- The Bill seeks to repeal The Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 whose scope was limited to taking recording finger impressions and foot-print impressions of a limited category of convicted and non-convicted persons and photographs on the order of a Magistrate.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be the repository of physical and biological samples, signature and handwriting data that can be preserved for at least 75 years.
- Resistance to or refusal to allow the taking of measurements under this Act shall be deemed to be an offence under section 186 of the Indian Penal Codes.

Related Initiatives taken by the Government:

- The Home Ministry is working on the integration of the fingerprint database of the Central Finger Print Bureau (CFPB), and the NIST Fingerprint Image Software (NFIS).
- Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems

Source: The Hindu

The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Why in News

- Recently, the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in Lok Sabha.



Key Points

- The Bill seeks to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 passed by Parliament.
- The Act was amended in 2011 by Delhi Legislative Assembly to trifurcate the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Delhi into: (i) North Delhi Municipal



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Corporation, (ii) South Delhi Municipal Corporation, and (iii) East Delhi Municipal Corporation.

- The Bill seeks to unify the three corporations.

About Municipal Corporation:

- In India, the Municipal Corporation is the urban local government that is responsible for the development of any Metropolitan City having a population of more than one million people.
- The first municipal corporation in India was created in Madras in 1688, followed by municipal corporations in Bombay and Calcutta in 1726.

Constitutional Provisions:

- In the Constitution of India, no provision was made for the establishment of local self-government, except the incorporation of Article 40 in the Directive Principles of State Policy.
- The 74th Amendment Act, 1992 has inserted a new Part IX-A into the Constitution which deals with the administration of Municipalities and Nagar Palikas.

Source: Indian Express

Defense

1. IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22)

Why in News

- The maiden edition of **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22)** was conducted at Goa and in the Arabian Sea from 26 – 30 March 2022.

Key Points

- The aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations among member navies.
- The exercise witnessed participation of 15 out of the 25 member nations of IONS.
- The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), established in 2007, is a premier forum for cooperation and collaboration among navies of littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.
- IMEX – 22 comprised a Harbour Phase at Marmugao port, Goa from 26 to 27 March 2022 followed by a Sea Phase in the Arabian Sea from 28 to 30 March 2022.



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- The participation included warships, Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft and helicopters from the Navies of Bangladesh, France, India and Iran.
- 22 Observers from 15 IONS member navies, namely Australia, Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE and UK also participated in the exercise.

Source: PIB

2. CCS approves procurement of 15 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)

Why in News

- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved procurement of 15 **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Limited Series Production** at the cost of Rs. 3,887 Cr along with Infrastructure sanctions worth Rs. 377 Cr.



Key Points

About Light Combat Helicopter Limited Series Production (LSP):

- LSP is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state of the art modern combat helicopter containing approx. 45% indigenous content by value which will progressively increase to more than 55% for SP Version.
- The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) produces the helicopter.
- This helicopter is equipped with requisite agility, maneuverability, extended range, high altitude performance and around-the-clock, all-weather combat capability to perform roles of Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), Destruction of Enemy Air Defence (DEAD), Counter Insurgency (CI) operations, against slow moving aircraft and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs), high altitude bunker busting operations, Counter Insurgency operations in jungle and urban environments and support to ground forces and would be a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of Indian Air Force & Indian Army.

Source: Indian Express

Commissioning ceremony of INAS 316

Why in News

- **Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 316**, Indian Navy's second P-8I aircraft squadron has been commissioned into the Indian Navy on 29 Mar 2022.
- The ceremony was conducted at INS Hansa, Goa.

Key Points



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- INAS 316 has been christened 'Condors' which are one of the largest flying land birds with a massive wingspan.
- INAS 316 will operate the Boeing P-8I aircraft, a multi-role Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare (LRMR ASW) aircraft, that can be equipped with a range of Air-to-Ship Missiles and Torpedoes.
- The squadron has been specifically commissioned to be the home for the four new P-8I aircraft procured under the Option Clause contract and to 'Deter, Detect and Destroy' any threat in the IOR.
- These aircraft have been operating from Hansa since 30 Dec 2021 and the squadron is integrated with full spectrum surface and subsurface Naval Operations.

Source: PIB

DRDO successfully flight tests Indian Army version of MRSAM off Odisha coast

Why in News

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army version of **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)** at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.



Key Points

- The first launch was to intercept a medium altitude long range target and second launch was for proving the capability of a low altitude short range target.

About Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM):

- This MRSAM version is a Surface-to-Air Missile developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel for use by the Indian Army.
- The MRSAM Army weapon system comprises multi-function radar, mobile launcher system and other vehicles.
- It is a land based variant of the Barak Air and Missile Defence System (AMD).

Source: Indian Express

Exercise 'Suraksha Kavach 2'

Why in News



Monthly Current Affairs

- Recently, Agnibaaz Division organized a joint exercise 'Suraksha Kavach 2' between Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar, Pune.



Key Points

- The aim of the exercise was to harmonize the drills and procedures undertaken by Army and Police to counter any likely terrorist actions in Pune.
- The exercise involved participation of Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) of Indian Army, Anti-Terrorism Squad of Maharashtra Police alongwith Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of both agencies.

Source: HT

Skill Development Ministry recognises INS Shivaji as the Centre of Excellence in Marine Engineering

Why in News

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) recognised INS Shivaji as the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the field of Marine Engineering (ME).

Key Points

- MSDE's designation of INS Shivaji as a Centre of Excellence is the first of its kind for any military organisation, and it reflects the INS Shivaji's continued commitment to skill and technology development.



About INS Shivaji:

- INS Shivaji is an Indian naval station in Lonavla, Maharashtra.
- It houses the Naval College of Engineering, which educates and trains Indian Navy and Coast Guard officials.
- The organisation was commissioned as HMIS Shivaji on February 15, 1945.

Some other Major Initiatives of MSDE:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)



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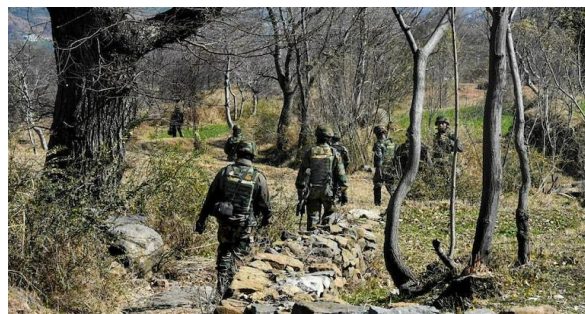
- Skill Management and Accreditation of Training Centres (SMART)
- SANKALP Scheme

Source: PIB

3rd edition of joint training exercise between Indian and Uzbekistan armies, EX-DUSTLIK

Why in News

- The 3rd edition of joint training exercise between Indian and Uzbekistan armies, **EX-DUSTLIK** is being conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan from 22 to 31 March 2022.



Key Points

- The Indian contingent which comprises a platoon strength of Grenadiers Regiment departed for the exercise area on 22 March 2022 to join the Uzbekistan Army contingent represented by troops of the North Western Military District.
- The last edition of DUSTLIK was conducted in Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) in March 2021.
- The joint exercise would focus on Counter Terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain under a United Nations Mandate.
- The **Grenadiers battalion** nominated for the exercise is one of the highly decorated battalions of Indian Army and has the unique distinction of participating in almost all the Pre and Post Independence Operations. The unit has been awarded eight Pre-Independence Battle Honours. Post Independence, it has earned theatre honour 'RAJASTHAN' in 1965 war and battle honour 'JARPAL' in 1971 war.

Source: India Today

Exercise Cold Response 2022



Why in News

- The military exercise '**Cold Response 2022**' has been organized by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Norway.
- The exercise started on 14 March and will continue to 1 April 2022.

**Key Points**

- Over 30,000 soldiers from 27 countries, as well as a number of civilian agencies participate in the exercise.
- This exercise is held biennially in Norway.
- Cold Response 2022 is a long-planned exercise bringing together thousands of troops from NATO Allies and partners, testing their ability to work together in cold weather conditions across Norway – on land, in the air and at sea.
- Cold Response 2022 is organised by the Norwegian Armed Forces.
- The first exercise was the largest military exercise in Norway in 2006.

About North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance among 28 European countries and 2 North American countries.
- Established in the aftermath of World War II, the organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty, signed 4 April 1949.
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium

Source: nato.int

Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022**Why in News**

- The **9th Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022** between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) is being conducted at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Seychelles from 22 March to 31 March 2022.

**Key Points**

- An Infantry Platoon strength each from both the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces along with Company Headquarters will be participating in this exercise which is aimed at sharing experiences gained during various operations against hostile forces in Semi-Urban environment and enhance capability to undertake joint operations.



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- **Exercise LAMITIYE** is a biennial training event which is being conducted in Seychelles since 2001.

Source: PIB

Indian Coast Guard's fifth offshore patrol vessel Saksham commissioned in Goa

Why in News

- Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar commissioned **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Saksham'**, the fifth in the series of 105-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) class, at Goa.



Key Points

- The 105-meter OPV has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited and fitted with advance technology, navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery.
- The ship has been equipped with an Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), Power Management System (PMS) and High Power External fire-fighting (EFF) system.
- The ship, on joining the Coast Guard fleet, will be based at Kochi.
- It will be deployed extensively for Exclusive Economic Zones surveillance and other duties as enshrined in the Coast Guard charter.

Note: Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a seven-storeyed **Flight Control System (FCS) Integration facility** at Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Source: India Today



Monthly Current Affairs

Ninth Edition of India - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'SLINEX' 2022

Why in News

- The Ninth Edition of **India - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'SLINEX' (Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise)** is scheduled at Visakhapatnam from 07 Mar to 10 Mar 2022.
- The exercise is being conducted in two phases; the Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam on 07-08 Mar 22 followed by the Sea Phase on 09-10 Mar 22 in the Bay of Bengal.



