

Monthly Current Affairs March 2022



March 2022

Important News: State

Aeromodelling show organized for the first time in Nagpur



- For the first time, an aeromodelling show was organized in Nagpur in collaboration with the Rashtriya Vidyarthi Sena, as well as various amateur aeromodellers' associations, on the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence.
- The aeromodelling show was inaugurated by Sports Minister Sunil Kedar. On this occasion a demonstration of horse riding was presented by the NCC team in order to inculcate the interest of horse riding in the children.
- In this, a demonstration of 20 different types of aeromodels was presented by the children of NCC and amateur aeromodelling.

Source: AIR

Assam and Meghalaya inter-state border dispute



Why in News

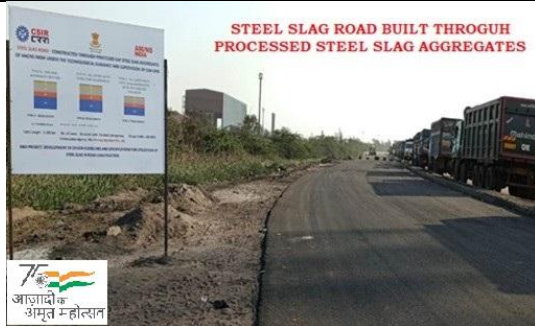
- In presence of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a historic agreement was signed in New Delhi by the Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma, and the Chief Minister, Meghalaya Conrad K. Sangma, for settlement of the interstate boundary between the States of Assam and Meghalaya, in respect of 6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

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.

Source: ET

35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela



Context

- 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

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



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Context

- **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

NarasinghapettaiNagaswaram, the classical musical instrument gets GI tag



Why in News

- **Narasingapettai 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:

- 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

Skoch State of Governance ranking in 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 Hindu

India's first medical city 'IndrayaniMedicity' to come up in Maharashtra



Why in News

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

Key Points

- IndrayaniMedicity 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

Mumbai becomes first South Asian city to detail net-zero roadmap



Why in News

- Mumbai's Climate Action Plan (MCAP) has set an ambitious target of reaching complete carbon neutrality by 2050, two decades ahead of the country's target of 2070, which was committed in COP-26 in Glasgow.

Key Points

- The plan aims to serve as a 30-year road map for the city to tackle the challenges of climate change by adopting inclusive and robust mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- After a vulnerability assessment of greenhouse gas (GHG) and natural green cover inventory over the last six months, the BMC prepared the plan with technical support from the World Resources Institute (WRI), India and the C40 Cities network.
- The MCAP focuses on six sectors – Energy and Buildings, Sustainable Waste Management, Sustainable Mobility, Urban Green and Biodiversity, Air Quality, Urban Flooding, and Water Resource Management.
- The plan's interim and long-term objectives include a 30 percent decrease in emissions by 2030, a 44 percent reduction by 2040, and a net-zero reduction by 2050 compared to base year emissions (2019).

Source: ET

Country's first Digital Water Bank 'AQVERIUM'



Why in News

- The country's first Digital Water Bank 'AQVERIUM' was launched in Bengaluru.

Key Points

- The initiative has been undertaken by AquaKraft Ventures, a company that expertise in sustainable initiatives to provide drinking water and sanitation to all.

- This is a very unique innovation combining sustainable & green technologies along with information technology, skill development & entrepreneurship.
- Digital Water Data Bank can be understood as a curated list of 'Water Data' from all institutions and sources that will further aid in tackling some common development challenges.

Source: newsonair

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 powergridcentre 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).
- 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.

Source: ET

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



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.

Source: India Today

Demand for Rajya Sabha Seat to Chandigarh



- 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.

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.

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

Ujjain enters Guinness Book for Mahashivratri

- 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.



- 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.
 - Ujjain is home to Mahakaleshwar, one of the 12 jyotirlingas associated with Shiva.
- Source: ET**

Important News: India

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 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.

Source: Indian Express

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

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022



Why in News

- Union Minister of State for Home, Ajay MisraTeni, 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.