Key Points

- Sri Lanka Navy will be represented by SLNS Sayurala, an advanced offshore patrol vessel and the Indian Navy by INS Kirch, a guided missile corvette.
- The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off Trincomalee in October 2020.
- SLINEX aims to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
- SLINEX exemplifies the deep maritime engagement between India and Sri Lanka and has grown in scope over the years to strengthen mutual cooperation, in consonance with India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)'.

Source: PIB

Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange conference

Why in News

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated, on March 07, 2022, the four-day **Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange (IPMHE) conference** co-hosted by Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM).



Key Points



Monthly Current Affairs

- The **theme** of the conference is 'Military Healthcare in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) World'.
- The conference, which will continue till March 10, 2022, aims to enhance cooperation and jointmanship in military medicine.
- It will cover many important topics including operational/combat medical care, tropical medicine, field surgery, field anaesthesia, aviation & marine medicine emergencies etc.

Source: PIB

Indian Navy successfully fires extended range Brahmos land attack missile

Why in News

- The Indian Navy successfully demonstrated the accuracy of an extended-range land attack Brahmos supersonic cruise missile from the stealth destroyer INS Chennai.



Key Points

- Both Brahmos missile and INS Chennai are indigenously built and highlight the cutting-edge of Indian missile and ship-building prowess.
- They reinforce the Indian Navy's contribution towards the Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Make in India endeavours.
- **BrahMos Aerospace**, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.

Source: ET

Postponement of DefExpo 2022

Why in News

- Due to logistics problems being experienced by participants, the DefExpo 2022 (12th edition) proposed to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from March 10th till March 14th is postponed.

Key Points

- Russia and Ukraine were among the 70 countries expected to participate in the DefExpo 2022.
- The 11th edition of DefExpo was held at Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) in 2020.



Monthly Current Affairs

- DefExpo is a flagship biennial event of the Ministry of Defence, showcasing the land, naval, air as well as homeland security systems.
- DefExpo began in 1996.

Source: Indian Express

INS Visakhapatnam

Why in News

- Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh dedicated **INS Visakhapatnam**, the indigenously designed and constructed guided-missile stealth destroyer named after the City of Destiny – Visakhapatnam, in a formal ceremony held at Naval Dockyard on 27 Feb 2022.



Key Points

- INS Visakhapatnam is on her maiden visit to the port for participating in the PFR and MILAN 2022.
- It is the lead ship of the P15B class of guided missile stealth destroyers and was commissioned on 21 Nov 2021.
- The ship symbolises India's matured shipbuilding capability and quest for the Make in India initiative towards achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

Source: PIB

Joint military exercise, “EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022”, between India and Japan

Why in News

- A joint military exercise, “**EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022**”, between India and Japan has been started at Foreign Training Node, Belagavi (Belgaum, Karnataka) on 27 February 2022. It will continue till 10 March 2022.



Key Points

- **Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022** is an annual training event which is being conducted in India since 2018.
- It will enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces, which in turn will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.



Monthly Current Affairs

- The scope of this exercise covers platoon level joint training on operations in jungle and semi urban/urban terrain.

Source: PIB

Boeing delivers 12th P-8I patrol aircraft to Indian Navy

Why in News

- US aerospace major **Boeing** has delivered the **12th Poseidon-8I maritime patrol aircraft** to India.
- The fleet is being operated by the Indian Navy primarily to carry out surveillance in the Indian Ocean region.



Key Points

- The first of these aircraft was inducted in 2013, and it made India the first country outside the United States to get one.
- The aircraft is designed for “long-range anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions”.
- It is a “multi-mission aircraft” with “state of the art sensors, proven weapons systems, and a globally recognised platform”.

Source: India Today

Appointments/Resignations

Gilbert Hougbo will be the next Director-General of ILO

Why in News

- Gilbert Hougbo from Togo will be the next Director-General of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.

Key Points

- Gilbert Hougbo was elected by the ILO's Governing Body, comprising representatives of governments, workers and employers, during their meeting in Geneva.



Monthly Current Affairs

- Hounghbo is currently President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- He will be the 11th Director-General of the ILO, and the first African to hold the post.
- His five-year term will begin on October 1, 2022. The current Director-General, **Guy Ryder**, from the United Kingdom, has held the office since 2012.

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
- **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: ET

Pramod Sawant takes oath as Goa CM for second consecutive term

Why in News

- BJP leader Pramod Sawant took oath as Chief Minister of Goa for the second consecutive term.

Key Points

- Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Sawant.
- The BJP had won 20 of the 40 seats in Goa.
- Mr. Sawant was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Goa for the first time in March 2019 after Manohar Parrikar's death.



Source: Indian Express

Former Chief Justice of India R C Lahoti passes away



Monthly Current Affairs

- Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ramesh Chandra Lahoti passed away at 81.
- Justice Lahoti was appointed the 35th CJI on June 1, 2004. He retired on November 1, 2005.
- He was a former independent director on the Board of directors of the Press Trust of India.

Source: The Hindu



Pushkar Singh Dhami takes oath for second term as Uttarakhand Chief Minister

Why in News

- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and son of an ex-serviceman, **Pushkar Singh Dhami** took oath as the 12th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand in a grand swearing-in ceremony at the Parade Ground in Dehradun.

Key Points

- Governor Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Dhami.
- The youngest CM of the state, Dhami was brought in as a replacement for former chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat in July last year.
- The BJP won the popular mandate for the second consecutive term in Uttarakhand and won 47 seats in the 70-member assembly.

Source: TOI



Indian Economist Jayati Ghosh appointed in UN Advisory Board on Multilateralism



Monthly Current Affairs

Why in News

- Indian development economist Jayati Ghosh has been appointed by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to a new high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism.



Key Points

- UN chief Guterres announced the establishment of the Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism to be co-chaired by former Liberian president and Nobel laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven.
- Ms Ghosh has been named to the 12-member board, which will be supported in its work by the Centre for Policy Research of the United Nations University in close coordination with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.
- She is also a member of the UN's high-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs.
- Jayati Ghosh, 65, is a professor of economics at University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Note: The first United Nations High-level Advisory Board was established in June 2018 as a key element of the efforts to support the U.N. Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Source: The Hindu

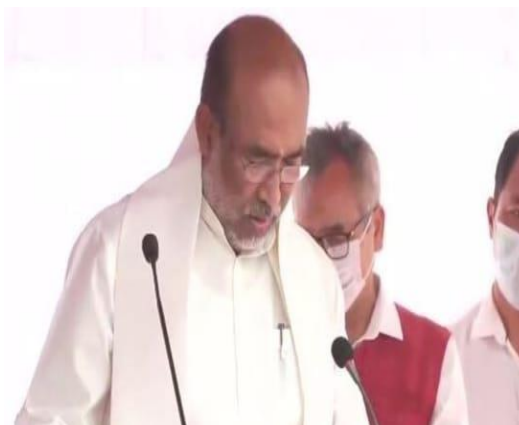
N Biren Singh takes oath as Manipur CM for second straight term

Why in News

- N Biren Singh took oath as Manipur's Chief Minister for a second straight term.

Key Points

- Manipur Governor La. Ganesan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Singh in the swearing-in ceremony that took place in Imphal.
- The BJP won 32 of the 60 seats in the election. This is the first time that the party won an absolute majority in Manipur.
- In 2017, the BJP had formed the government with the support of the Naga People's Front (NPF) and the National People's Party (NPP). Biren Singh was sworn in as the first-ever BJP Chief Minister in Manipur.



Source: HT

Gabriel Boric becomes Chile's youngest president

Why in News

- Ex-student protest leader, Gabriel Boric Font has been appointed as the new and 36th President of Chile.

Key Points

- The 36-year-old leftist, Gabriel Boric is the youngest leader to hold the office in Chile's history.
- Boric will hold the office for the period between 2022-2026.



Source: Indian Express

Bhagwant Mann takes oath as Punjab Chief Minister

Why in News

- Aam Aadmi Party leader, Bhagwant Mann took oath as the 18th Punjab Chief Minister in Punjab's Khatkar Kalan, Bhagat Singh's ancestral village.

Key Points

- Mr Mann was administered the oath by Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
- The Aam Aadmi Party won 92 seats in the 117-member Punjab Assembly.



Source: Indian Express

Tata Sons' chief N Chandrasekaran appointed Air India chairman

Why in News

- Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran has been appointed the Chairman of Air India.
- The development came days after Ilker Ayci, former chairman of Turkish Airlines, turned down the Tata Group's offer to be the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Air India.



Monthly Current Affairs

Key Points

- The Tata Group took over the airline on January 27, 2022.
- Chandrasekaran also serves as the non-executive chairman of several other Tata Group companies, including Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Chemicals and Tata Consumer Products.
- He was reappointed Tata Sons' executive chairman last month for another five years.

Source: Indian Express

Yoon Suk Yeol elected as new President of South Korea

Why in News

- In South Korea, opposition candidate **Yoon Suk Yeol**, a conservative former top prosecutor, has been elected as the country's new President.

Key Points:

- Yoon Suk Yeol defeated his ruling liberal party opponent **Lee Jae-myung**.
- Yoon will take office in May and serve a single five-year term as leader of the world's 10th largest economy.

Source: TOI



Madhabi Puri Buch appointed first woman chairperson of SEBI

Why in News

- Former banker **Madhabi Puri Buch** has been appointed as the new chairperson of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** - the first-ever woman to head the capital markets regulator.

Key Points

- Ms. Buch was not only the first woman whole-time member of SEBI but also the first person from the private sector working at the regulator, has been appointed for a three-year term.
- Starting her career with ICICI Bank, she went on to become the managing director and CEO at ICICI Securities from February 2009 to May 2011.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):



Monthly Current Affairs

- 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: The Hindu

Awards & Honours

Oscar Awards 2022; Will Smith wins first Oscar as best actor; Dune bags six awards and CODA takes three

- The **94th Academy Awards (Oscar Awards)** ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honored the best films released between March 1 and December 31, 2021.
- Will Smith won the first Oscar as Best Actor of his career for his performance in King Richard. Jessica Chastain won Best Actress for The Eyes of Tammy Faye.
- CODA was the big winner, winning the Best Picture award. The film was nominated in three categories and won all three.
- Dune won six awards at the Oscars out of its ten nominations.

Some of the other prominent awards:

- Best Picture: CODA
- Best Actor: Will Smith for King Richard
- Best Actress: Jessica Chastain for The Eyes of Tammy Faye
- Best Director: Jane Campion for The Power of the Dog
- Best Supporting Actor: Troy Kotsur for CODA
- Best Supporting Actress: Ariana DeBose for West Side Story



Monthly Current Affairs

- Best Documentary Short Subject: The Queen of Basketball
- Best International Feature Film: Drive My Car

Source: Newsonair

NITI Aayog organizes fifth edition of Women Transforming India Awards

Why in News

- NITI Aayog organized the fifth edition of the **Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards**.



Key Points

- This year, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate 75 years of India's independence, the WTI Awards were conferred on 75 women achievers to celebrate their contribution towards a 'Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat'.

About Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards:

- The Women Transforming India Awards is NITI Aayog's annual initiative to highlight the commendable and ground-breaking endeavours of India's women leaders and change-makers.
- Since 2018, the Awards have been hosted under the aegis of NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), with a special focus on entrepreneurship.
- **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** is an aggregator portal that aims to catalyse the entrepreneurial ecosystem for women and address information asymmetry.

Source: PIB

Karolina Bielawska from Poland wins the Miss World 2021 crown



Why in News

- Karolina Bielawska from Poland has won the 70th edition of the Miss World pageant (Miss World 2021) that took place in Puerto Rico.

Key Points

- Indian-American Shree Saini from the United States bagged the first runner-up title, followed by Olivia Yace from Cote d'Ivoire as the second runner-up.
- Femina Miss India World 2020 Manasa Varanasi represented India at the Miss World 2021. She reached the Top 13 contestants but could not make it to the Top 6 finalists.



Source: HT

BAFTA Awards 2022

- The 75th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA Awards) 2022 was held at the Royal Albert Hall, London.
- Dune won five BAFTA 2022 awards for Best Original Score, Cinematography, Production Design, Sound and Visual Effects.

**BAFTA Awards 2022 Main Winners List:**

- **Best Film:** The Power of the Dog
- **Best Director:** Jane Campion for The Power of the Dog
- **Best Actor:** Will Smith for King Richard
- **Best Actress:** Joanna Scanlan for After Love
- **Outstanding British Film:** Belfast
- **Best Animated Film:** Encanto
- **Best Documentary:** Summer of Soul
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Troy Kotsur for CODA
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Ariana DeBose for West Side Story
- **Best Film not in English Language:** Drive My Car
- **Best Original Screenplay:** Licorice Pizza
- **Best Adapted Screenplay:** CODA

Source: India Today



Monthly Current Affairs

Ujjain enters Guinness Book for lighting more than 11 lakh diyas on Mahashivratri

Why in News

- In Madhya Pradesh, Ujjain entered the **Guinness Book of World Records** for lighting more than 11 lakh earthen lamps simultaneously on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

Key Points

- The people of Ujjain have set a new record by lighting more than 11 lakh 71 thousand lamps simultaneously breaking the record of 9 lakh 41 thousand lamps lit in Ayodhya last November.
- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the 'Shiv Jyoti Arpanam' festival at Ramghat of Kshipra River.

Note: Ujjain is home to Mahakaleshwar, one of the 12 jyotirlingas associated with Shiva.

Source: ET



Government invites applications for National Startup Awards 2022

Why in News

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched the third edition of the **National Startup Awards 2022**.

Key Points

- The first National Startup Awards were announced in 2020 and witnessed applications from over 1,600 startups and ecosystem enablers across India.
- The recently concluded National Startup Awards 2021 saw participation from over 2,200 startups and ecosystem enablers.

About National Startup Awards 2022:

- The awards for startups will be given in 17 sectors classified into 50 sub-sectors.
- The 17 sectors are Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Construction, Drinking Water, Education & Skill Development, Energy, Enterprise Technology, Environment, FinTech, Food Processing, Health and Wellness, Industry 4.0, Media & Entertainment, Security, Space, Transport, and Travel.
- In addition, there are seven special categories of awards for startups.



Monthly Current Affairs

Note:

- Startups are the key reason behind India's meteoric rise in **Global Innovation Index from 76 in 2014 to 46 in 2021**.
- 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.

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

IISER professor Deepak Dhar becomes first Indian to bag Boltzmann Medal 2022

Why in News

- Physicist Professor Deepak Dhar has become the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal 2022.

Key Points

- He shares the medal with John J Hoefield of Princeton University.
- Prof Dhar is presently the emeritus faculty at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune.



About Boltzmann Medal:

- The Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) presents this medal once in three years for contributions in the field of statistical physics.
- The medal presentation ceremony will be held during the StatPhys28 conference scheduled to be held in Tokyo in August this year.

Source: Indian Express



Monthly Current Affairs

Important Days

March 24, World TB Day

Why in News

- **World TB Day (World Tuberculosis Day)** is observed on March 24 each year to raise public awareness about Tuberculosis (TB).

Key Points

- The **theme** of World TB Day 2022 is 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives.'
- On this day in the year 1882, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of the bacteria that causes TB. It paved the way for diagnosis and cure of this deadly disease.
- World TB Day is one of eleven official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO), along with World Health Day, World Chagas Disease Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, World Immunization Week, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Hepatitis Day, World Patient Safety Day and World AIDS Day.

Source: [who.int](https://www.who.int)



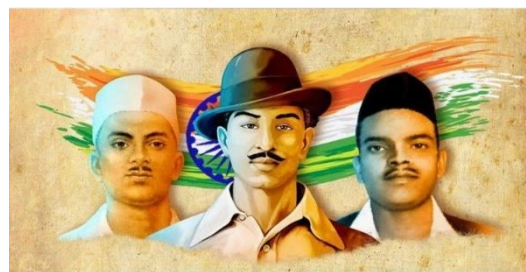
March 23, Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day

Why in News

- March 23 is observed as Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day in India.

Key Points

- On March 23, 1931, Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar were hanged to death by the British in Lahore Jail.
- In order to honour and remember their sacrifice for India's freedom struggle, March 23rd is celebrated as Shaheed Diwas.
- Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas is also observed every year on January 30 in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.



Monthly Current Affairs

Note: On the occasion of Shaheed Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **Biplobi Bharat Gallery** at Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata.

Source: India Today

March 23, World Meteorological Day

Why in News

- World Meteorological Day is celebrated on March 23 every year.

Key Points

- The **theme** for World Meteorological Day 2022 is 'Early Warning and Early Action'.
- The day is celebrated as the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), an organization of the United Nations, was created on 23 March 1950 to replace the International Meteorological Organization.
- The first World Meteorological Day was held on 23 March 1961.

Source: un.org



March 22, World Water Day

Why in News

- World Water Day is observed every year on 22nd March.

Key Points

- The **theme** for World Water Day 2022 is 'Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible'.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993.
- A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Source: un.org



Monthly Current Affairs

March 21, International Day of Forests

Why in News

- International Day of Forests is celebrated every year on March 21st.

Key Points

- The **theme** for International Day of Forests 2022 is "Forests and sustainable production and consumption."
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests in 2012.

Note: Recently, the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** approved a resolution for setting **March 15th as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia**.

Source: [un.org](https://www.un.org/)



March 20, World Sparrow Day

Why in News

- World Sparrow Day (WSD) is celebrated every year on March 20th.

Key Points

- World Sparrow Day was established by the Nature Forever Society in India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation in France and various other national and international organisations throughout the world to promote awareness of the house sparrow and other similar birds.
- In 2010, the first World Sparrow Day was organised.

Source: [India Today](https://www.indiatoday.com/)



March 15, World Consumer Rights Day

Why in News

- The consumer movement marks 15th March with World Consumer Rights Day every year, as a means of raising global awareness about consumer rights and needs.

Key Points

- The **theme** of the World Consumer Rights Day 2022 is 'Fare Digital Finance'.



Monthly Current Affairs

History:

- World Consumer Rights Day was inspired by President John F Kennedy, who sent a special message to the US Congress on 15th March 1962, in which he formally addressed the issue of consumer rights.
- The consumer movement first marked that date in 1983 and now uses the day every year to mobilise action on important issues and campaigns.

Note: In India, December 24 is celebrated annually as National Consumer Rights Day.

Source: HT

March 8, International Women's Day

Why in News

- International Women's Day is celebrated every year on March 8.

Key Points

- The **theme** for International Women's Day, 2022 is 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'.
- The first International Women's Day celebration took place in the year 1911.

Note:

- On International Women's Day 2022, President of India Ram Nath Kovind will confer Prestigious **Nari Shakti Puraskars** to 29 outstanding Individuals for the years 2020 and 2021.
- '**Nari Shakti Puraskar**' is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to acknowledge the exceptional contribution made by individuals and institutions, to celebrate women as game changers and catalyst of positive change in the society.

Source: un.org



March 4, National Safety Day

Why in News

- **National Safety Day** is observed on March 4 every year.

Key Points

- The **theme** of National Safety Day 2022 is 'Nurture Young Minds- Develop Safety Culture'.

History:



Monthly Current Affairs

- National Safety Day was first observed on the foundation day of the National Safety Council in 1972.
- The National Safety Council (NSC) of India was set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on 4 March 1966.
- The vision and mission of the Council is the successful running of the safety, health and environment (SHE) campaign.