Source: The Hindu

National Commission for Women launches Legal Services Clinic



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.

About National Commission for Women:

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

Source: newsonair

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.

Centre's Stand:

- 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.

Source: Indian Express

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



Why in News

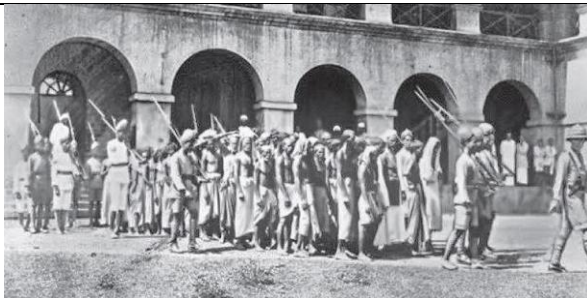
- The Rajya Sabha passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022.**

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.
- **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

Source: TOI

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.

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.

About Foundational Learning Study:

- 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.

Source: India Today

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.

Source: PIB

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)



सत्यमेव जयते

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

Government of India

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.

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

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.

Source: PIB

Rashtriya Raksha University

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.

Source: India Today

‘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 Sub-mission 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 towns and 100% coverage of sewerage/ septage management in 500 AMRUT cities.

Source: Business Standard

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

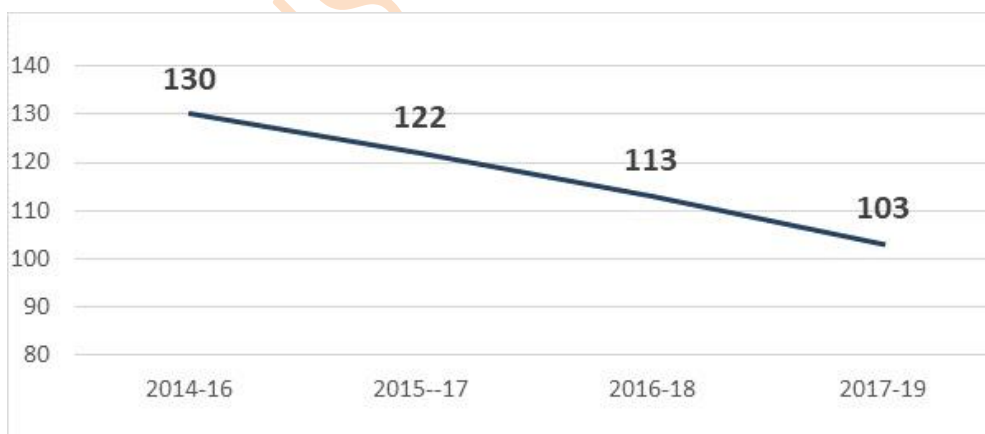
- National Youth Parliament is an innovative programme to equip youth with the understanding of parliamentary procedures and democratic processes.

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

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.
- 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).

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

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.

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.

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 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

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.

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

Longest Vessel ever to sail on Brahmaputra



Why in News

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways achieved a landmark when the MV Ram Prasad Bismil became the longest vessel ever to sail on Brahmaputra.

- The vessel along with two barges - DB Kalpana Chawla and DB APJ Abdul Kalam - was flagged off from the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (PSW) and AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal.

Key Points

- The 90 meters long flotilla is 26 meters wide, loaded with a draft of 2.1 meters.
- With this, it successfully completed the aspiring pilot run of heavy cargo movement from Haldia Dock in Kolkata after it anchored at Pandu port in Guwahati.
- The significance of this pilot run lays down the path for commencement of barging operation from Kolkata to Guwahati via Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBRP).

Source: PIB

'Consumer Empowerment Week'



Why in News

- The Department of Consumer Affairs started the “Consumer Empowerment Week” on 14th March, 2022 to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Key Points

- The outreach programmes created awareness about features of **Consumer Protection Act 2019**, Indian Standard marks, Hallmarked jewellery, CRS mark, details to be seen on pre-packaged commodities, use of proper weights and measures and informed the consumers on how to lodge a consumer complaint on the National Consumer helpline number 14404 or 1800-11-4000.