Source: India Today

March 3, World Wildlife Day

Why in News

- World Wildlife Day is celebrated on 3rd March every year.

Key Points

- The **theme** of World Wildlife Day 2022 is "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration".



History:

- On 20 December 2013, the Sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim 3 March as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora.
- The date is the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973, which plays an important role in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the species' survival.

Note:

- According to data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, over 8,400 species of wild fauna and flora are critically endangered, while close to 30,000 more are understood to be endangered or vulnerable.

Source: un.org

March 3, World Hearing Day



Why in News

- World Hearing Day is observed on March 3 every year.

Key Points

- The **theme** of World Hearing Day 2022 is "To hear for life, listen with care."
- The campaign is held every year by the Office of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The campaign's objectives are to share information and promote actions towards the prevention of hearing loss and improved hearing care.
- The first event was held in 2007. Before 2016 it was known as International Ear Care Day.

Note: Across the world, 360 million people suffer from disabling hearing loss.

Source: [who.int](https://www.who.int)



March 01, Zero Discrimination Day

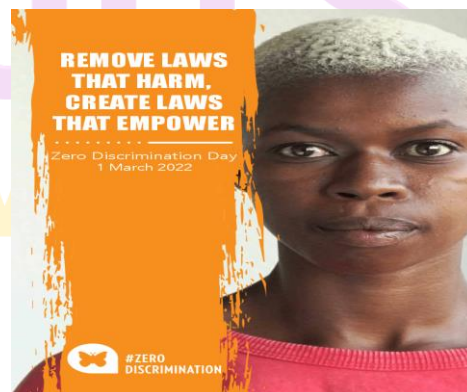
Why in News

- Zero Discrimination Day is an annual day celebrated on 1 March each year by the United Nations (UN) and other international organisations.

Key Points

- The **theme** of the Zero Discrimination Day is "Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower".
- The day aims to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN.
- The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014, and was launched by UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé on 27 February of that year.

Source: [un.org](https://www.un.org)



February 28, National Science Day

Why in News

- National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated annually on February 28.



Monthly Current Affairs

Key Points

- The **theme** for NSD of the year 2022 is 'Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future'.
- National Science Day is celebrated to commemorate the discovery of Raman Effect by Nobel laureate, physicist CV Raman on this day in 1928.
- For his discovery, Sir C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.

Source: Business Standard

Science & Technology

MATLAB on I-STEM National Portal launched

Why in News

- For the first time in the country, academic users in India will be able to access the **MATLAB software** suite at no cost through the **Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM) portal**.



Key Points

- The MATLAB software suite is hosted on the cloud server of I-STEM to provide user friendly access from anywhere in India.

About MATLAB:

- MATLAB is a proprietary multi-paradigm programming language and numeric computing environment developed by MathWorks.

About I-STEM:

- I-STEM is an initiative of Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (PSA, GoI) under the aegis of **Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)**.
- During Indian Science Congress of 2020, I-STEM portal was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the national web portal for sharing R&D facilities.
- The I-STEM aims to strengthen the R&D ecosystem by connecting researchers with resources, in part by promoting technologies and scientific equipment development indigenously.

Source: PIB

Dr. Jitendra Singh announces launch of Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB- "Dare2eraD TB"



Why in News

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the launch of **Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB- “Dare2eraD TB”** by the Department of Biotechnology, M/o Science & Technology, on the occasion of World TB Day.



Key Points

- In March 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Delhi End TB Summit. At the Summit, the Prime Minister gave the clarion call to End TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the TB-related SDG targets of 2030.
- Dr. Singh said that in India, we are still carrying on with the stigma of Tuberculosis with around 2-3 million cases every year, which is a matter of concern.

India's Efforts:

- National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis Elimination (2017-2025), The Nikshay Ecosystem (National TB information system), Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY- financial support), TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign.

Source: PIB

Nitin Gadkari launches world's most advanced technology - developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai

Why in News

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the world's most advanced technology - developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai in New Delhi.
- This is a first of its kind project in India which aims to create a Green Hydrogen based ecosystem in the country by creating awareness about the unique utility of Green Hydrogen and FCEV technology.



Key Points

- Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd and International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) are conducting a Pilot Project to study and evaluate the



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world's most advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai which runs on hydrogen, on Indian roads and climatic conditions.

- It is an important initiative which will promote clean energy and environmental protection by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and thereby make India 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047,
- Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), powered by Hydrogen is one of the best Zero Emission solutions. It is completely environment friendly with no tailpipe emissions other than water.

Source: ET

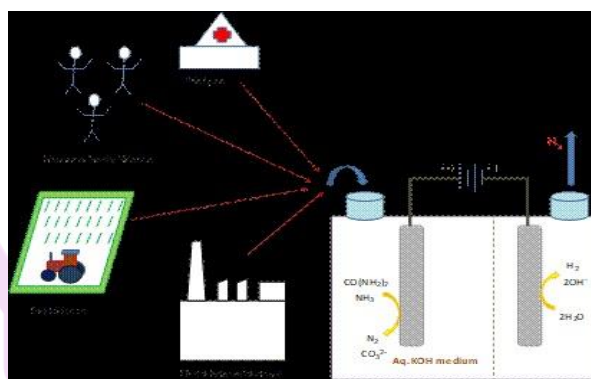
Scientists develop energy-efficient hydrogen production by urea electrolysis

Why in News

- Indian Scientists have designed an electrocatalyst system for energy-efficient hydrogen production with the help of electrolysis of urea.

Key Points

- The urea electrolysis is helpful towards urea-based waste treatment with low-cost hydrogen production.
- India is one of the top countries by urea production, and it produced 244.55 LMT of urea during 2019-20.
- The nitrogenous fertilizer industries generate a high concentration of ammonia and urea as effluents.
- This can be utilized for energy production towards our country's benefits.
- The energy requirement for production of hydrogen through water electrolysis can be reduced by 70 % through urea electrolysis.

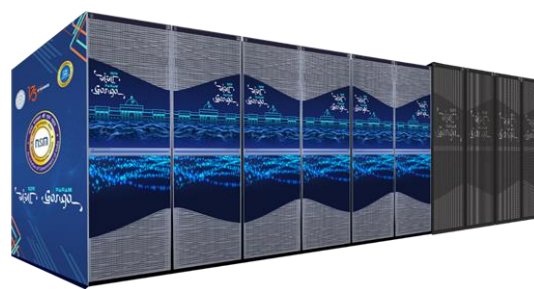


Source: PIB

Petascale Supercomputer “PARAM Ganga” established at IIT Roorkee under National Supercomputing Mission

Why in News

- **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)** has now deployed “**PARAM Ganga**”, a supercomputer at IIT Roorkee, with a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops.



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- The system is designed and commissioned by C-DAC under Phase 2 of the build approach of the NSM.

Key Points

About National Supercomputing Mission (NSM):

- The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) which is being steered jointly by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, has progressed significantly.
- The four major pillars of the NSM, namely, Infrastructure, Applications, R&D, HRD, have been functioning efficiently to realize the goal of developing indigenous supercomputing eco system of the nation.
- C-DAC has been entrusted the responsibility to design, development, deployment and commission the supercomputing systems under the build approach of Mission.
- It has designed and developed a computer server “Rudra” and high-speed interconnect “Trinetra” which are the major sub-assemblies required for supercomputers.

Source: PIB

HANSA-NG successfully completes sea level trials at Puducherry

Why in News

- Recently, India's first indigenous Flying Trainer HANSA-NG has successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry.

Key Points

- HANSA-NG is designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bangalore under the aegis of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- HANSA-NG is one of the most advanced flying trainer powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine with unique features like Just-In-Time Prepreg (JIPREG) Composite light weight Airframe, Glass Cockpit, Bubble Canopy with wide panoramic view, electrically operated flaps etc.
- HANSA-NG is designed to meet the Indian flying club needs and it is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption.

Note: HANSA-NG (HANSA-New Generation) is an upgraded version of HANSA, which saw the first flight in 1993, and was certified in 2000.

Source: PIB



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inspects the trial of Kavach System

Why in News

- Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Communication and Electronics & Information Technology inspected the trial of 'Kavach' working system between Gullaguda-Chitgidda Railway stations on Lingampalli-Vikarabad section in Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway.
- As a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat, 2,000 km of network will be brought under Kavach for safety and capacity augmentation in 2022-23.



Key Points

About Kavach:

- The Kavach is an indigenously developed ATP system by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with Indian industry and trials facilitated by South Central Railway to achieve the corporate objective of safety in train operations across Indian Railways.
- It is a state of the art electronic system of Safety Integrity Level - 4 standards.
- Kavach is meant to provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Danger (Red) and avoid collision.
- It activates the train braking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per the speed restrictions.

Other Initiatives Related to Railways:

- Transit Oriented Development
- Overhead Traction System
- National Rail Transportation Institute
- Railway Energy Management Company Limited

Source: Indian Express

India's first Start-up in latest Daylight Harvesting Technology

Why in News



Monthly Current Affairs

- The Ministry of Science & Technology has decided to promote a unique Start-up in the latest **Daylight Harvesting Technology** in order to reduce carbon footprint and improve the building energy efficiency.

Key Points

- The only Start-up company in India for Daylight Harvesting Technologies “Skyshade Daylights Private Limited” Hyderabad signed an MoU with Technology Development Board, a statutory body of Department of Science & Technology.
- The company aims to create Green & Net zero buildings and to participate and contribute in national missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Note:

- The country has set an ambitious target to achieve a capacity of 175 GW of its energy requirement from renewable energy sources by the end of 2022, and committed to achieve 500 GW by 2030 as stated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the COP26 summit in Glasgow.