Rejuvenation of 13 Major Rivers through Forestry Interventions



Why in News

- The Union Minister for Environment Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav and the Union Minister, Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat jointly released the **Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) on Rejuvenation of 13 Major Rivers through Forestry Interventions.**

Key Points

- The 13 Rivers for which DPRs were released are Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Luni, Narmada, Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna, and Cauvery.
- The DPRs were funded by National Afforestation & Eco-development Board, (MoEF&CC) and prepared by Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun.
- 13 rivers collectively cover a total basin area of 18,90,110 sq. km that represents 57.45% of the geographical area of the country.
- The length of 13 rivers including 202 tributaries within the delineated riverscapes is 42,830 km.
- The DPRs focus on protection, afforestation, catchment treatment, ecological restoration, moisture conservation, livelihood improvement, income generation, ecotourism by developing river fronts, eco-parks and bringing awareness amongst the masses.
- The proposed cumulative budget outlay of 13 DPRs is Rs. 19,342.62 crore.
- It will strengthen the country's progress towards Panchamrit commitment at CoP-26 during November 2021 in Glasgow whereby India promised to reduce its projected carbon emission by one billion tonnes by 2030, meet 50 percent of energy requirements with renewable energy by 2030, enhance non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatt by 2030, reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45 percent by 2030 and achieve net zero emission by 2070.

Note: International Day of Action for Rivers is celebrated every year on the 14th of March.

Source: Indian Express

National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism



Ministry of Tourism

Government of India

Why in News

- In order to create a robust framework and synergy amongst the Central Government Ministries, State Governments and Private Sector for promoting India as a Medical and Wellness Tourism destination, the Ministry of Tourism has formulated a **National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism**.

Key Points

- In order to provide a dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical Tourism, the Ministry of Tourism has constituted a **National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board** with the Minister (Tourism) as its Chairman.
- As part of its on-going activities, the Ministry of Tourism, releases global print, electronic and online media campaigns in important and potential markets overseas, under the 'Incredible India' brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country.
- 'Medical Visa' has been introduced, which can be given for specific purpose to foreign travellers coming to India for medical treatment.
- 'E- Medical Visa' and 'E-Medical Attendant Visa' have also been introduced for 156 countries.

Source: PIB

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.

Source: Indian Express

MSME Innovative Scheme & 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

Indian Railways' 1st Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal



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

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.

National Land Monetization Corporation



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

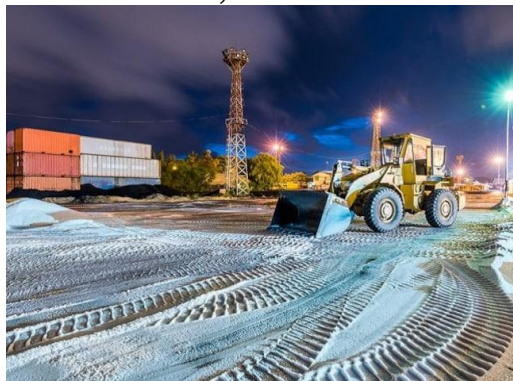
- NLMC will undertake monetization of surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- The proposal is in pursuance of the Budget Announcement for 2021-22.
- With monetization of non-core assets, the Government would be able to generate substantial revenues by monetizing 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

Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 Amendment

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

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

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.

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.

Source: PIB

Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav



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 ShikshaPravesh 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

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

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 5G 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

'StreeManoraksha Project'

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has recently launched the 'StreeManoraksha Project' in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (NIMHANS).

About 'StreeManoraksha Project'

- The project aims to improve the mental health of women in India.
- The project would focus on building on capacity building of OSC (One-Stop Center) functionaries.

Source: AIR

MyGov launches “Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz”



- In order to build awareness amongst citizens about good governance, MyGov has launched the “**Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz**” series, on 1st March, 2022.
- This is a year-long project and consists of 14 episodes.
- “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

Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates



- 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.
- 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.

Source: PIB

भविष्योरक्षतिरक्षित

: New motto of NCPCR

Why in news

- Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani has recently launched the भविष्योरक्षतिरक्षित a new motto of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights on its 17th foundation day.

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

- It is a statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India
- It was set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, an Act of Parliament (December 2005).

Mandate

- The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms align with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Note:

- The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Source- AIR

Important News: World

Bucharest Nine (B9)



Why in News

- 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.

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).

Source: Indian Express

WHO Global Centre of Traditional Medicine



Why in News

- 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

CEPA Agreement between India and UAE



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.
- Note: The UAE is also the 8th largest investor in India with an estimated investment of US\$ 18 billion.

Source: Business Standard

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.

Source: HT

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”.
- 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

Source: newsonair

2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit



Context

- 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

Context

- 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

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.

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 that Finland signed with the USSR in April 1948.

Source: Indian Express

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:

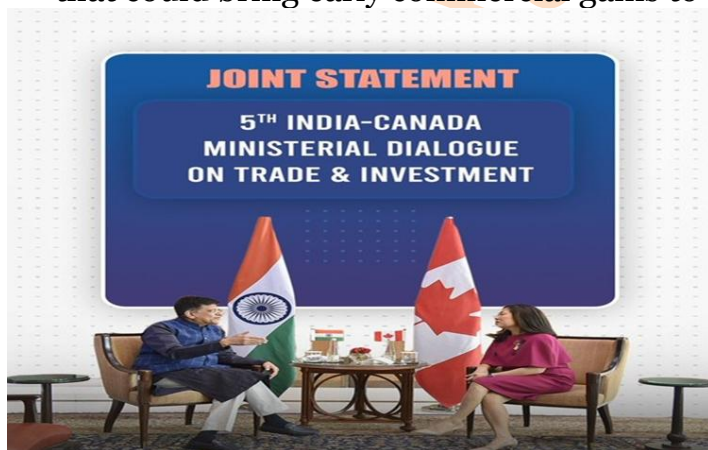
- It is a key element in the international community's efforts to address Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) proliferation and it has established a strong norm against biological weapons.
- Formally known as "The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (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

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

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.

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 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.
- 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

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

Why in News

- 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.

Source: HT

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 outpost 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

Source: The Hindu

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:

- **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.

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.

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.

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 UNs' general assembly in 1990.
- 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

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.

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

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Why in news

- Recently, Ukraine filed an application instituting proceedings against the Russian Federation before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

About International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- It is also known as the World Court.
- It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America).
- **Its official working languages are English and French.**

Composition:

- It consists of a panel of 15 judges elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council for nine-year terms.
- The Court may not include more than one national of the same State.
- Moreover, the Court as a whole must represent the main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world.
- These organs vote simultaneously but separately.
- To ensure a measure of continuity, one-third of the Court is elected every three years.
- **Judges are eligible for re-election.**

Role and Responsibilities:

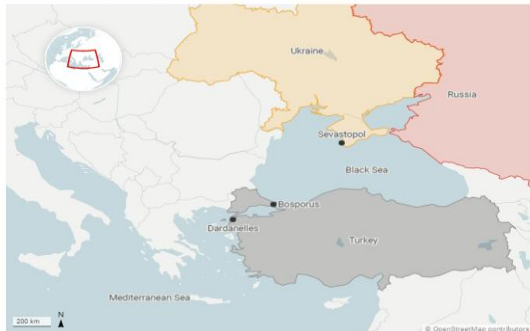
- The Court settles legal disputes submitted to it by States, following international law.
- It also gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred by authorised UN organs and specialized agencies. Judgments in disputes between States are binding.
- The Court decides disputes between countries, based on the voluntary participation of the States concerned.
- If a State agrees to participate in a proceeding, it is obligated to comply with the Court's decision.

Source- Indian Express

Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits

A 1936 agreement controls access to the Black Sea

Russia has a major navy base at Sevastopol, on the Crimean Peninsula. But for ships to move to and from the Mediterranean – and beyond – they have to pass through two straits controlled by Turkey under the Montreux Convention.