Other initiatives to Promote Energy Efficiency:

- Energy Conservation Building Code
- Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme
- Standards and Labeling
- Demand Side Management
- Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- ECO Niwas Samhita

Source: PIB



Environment

New gin berry species discovered in southern Western Ghats

Why in News

- A team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has discovered a new gin berry species from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.



Key Points

- The species, named *Glycosmis albicarpa* with a distinct large white fruit, is endemic to the southern Western Ghats.
- The species belongs to the Orange family, Rutaceae.
- The findings have been published in the latest issue of Nordic Journal of Botany, published from Sweden.
- Many of the related plants of these taxonomic groups are being utilised for their medicinal values and food.

Source: The Hindu

Sports

3. Mirabai Chanu wins the BBC ISWOTY 2021 award

Why in News

- Indian weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** has been announced the winner of the third edition of the **BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year (ISWOTY) 2021** award.



Points

- Mirabai Chanu created history in 2021 when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics.



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- The 'BBC Emerging Player' award has been presented to **Shafali Verma**, the youngest female cricketer who played for India in Women's Twenty20 International match in 2019.
- The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics in 2000, **Karnam Malleswari** has been presented the **BBC Lifetime Achievement** award.

Source: TOI

Swiss Open Badminton Championships 2022: PV Sindhu wins women's singles title

Why in News

- In **Swiss Open Badminton Championships 2022**, two-time Olympic medallist **P. V. Sindhu** has won the Women's Singles title beating Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungpha.



Key Points

- This is the 2nd title for PV Sindhu in Basel, where she won her maiden World Championships title in 2019.
- This is also the 2nd title of the 2022 season for Sindhu after she won the Syed Modi India International in January.

Source: Indian Today

BYJU'S named as official sponsor of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

Why in News

- Ed-tech company **BYJU'S** has been named as an official sponsor of the **FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022**.

Key Points

- The 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place in Qatar from 21 November to 18 December, 2022.
- Bengaluru-headquartered BYJU'S has offices in 21 countries and its products are present in over 120 countries.



Source: TOI

Indian team clinches SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship 2022 title

Why in News



Monthly Current Affairs

- Indian team has won the SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship title 2022 held at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand.



Key Points

- India lost to Bangladesh, 0-1 but still emerged champions of the tournament on account of better goal difference.
- The valuable player of the tournament and the highest goal scorer of the tournament was Lynda Kom, who scored five goals in the tournament.

Source: TOI

India's First-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross to be set up in Shimla

Why in News

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Youth Services and Sports department of the Government of Himachal Pradesh is set to build India's first-ever **SAI National Centre of Excellence (NCOE)** to train athletes in Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross in Shimla.



Key Points

- The NCOE is being set up to provide world-class training facilities to Indian cyclists so that they can compete for the 18 Olympic medals in the disciplines of MTB and BMX.
- This centre, one of the best high-altitude training facilities in the world, at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level, will have world-class infrastructure, a state-of-art sports science high performance centre, Olympic-level track and coaches of international repute, where India's best cyclists and local sporting talent can train.

Source: PIB

World number one Ashleigh Barty announces retirement from tennis aged 25



Why in News

- In Tennis, Australia's world number one **Ashleigh Barty** has decided to retire from professional tennis at the age of 25.

**Key Points**

- Barty won three Grand Slam titles; Australian Open (2022), French Open (2019), and Wimbledon (2021), lifting 15 singles and 12 doubles titles in a celebrated career.

Source: HT

Pankaj Advani wins Asian Billiards Championship for the eighth time

- Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani defeated compatriot Dhruv Sitwala to win his eighth title at the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022 in Doha, Qatar.
- This is Advani's 24th international title and 8th Asian crown.



Source: The Hindu

2022 German Open (Badminton): Lakshya Sen wins silver medal in men's singles title**Why in News**

- India's Lakshya Sen had to settle for silver after losing the men's singles final to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn at the German Open Super 300 (German Open 2022).

**Key Points**

- Lakshya Sen has become the 1st Indian to clinch Silver medal in German Open 2022.
- The 2022 German Open was the fourth tournament of the 2022 BWF World Tour and was part of the German Open championships, which had been held since 1955.

Source: India Today

India wins the bid to host FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022

Why in News

- The Government of Tamil Nadu along with the All India Chess Federation has announced that India has won the bid to host **FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022** in Chennai.

**Key Points**

- It was originally scheduled to be held in Russia.
- This is the first time India hosts the FIDE Chess Olympiad since its inception in 1927.
- The tentative dates for the FIDE Chess Olympiad are fixed to be from 26th July 2022 to 8th August 2022.

Source: HT

S Sreesanth announces retirement from all forms of Indian domestic cricket**Why in News**

- World Cup-winning India fast bowler S Sreesanth announced his retirement from all forms of Indian domestic cricket.

Key Points

- Sreesanth played 27 Tests and 53 ODIs for India, taking 87 and 75 wickets respectively. He has also taken seven wickets in 10 T20 Internationals.



Source: Indian Express

ISSF WC 2022: India top medal tally with 4 gold, 2 silver, one bronze**Why in News**

- India has taken first place in the medal standing in **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2022** in Cairo.

Key Points

- The Indian team finished on the top of the medals tally with a total of seven medals comprising of four gold, two silver and one bronze.



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- Norway finished second and France third in the competition.

Source: newsonair

Mithali Raj becomes first woman cricketer to play in six World Cups

Why in News

- India captain Mithali Raj became only the third cricketer and the first woman to appear in six World Cups, joining the iconic Sachin Tendulkar and Pakistani great Javed Miandad.

Key Points

- Raj, a 39-year-old veteran of many memorable matches, had made her maiden World Cup appearance in 2000, before playing the event in 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022.

Source: Indian Express



Jamshedpur FC wins first ISL Winner's Shield after beating ATK Mohun Bagan

Why in News

- Jamshedpur FC won their first Indian Super League (ISL) Winner's Shield after a gritty 1-0 win over ATK Mohun Bagan at the PJN Stadium, Goa.

Key Points

- Jamshedpur FC is an Indian professional football club based in Jamshedpur.

About Indian Super League (ISL):

- The Indian Super League is the men's professional top tier football league in Indian football system.
- It is organised by All India Football Federation and their commercial partners Football Sports Development Limited.
- For sponsorship ties with Hero MotoCorp, it is officially called as Hero Indian Super League.

Source: newsonair



India's Sadia Tariq wins gold medal in Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022



Why in News

- India's Sadia Tariq has won a gold medal in Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022.

Key Points

- The Wushu Stars Championship was held in Moscow, Russian from February 22 to 28.
- Sadia Tariq, who hails from Srinagar, is a two-time gold medalist in the Junior National Wushu championship.

Source: TOI



Books & Authors

NITI Aayog and FAO launch book titled Indian Agriculture towards 2030

Why in News

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar released a book titled *Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems*, at an event organized by **NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations.

**Key Points**

- Published by Springer, *Indian Agriculture towards 2030* captures the outcomes of the deliberative process of a national dialogue by NITI Aayog and the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare; and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and facilitated by FAO since 2019.

Indian Agriculture towards 2030 covers the following themes:

- Transforming Indian Agriculture
- Structural Reforms and Governance
- Dietary Diversity, Nutrition and Food Safety
- Managing Climate Risks in Agriculture
- Science, Technology and Innovation



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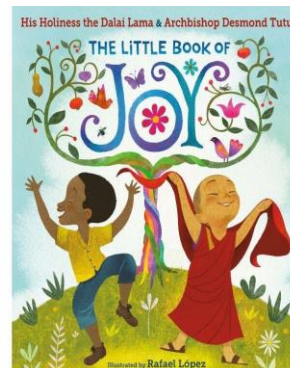
- Symbiosis of Water and Agricultural Transformation in India
- Pests, Pandemics, Preparedness and Biosecurity
- Transformative Agroecology-Based Alternatives for a Sustainable and Biodiverse Future

Source: PIB

A Children's Book 'The Little Book of Joy' authored by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu

Why in News

- A picture-book edition of a bestseller co-authored by the Nobel Peace Prize winners the **Dalai Lama (14th Dalai Lama- Tenzin Gyatso)** and **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, titled '**The Little Book of Joy**' will be released.



Key Points

- Random House Children's Books announced that "The Little Book of Joy" will come out September 2022, with Rachel Neumann and Douglas Abrams collaborating on the text, and illustrations provided by artist Rafael López.
- Note:** In 2016, Archbishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama worked together on "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World," which has sold more than 1 million copies and has been translated into more than 40 languages.

Source: Indian Express

A book titled 'Modi @ 20: Dreams Meet Delivery' to be released

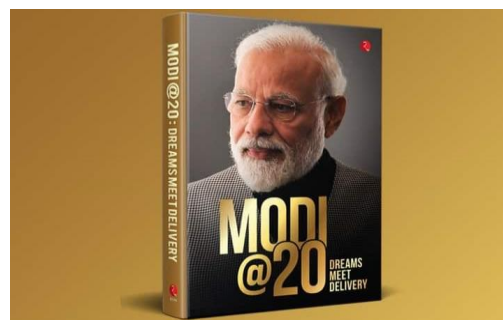
Why in News

- A book 'Modi @ 20: Dreams Meet Delivery' capturing the last 20 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political life will be released by Rupa Publications in mid-April 2022.

Key Points

- The book will cover various aspects of Narendra Modi's tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat to the Prime Minister of the country.
- Narendra Modi served as Gujarat Chief Minister for more than 12 years over four terms, making him the longest-serving CM of the state. In 2014, Narendra Modi became the 14th person to become the prime minister.

Source: HT



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Rahul Gandhi releases Tamil Nadu CM Stalin's autobiography

Why in News

- Congress leader Rahul Gandhi released DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's autobiography, titled 'Ungalil Oruvan,' (One Among You).



Key Points

About MK Stalin:

- MK Stalin is an Indian politician and the 8th and current Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Since 28 August 2018 he has been the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party.
- He is the son of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.

Source: TOI

Important Personality

Debasish Panda appointed as IRDAI Chairperson

Why in News

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of former DFS Secretary Debasish Panda, a retired IAS officer, as the Chairperson of the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.



Key Points

- Debasish Panda has been initially appointed for a period of three years.
- Panda had demitted office as the Secretary of Department of Financial Services (DFS) in the Finance Ministry on January 31 this year after a two-year stint.

About Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):



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- It is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.
- **Founded:** 1999
- **Headquarters:** Hyderabad
- The IRDAI is a 10-member body with a Chairman, five Whole-time members and four part-time members.

Source: The Hindu

Supreme Court appoints ex-judge AK Sikri as Char Dham project panel head

Why in News

- The Supreme Court urged its former Justice AK Sikri to take over as the Chairman of the high-powered committee constituted by it to “consider the cumulative and independent impact of the Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana (Char Dham Highway Development Project) on the entire Himalayan valley”.



Key Points

- A Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant requested Justice Sikri to accept the assignment as Ravi Chopra, current Chairman of the committee, had opted to quit.
- The project envisages construction of 900-km roads to provide all-weather connectivity to four holy towns — Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath — in Uttarakhand.
- Ravi Chopra had earlier opposed the Centre’s demand for a 10-metre carriage way and insisted that it be limited to 5.5 metre keeping in mind environmental concerns.

Source: Indian Express

Former Pakistani President Rafiq Tarar passes away



- Former Pakistani President Rafiq Tarar passed away at 92.
- Tarar had served as **Pakistan President** between 1997 and 2001 after being nominated by the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.
- Tarar had also served as a Supreme Court judge from 1991 to 1994.



Source: India Today

Former Army Chief Gen Sunith Francis Rodrigues passes away

- General (retd) Sunith Francis Rodrigues, who headed the Indian Army between 1990 and 1993 and served as the governor of Punjab between 2004 and 2010 passed away.
- In addition to his more than 40 years of illustrious service in the army, he served two terms on the National Security Advisory Board.



Source: ET

Australian cricketer Shane Warne passes away

- Former Australian cricketer and spin bowling legend Shane Warne passed away at the age of 52 years.
- Warne was named as one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Century for his unparalleled achievements in a 15-year career between 1992 and 2007.
- In 2013, the year he retired from the game completely, he was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.



Source: Indian Express

Odisha's former CM Hemananda Biswal passes away



- Former Odisha Chief Minister and prominent tribal Congress leader **Hemananda Biswal** passed away at 82.
- Biswal was a six-time MLA from Jharsuguda district, besides being the state's Chief Minister twice.
- He was the first tribal Chief Minister of Odisha.



Source: India Today

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Attempt This Monthly Current Affairs Quiz
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1. Consider the following statement regarding the World Happiness Report 2022-

- i. World Happiness Report 2022 (10th edition) was released on March 18, 2022
- ii. Finland is the happiest country in the world, for the fifth time in a row. India, meanwhile, saw a marginal improvement in its ranking, jumping three spots to 136, from 139 a year ago.

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Report-



- i. The top 5 arms importers-India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Australia and China- together received 38 percent of total global arms imports in 2017-21
- ii. India was the world's largest importer of major arms in 2017-21 and accounted for 20 percent of total global arms imports in the period.

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

3. World Sparrow Day (WSD) is observed every year on 20 March, when was the first World Sparrow Day held?

- A. 2005
- B. 2008
- C. 2010
- D. 2015

4. Which publication will publish the book 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery', depicting the last 20 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political life in mid-April 2022?

- A. Jaico Publishing House
- B. HarperCollins Publishers India
- C. Rupa Publications
- D. Prabhat Prakashan
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

5. When is International Day of Forests celebrated every year?

- A. 15 March
- B. 18 March
- C. 20 March
- D. 21 March



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6.The 75th British Academy Film Awards 'BAFTA' (BAFTA Awards) 2022 was held at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Who has been given the Best Actor award this time?

- A. Jane Campion
- B. Will Smith
- C. Troy Kotsur
- D. Anthony Hopkins
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

7.Consider the following statement regarding the Surajkund International Crafts Mela-

- i. Governor of Haryana Bandaru Dattatraya and Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal inaugurated the 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2022 at Faridabad near Delhi.
- ii. Himachal Pradesh is the 'Theme State' of the 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2022

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

8.Consider the following statement regarding the India-Japan Annual Summit-

- i. Prime Minister of Japan, Kishida Fumio made an official visit to India, as his first bilateral visit, from 19 to 20 March 2022 for the 12th India-Japan Annual Summit with Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.
- ii. India and Japan signed six agreements in the areas of cyber-security, sustainable urban development, wastewater management, water supply, and connectivity and the India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership Roadmap.

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. World Water Day is celebrated every year on 22nd March, what is the theme of this year 2022?

- A. Valuing Water
- B. Groundwater, making the invisible visible
- C. Water and Climate Change
- D. Leaving No One Behind
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

10. Who has won the Asian Billiards Championship 2022?

- A. Pankaj Advani
- B. Dhruv Sitwala
- C. Aditya Mehta
- D. Amir Sarkhosh
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

11. Who won the 70th edition of the Miss World pageant (Miss World 2021)?

- A. Shree Saini
- B. Olivia Yace
- C. Karolina Bielawska
- D. Manasa
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

12. The 9th joint military exercise Lamitye- 2022 between the Indian Army and the army of which country is being conducted from 22 March to 31 March 2022?

- A. France
- B. Malaysia
- C. Seychelles
- D. Mongolia

13. Consider the following statement regarding the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)-



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i. It is an Indian constitutional body that was established through Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003

ii. The Parliamentary Committee in a recent report has stated that the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has been inactive for the last four years and has not submitted a single report to the Parliament.

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

14. Consider the following statement regarding the Exercise Cold Response 2022-

- i. The military exercise 'Cold Response 2022' has been organized by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Norway.
- ii. This exercise is conducted annually in Norway. More than 30,000 soldiers from 27 countries as well as several civilian agencies are participating in this exercise.

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

15. When is the World Meteorological Day celebrated every year?

- A. 22 March
- B. 23 March
- C. 24 March
- D. 25 March

16. Which Indian economist has been appointed to the United Nations Advisory Board on Multilateralism?



- A. Gita Gopinath
- B. Jay Shah's
- C. Jayati Ghosh
- D. Meet Raj Chetty

17. NITI Aayog organized which edition of the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards?

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

18. The third edition of the joint training exercise EX-DUSTLIK is being conducted between the Indian Army and which country's army?

- A. Mongolia
- B. Myanmar
- C. Vietnam
- D. Uzbekistan

19. Consider the following statement regarding the **World Air Quality Report 2021**-

- i. Bangladesh was the most polluted country in 2021 and India was the fourth most polluted country according to this report.
- ii. According to the 2021 World Air Quality Report New Delhi continues to be the world's most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year.

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

20. Consider the following statement regarding the WINGS INDIA 2022-



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i. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) and FICCI are jointly organizing WINGS INDIA 2022 - Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation 2022 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, India.

ii. The theme of the event is "India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry". and under the UDAN scheme the government aims to develop 100 airports by 2024

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

21. Which state's classical wind musical instrument Narsingpettai Nagaswaram has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under the category of Class 15 musical instruments?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Orissa
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala

22. World number one player Ashleigh Barty announced her retirement at the age of 25. She is related to which sport?

- A. Badminton
- B. Tennis
- C. Swimming
- D. Gymnastics

23. World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24 March to raise public awareness about Tuberculosis (TB). What is the theme of World TB Day 2022 this time?

- A. The Clock is Ticking
- B. It's time to end TB
- C. Invest to End TB Save Lives
- D. Wanted: Leaders for a TB-Free World. You can make history



24. Which INS has been recognized as a Center of Excellence in Marine Engineering by the Ministry of Skill Development?

- A. INS Vikramaditya
- B. INS Vikrant
- C. INS Shivaji
- D. INS Kalvari

25. Consider the following statement regarding NASA's moon mission-

- i. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) rolled out its Artemis I moon mission to the launchpad for testing at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, United States.
- ii. Artemis I is the first of NASA's deep space exploration systems. With the Artemis program, NASA aims to land humans on the moon by 2025.

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

26. Consider the following statement regarding the 'Foundational Learning Study'-

- i. The Ministry of Education will be conducting a 'Foundational Learning Study' in order to draw a first-hand understanding of the learning levels of the students at the foundational learning stage (at the end of Grade 5th).
- ii. The study is the first of its kind in the world and the Foundational Learning Study will be conducted by the NCERT in all States and UTs in the sampled schools.

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



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27. Approximately what percentage of India's workforce will need digital skills training next year?

- A. 5 Percent
- B. 7 Percent
- C. 10 Percent
- D. 12 Percent

28. Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ramesh Chandra Lahoti passed away at the age of 81, Justice Ramesh Chandra Lahoti was the –

- A. 30th Chief Justice of India
- B. 33rd Chief Justice of India
- C. 35th Chief Justice of India
- D. 37th Chief Justice of India
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

29. India's first SAI National Center of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross will be set up in which city?

- A. Shimla
- B. Srinagar
- C. Jammu
- D. Ladakh

30. Which of the following conducts the Suraksha Kavach-2 exercise?

- A. Goa Police and Indian Navy
- B. Maharashtra Police and Indian Army
- C. Delhi Police and Indian Army
- D. Railway Protection Force and Indian Army

31. Consider the following statement regarding the SVAMITVA Scheme-

- i. SMS will be sent to the MPs and MLAs informing about the commencement of drone flight in their respective constituencies earmarked for survey under the SVAMITVA scheme.