Why in news

- Turkey has recently announced its decision to implement **the Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits.**

Significance

- The provision of the Montreux Convention helps to ban Russian war vessels from entering **the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.**

About the Montreux Convention 1936

- The Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits, often known simply as the Montreux Convention.
- It is an international agreement governing the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits in Turkey.
- It has signed on 20 July 1936 at the Montreux Palace in Switzerland and went into effect on 9 November 1936.

Source- Indian Express

Operation Ganga



Why in news

- Recently, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Air India Express has joined '**Operation Ganga**' to bring back Indian nationals who have been able to flee Ukraine.

About Operation Ganga

- It is the initiative launched by the government of India to bring back Indians stranded in Ukraine.
- Under this, India has already successfully brought back more than **1,000 of its nationals from the country**.
- It has also set up 24×7 control centres to assist in the evacuation of Indians through the border crossing points with Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Slovak Republic.
- A Twitter handle, '**OpGanga Helpline**', has also been dedicated to the mission, where all information regarding the evacuation process and advisories of embassies are shared to keep everyone up-to-date.

Other Major Operation of India

Kuwait Airlift 1990

- In this operation nearly 2 lakh Indians were left stranded in Kuwait soon after one lakh Iraqi soldiers had marched into the country, leaving the general public helpless with no way out.
- Air India registered itself in the Guinness World Records for executing the largest-ever air evacuation mission

Operation Safe Homecoming 2011

- The Indian government launched Operation Safe Homecoming to rescue over 15,000 Indian nationals stranded in Libya, which was in the midst of a civil war.
- The operation was conducted through air and sea, bringing back all the citizens safe.

Operation Raahat 2015

- Operation Raahat was an operation of the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate Indian citizens and foreign nationals from Yemen during the 2015 military intervention by Saudi Arabia and its allies in that country during the Yemeni Crisis.

Samudra Maitri 2018

- It was a massive humanitarian operation to provide assistance to earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia

Vande Bharat Mission 2020

- In this mission over 60 lakh, Indian students and citizens were left stranded in foreign countries when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world, leading to the shutdown of all international travel services.

Operation Vanilla 2020

- It was the operation launched by the Indian Navy to assist the population of Madagascar affected by Cyclone Diane.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Why in news

- The **International Atomic Energy Agency** has recently decided to hold an emergency meeting regarding the war situation in Ukraine.



- It is because the country has four nuclear power plants that are operational and various waste facilities including Chernobyl.

About International Atomic Energy Agency

- It is an important **United Nations agency** working in the field of nuclear cooperation which was established in 1957.
- The Agency was set up as the world's “**Atoms for Peace**” organization within the United Nations family.
- It aims to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy while prohibiting its use for military purposes, such as nuclear weapons.



- Its headquarter is located in Vienna, Austria.

About Chernobyl disaster

- The Chernobyl disaster was a nuclear accident that occurred on 26 April 1986 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine.
- The explosions occurred in the reactor, the core of which experienced a meltdown, and radioactive material was released into the atmosphere.

Important News: Economy

New Investment Policy-2012



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

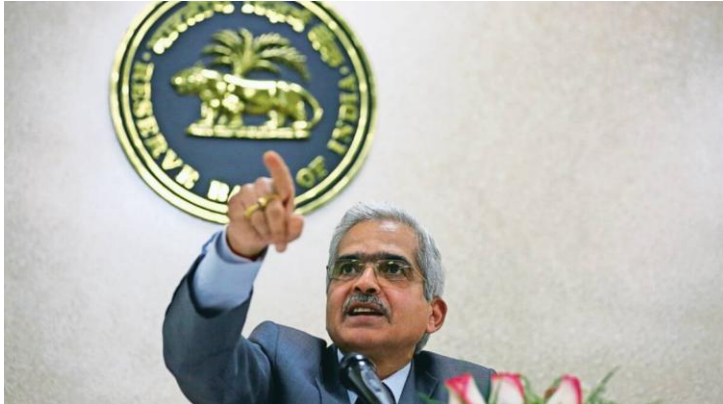
- The government had announced the New Investment Policy (NIP) - 2012 in January, 2013 and its amendment in October, 2014 to facilitate fresh investment in the urea sector and to make India self-sufficient.