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ii. The Scheme is being implemented across the country in a phased manner over a period of five years (2020-2025) and would eventually cover all villages across the country by 2025

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

32. Consider the following statement regarding the Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC)-

- i. Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC). The new Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center located within the power grid center in Kotputli (Rajasthan), is the first of its kind initiative by the Union government.
- ii. It has been set up with technical assistance from the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

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

33. Recently a politician Rafiq Tarar passed away at the age of 92, he belonged to which country?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Pakistan
- C. Maldives
- D. Turkmenistan
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

34. Who has been elected as the new President of the country in South Korea?



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- A. Park Geun-hye
- B. Yoon Suk Yeol
- C. Moon Jae-in
- D. Prayut Chan-o-cha

35. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) service for feature phones, what is its name?

- A. UPI Urgent Pay
- B. UPI 123 Pay
- C. UPI Quick pay
- D. UPI 321 Pay

36. The first Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal of Indian Railways has been started in which division of Eastern Railway?

- A. Howrah
- B. Malda
- C. Sealdah
- D. Asansol
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

37. Consider the following statement regarding the India, Canada to re-launch the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) –

- i. This is the fifth Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment (MDTI) between India and Canada.
- ii. India is Canada's 5th largest export market and 12th largest trading partner overall.

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



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38. Consider the following statement regarding the National Youth Parliament Festival 2022-

i. Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla addressed the valedictory function of the 3rd edition of National Youth Parliament Festival (NYFP) -2022 in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi.

ii. NYPF is based on the idea given by the Prime Minister in his Mann Ki Baat Address on 31st December 2017 and the 1st edition of NYPF was organised in 2019

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

39. In which city Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated a building of National Defense University to the nation?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Delhi
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Lucknow

40. Which state retained the top rank in the Skoch State of Governance Rankings in 2021?

- A. Odisha
- B. Gujarat
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. West Bengal

41. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet?

- A. Ravi Mittal
- B. Debasish Panda
- C. G. R. Surya Kumar



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D. M Jagadesh Kumar

42. Who has been appointed by the Supreme Court as the Char Dham Project Panel Chief?

- A. AK Sikri
- B. Ravi Chopra
- C. Shripathi Ravindra Bhat
- D. Surya Kant

43. Consider the following statement regarding the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India-

- i. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India has declined by 10 points as per the Special Bulletin on MMR released by the Registrar General of India.
- ii. MMR has declined from 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19 (8.8 % decline).

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

44. Consider the following statement regarding the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act-

- i. Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) organised a seminar on "25 Years of TRAI Act.
- ii. In the year 1995, TRAI Act was enacted to regulate the telecommunications sector in India.

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

45. Maharashtra government has announced to set up country's first medical city named 'Indrayani Medicity' in rural area of which district?

- A. Nagpur
- B. Pune
- C. Mumbai City
- D. Yavatmal

46. Former student leader Gabriel Boric Font has been appointed as the 36th President of which country?

- A. Chile
- B. Argentina
- C. Peru
- D. Indonesia

47. Which player won the gold medal in the men's singles title of 2022 German Open (Badminton)?

- A. Lakshya Sen
- B. Viktor Axelsen
- C. Kunlavut Vitidsaran
- D. LEE Zii Jia

48. World Consumer Rights Day is observed every year on which date as a means of raising global awareness about consumer rights and needs?

- A. 01 March
- B. 04 March
- C. 08 March
- D. 15 March

49. Consider the following statement regarding the National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism-



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i. 'Medical Visa' has been introduced, which can be given for specific purposes to foreign travelers coming to India for medical treatment.

ii. 'E- Medical Visa' and 'E-Medical Attendant Visa' have also been introduced for 140 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

50.Consider the following statement regarding the 'Consumer Empowerment Week'

-

i. The Department of Consumer Affairs started the "Consumer Empowerment Week" on 14th March 2022 to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India

ii. The outreach programs created awareness about features of Consumer Protection Act 2019

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

51.National Immunization Day is celebrated every year on 16th March, what is the theme of 2022 this time?

- A. Vaccines Work for all
- B. Vaccines bring us closer
- C. Protected Together: Vaccines Work
- D. Protected To Us : Vaccines Work
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

52.In which city of India the first digital water bank 'Aquarium' has been launched?



- A. Mumbai
- B. Delhi
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Pune
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

53. Which has become the first South Asian city to expand the Zero Emissions Roadmap?

- A. Kolkata
- B. Mumbai
- C. Karachi
- D. Bengaluru
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

54. How many airport routes have been operated under the Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme?

- A. 202
- B. 314
- C. 405
- D. 510

55. Consider the following statement regarding the Project Dolphin-

- i. The ETF on Ganga is the second-highest decision-making body on Ganga, after the National Ganga Council (NGC) headed by the Prime Minister.
- ii. Project Dolphin is being "handled" by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

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

56. Consider the following statement regarding the PM-DAKSH Scheme-



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i. The amount of funds earmarked under PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) Yojana during 2020-21 and 2021-22 are Rs.44.79 crores and Rs.79.48 crores respectively.

ii. The Government of India aspires to reach out to 2.50 lakh people between the calendar year 2021-22 and 2025-26 in PM- DAKSH 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

57.The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced how many winning cities for the EatSmart Cities Challenge?

- A. 10
- B. 11
- C. 15
- D. 18

58.The country's first Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technology Park has been launched in which city?

- A. Lucknow
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Mumbai
- D. Ahmadabad
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

59.Who has been appointed as the chairman of Air India?

- A. Natrajan Chandrasekarana
- B. A k Sikri
- C. N Chandrasekaran
- D. V Anantha Nageswaran



60. Which country will host Chess Olympiad 2022 by International Chess Federation FIDE?

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Singapore
- D. France

61. Consider the following statements regarding the Sagar Parikrama Programme-

- i. As part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', this Sagar Parikrama, starting from Shyamiji Krishna Varma Memorial in Mandvi, Gujarat, has been undertaken as an attempt to find out the problems faced by the coastal fishermen.
- ii. India is the 3rd largest exporter of fish in the world as it contributes 7.7% to global fish production.

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

62. Consider the following statements regarding the Kavach System-

- i. The armor is there to provide protection to trains crossing signals at danger (red) and to prevent collisions. It is an indigenously developed ATP system by Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) in collaboration with Indian Industry.
- ii. It is a state-of-the-art electronic system of Safety Integrity Level - 4 standards.

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



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63. Former Australian cricketer and spin bowling legend Shane Warne passed away at the age of 52. When was he inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame?

- A. 2010
- B. 2012
- C. 2013
- D. 2015
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

64. In which city the 12th edition of Defense Expo 2022 to be held from March 10 to March 14, 2022, has been postponed for now?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Gujarat
- C. Lucknow
- D. Delhi
- E. None of the above/ More than one of the above

65. Which country has been once again placed in the list of "Grey List" by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?

- A. United Arab Emirates
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Thailand
- D. Pakistan

66. The Center has approved the Modernization Plan-IV for the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). This scheme is to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs with a financial outlay of Rs.

- A. 1,243 crores
- B. 1,422 crores
- C. 1,523 crores
- D. 1,685 crores

67. Consider the following statement regarding the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY) –



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i. The Government has approved the continuation of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY) and its components beyond 31.03.2021 for the Financial Years 2021-22 to 2024-25

ii. Freedom Fighters and their eligible dependents have been sanctioned the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension.

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

68. Consider the following statement regarding the ECI hosts International Election Visitors Programme 2022-

- i. The Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted the virtual International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) 2022 for Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from nearly 32 Countries.
- ii. The Election Commission of India is a permanent and independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

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

69. India's first indigenous flying trainer Hansa-NG has successfully completed sea level trials in which city?

- A. Goa
- B. Mumbai
- C. Puducherry
- D. Kerala



70. International Women's Day is celebrated every year on March 8, what is the theme of 2022 this time?

- A. Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow
- B. Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it
- C. Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for all
- D. Gender Equality for a Sustainable Development

71. A team of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) scientists has discovered a new ginkgo species from which wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu?

- A. Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary
- B. Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary

72. The ninth edition of the bilateral maritime exercise 'SLINEX' between India and which country is held?

- A. Indonesia
- B. Singapore
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Thailand

73. Consider the following statements regarding the Democracy Report 2022-

- i. According to the latest report from the V-Dem Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg, the level of democracy enjoyed by the average global citizen in 2021 is down to 1989 levels.
- ii. India's rank in the Liberal Democratic Index (LDI) is 83rd, India figures in the "bottom 50%" of 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



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74. Consider the following statements regarding the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) –

- i. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is planning to run a fixed schedule sailing between Ganga (NW1) and Brahmaputra (NW2)
- ii. The Government has undertaken the ambitious Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) with an investment of about Rs. 4600 crores for the capacity augmentation of NW-1 (River Ganga)

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

75. Who became only the first woman cricketer from India to play in six World Cups?

- A. Harmanpreet Kaur
- B. Taniya Bhatia
- C. Mithali Raj
- D. Yastika Bhatia

76. Jamshedpur FC won their maiden Indian Super League (ISL) Winner Shield by defeating whom at P.J.N Stadium in Goa?

- A. Bengaluru FC
- B. ATK Mohun Bagan
- C. Chennaiyin FC
- D. Jamshedpur FC Goa

77. The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has deployed a supercomputer “Param Ganga” with a supercomputing capability of 1.66 petaflops at which institute?

- A. IIT Kharagpur
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. IIT Roorkee
- D. IIT Madras



E. None of the above/More than one of the above

78. On the occasion of International Women's Day 2022, Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane launched which special entrepreneurship promotion campaign for women?

- A. Paramarth
- B. Samarth
- C. Udyogini
- D. Annapurna

79. Consider the following statement regarding the report on Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2020-21-

- i. In 2020-21 total students enrolled in school education from primary to higher secondary stood at 25.38 crores. There is an increase of 28.32 lakh enrolments as compared to the 25.10 crore enrolment in 2019-20
- ii. In 2020-21 the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) stood at 26 for primary, 19 for upper primary, 18 for secondary and 26 for higher secondary.

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

80. Consider the following statement regarding the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine-

- i. The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Hyderabad
- ii. WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) will be established under the Ministry of AYUSH and it would be the first and only global outposted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.

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

81. Where has India's first 100% female-owned, FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) Industrial Park been inaugurated?

- A. Ahmedabad
- B. Chennai
- C. Hyderabad,
- D. Lucknow

82. Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Kailash Choudhary inaugurated the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2022. Where is this institute located?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Delhi
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Hyderabad

83. National Medical Commission has removed the upper age limit for appearing in the NEET-UG exam. Earlier what was this age limit for general category and reserved category candidates?

- A. 22 and 28 years
- B. 25 and 30 years
- C. 26 and 29 years
- D. 28 and 33 years
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

84. Which country has topped the medal tally in the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2022 in Cairo?

- A. India
- B. Norway
- C. France
- D. Germany



E. None of the above/More than one of the above

85. Consider the following statements regarding the USCC's International IP Index 2022-

- i. India has ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2022 (10th edition).
- ii. The top 3 countries in the ranking are, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany respectively.

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

86. Consider the following statements regarding the Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme-

- i. The Government has approved the continuation of the Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme beyond March 31, 2021, for a period of five years from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2025
- ii. Average visa processing time of 15 to 30 days (during pre-IVFRT period) has been reduced to a maximum of 48 hours in e-visas, with 95 percent of e-visas issued within 24 hours.

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

87. National Science Day (NSD) is observed annually on 28 February in the memory of whom?



- A. Srinivasa Ramanujan
- B. Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman
- C. Homi Jehangir Bhabha
- D. Har Gobind Khorana

88. Recently, Hemanand Biswal died at the age of 82, he was related to which field?

- A. Economics
- B. Art
- C. Politics
- D. Journalism

89. The joint military exercise, "Dharma Guardian-2022" was held between India and which country?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Singapore
- C. France
- D. Japan
- E. None of the above/More than one of the above

90. Under which mission is being brought to rescue Indian citizens trapped in Ukraine?

- A. Operation Vande Bharat
- B. Operation Rahat
- C. Operation Ganga
- D. Operation Maitri

91. Consider the following statements regarding the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana-

- i. 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana' (RVY Scheme) for Senior citizen is started by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
- ii. As per the Census figures of 2011, the population of senior citizens in India is 10.38 crore. More than 70% of the population of senior citizens lives in rural areas of the country.

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

92. Consider the following statements regarding the International Monsoons Project

- i. The International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) will be hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India, initially for ten years.
- ii. International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) is launched on the occasion of National Science Day 2022

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

93. Who has been appointed as the new chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?

- A. Arundhati Bhattacharya
- B. Ranjana Kuma
- C. Madhabi Puri Buch
- D. Rekha Sharma
- E. None of the above / More than one of the

94. Which Indian player has won gold medal in Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022?

- A. Arunapama Devi
- B. Sadia Tariq
- C. Puja Kadian
- D. Swecha Jatav
- E. None of the above / More than one of the



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95. When is Zero Discrimination Day observed every year by the United Nations (UN) and other international organizations?

- A. 1 March
- B. 8 March
- C. 9 March
- D. 10 March
- E. None of the above / More than one of the

96. Which country approved the first plant-derived COVID-19 vaccine Covifenz?

- A. Russia
- B. India
- C. Japan
- D. Canada
- E. None of the above / More than one of the

97. Consider the following statements regarding the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) on Climate Change-

- i. The Report notes that the impacts and the consequent limitations to adaptation would rise beyond 1.5 degree warming above pre-industrial levels.
- ii. India reaffirmed its commitment to climate actions, including the goal of net zero emission of carbon by 2050

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

98. Consider the following statements regarding the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)-

- i. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani launched the new motto of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) - 'भविष्यो रक्षति रक्षितः'



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ii. NCPCR is an Indian statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005

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

99. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi recently released an autobiography titled 'Ungliel Oruvan' (One Among You). This is an autobiography of –

- A. M K Stalin
- B. M A Subramanian
- C. Durai Murugan
- D. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

100. Who has become the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal 2022?

- A. Manjul Bhargava
- B. Anil Kakodkar
- C. Deepak Dhar
- D. Venkataraman Ramakrishnan

101. Which edition of the National Startup Awards 2022 has been launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)?

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

102. Under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, is organizing a national conference on the theme of 'Social Enterprise for Waste Free Cities' in which city?

- A. Jaipur
- B. Raipur



- C. Nagpur
- D. Delhi

103. Consider the following statements regarding the relationship between India and Japan-

- i. India and Japan renewed their Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) to the extent of \$50 billion.
- ii. The BSA was negotiated between India and Japan during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Japan in 2018

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

104. Consider the following statements regarding the Swachh Survekshan scheme-

- i. The field assessment for the seventh consecutive edition of world's largest urban cleanliness survey, Swachh Survekshan (SS), was launched on 1st March 2022
- ii. The scope of the survey has been expanded to now cover 100% wards for sampling, as compared to 40% in previous years.

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

105. World Hearing Day is observed every year on 3 March. What is the theme of World Hearing Day 2022 this time?

- A. Listen attentively
- B. To hear for life, listen with care
- C. Don't let hearing loss limit you



D. Hearing Care for ALL!

106. World Wildlife Day is celebrated every year on which date?

- A. 28 February
- B. 02 March
- C. 03 March
- D. 08 March

107. Which city has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for lighting more than 11 lakh diyas simultaneously on the occasion of Mahashivratri?

- A. Somnath (Gujarat)
- B. Baidya Nath (Jharkhand)
- C. Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh)
- D. Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
- E. None of the above / More than one of the

108. Which union territory's municipal corporation approved the proposal to amend Article 80 of the Constitution so that its councilors can send a representative to the Rajya Sabha?

- A.
- B. Daman and Diu
- C. Lakshadweep
- D. Puducherry
- E. Chandigarh
- F. None of the above / More than one of the

109. Consider the following statement regarding the UN Environment Assembly -

- i. The Fifth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) concluded in Nairobi with 14 resolutions to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- ii. The theme for UNEA-5 was "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals".

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

110. Consider the following statement regarding the Sustainable Development Goals

i. According to the Centre for Science and Environment's State of India's Environment Report, 2022, India has slipped three spots, and now, its rank is 125 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

ii. In state-wise preparedness, Jharkhand and Bihar are least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year 2030.

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

111. When is National Safety Day celebrated every year?

- A. 1 March
- B. 3 March
- C. 4 March
- D. 8 March

112. Ministry of Tourism has approved 76 projects worth more than Rs 5500 crore in how many states/UTs of India under its flagship scheme 'Swadesh Darshan'?

- A. 25
- B. 28
- C. 31
- D. 36

113. Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister of Communications, and Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) signed Host



Country Agreement (HCA) for setting up a regional office and innovation center of ITU in which city of India?

- A. Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Pune

114. What is the rank of India in the billionaire population globally according to the Wealth Report 2022?

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

Answer Key

1. Ans. C.	21. Ans. A.	41. Ans. B.	61. Ans. A.	81. Ans. C.	101. Ans. B.
2. Ans. A.	22. Ans. B.	42. Ans. A.	62. Ans. C.	82. Ans. B.	102. Ans. B.
3. Ans. C.	23. Ans. C.	43. Ans. C.	63. Ans. C.	83. Ans. B.	103. Ans. B.
4. Ans. C.	24. Ans. C.	44. Ans. B.	64. Ans. B.	84. Ans. A.	104. Ans. C.
5. Ans. D.	25. Ans. A.	45. Ans. B.	65. Ans. D.	85. Ans. A.	105. Ans. B.
6. Ans. B.	26. Ans. B.	46. Ans. A.	66. Ans. C.	86. Ans. D.	106. Ans. C.
7. Ans. A.	27. Ans. B.	47. Ans. C.	67. Ans. B.	87. Ans. B.	107. Ans. C.
8. Ans. B.	28. Ans. C.	48. Ans. D.	68. Ans. C.	88. Ans. C.	108. Ans. E.
9. Ans. B.	29. Ans. A.	49. Ans. A.	69. Ans. C.	89. Ans. D.	109. Ans. C.



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10. Ans. A.	30. Ans. B.	50. Ans. C.	70. Ans. A.	90. Ans. C.	110. Ans. B.
11. Ans. C.	31. Ans. C.	51. Ans. A.	71. Ans. B.	91. Ans. C.	111. Ans. C.
12. Ans. C.	32. Ans. B.	52. Ans. C.	72. Ans. C.	92. Ans. B.	112. Ans. C.
13. Ans. C.	33. Ans. B.	53. Ans. B.	73. Ans. A.	93. Ans. C.	113. Ans. A.
14. Ans. A.	34. Ans. B.	54. Ans. C.	74. Ans. C.	94. Ans. B.	114. Ans. B.
15. Ans. B.	35. Ans. B.	55. Ans. C.	75. Ans. C.	95. Ans. A.	
16. Ans. C.	36. Ans. D.	56. Ans. A.	76. Ans. B.	96. Ans. D.	
17. Ans. C.	37. Ans. A.	57. Ans. B.	77. Ans. C.	97. Ans. A.	
18. Ans. D.	38. Ans. A.	58. Ans. B.	78. Ans. B.	98. Ans. C.	
19. Ans. A.	39. Ans. C.	59. Ans. C.	79. Ans. C.	99. Ans. A.	
20. Ans. C.	40. Ans. C.	60. Ans. A.	80. Ans. B.	100. Ans. C.	