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.

Source: The Hindu

RBI launches UPI123Pay



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.
- 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.

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

India and Japan renew Bilateral Swap Arrangement



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

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

Decline in GST collection in Maharashtra



- The collection of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the state has declined by about Rs 1,300 crore in February as compared to January.
- In February, the state collected a goods and services tax of Rs 19,423 crore. In January, the state had collected Rs 20,704 crore. Compared to January, the collection in February fell by Rs 1,282 crore. At the national level, it declined by 5.6 per cent in February compared to January. This trend continued in Maharashtra as well.
- Comparing the two months of December and January, the collection in February has decreased.
- In the current financial year (2021-22), the state has collected 1 lakh 97 thousand, 687 crores of goods and services tax. Maharashtra is a leading state in collecting goods and services tax in the country.
- One lakh 42 thousand crores were collected in the year 2020-21. The collection increased by 33%.
- Maharashtra has always been a leading state in GST collection in the country. Karnataka collected Rs 9,176 crore, Gujarat Rs 8,873 crore and Tamil Nadu Rs 7,393 crore in February.
- **Source: Loksatta**

Important News: Defense

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.

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

Indian Army version of MRSAM



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

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

- 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

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.
- 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.
- 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

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.

Source: Indian Express

Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022

Context

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

Source: PIB

Exercise 'Suraksha Kavach 2'



Why in News

- 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

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.

Source: PIB

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 \(NATO\), Click Here](#)

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

- 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

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

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 AtmaNirbhar 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.
- 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

EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022

Why in news

- Recently, EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022 will be conducted at Foreign Training Node, Belagavi (Belgaum, Karnataka) from 27 February 2022 to 10 March 2022.



About EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022

- It is a joint military exercise between **India and Japan** which is being conducted in India since 2018

Significance

- Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN with Japan is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both nations in the backdrop of the current global situation.
- It will also help to enhance the level of defence cooperation between the Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces.

MRIYA- World's largest Cargo Aircraft



Why in news

- Recently, the world's largest cargo aircraft, the Antonov AN-225 or 'Mriya', was destroyed by Russian troops during an attack on an airport near Kyiv.

About Mriya

- It is a six-engine 84-metre-long behemoth, with its 32-wheel landing gear.
- It had its first flight on December 21, 1988, built mainly for the transportation of the Buran shuttle orbiter and components of the Energiya carrier rocket.
- It played an important role too in the COVID-19 fight, ferrying nearly 100 tonnes of medicines, laboratory kits, medical masks and personal protective equipment in various missions across Europe, Canada and Africa.

Science and 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)**.

Source: PIB

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), NikshayPoshan Yojana (NPY- financial support), TB HaregaDeshJeetega Campaign.

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.
- 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.

Source: The Hindu

Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV)



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.

Source: ET

Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park



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.

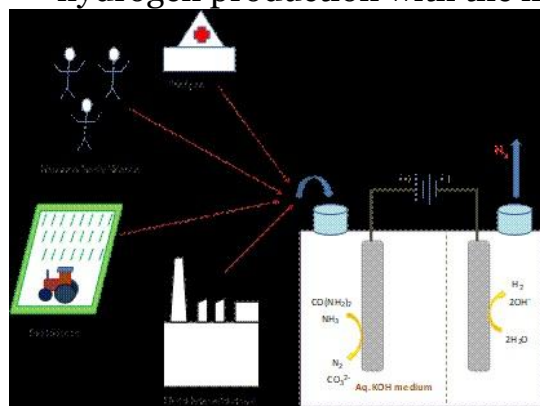
- The ART PARK has the objective of channelizing innovations to create a societal impact by executing ambitious mission-mode R&D projects in healthcare, education, mobility, infrastructure, agriculture, retail, and cyber-security aiming to solve problems unique to India.

Source: Indian Express

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.

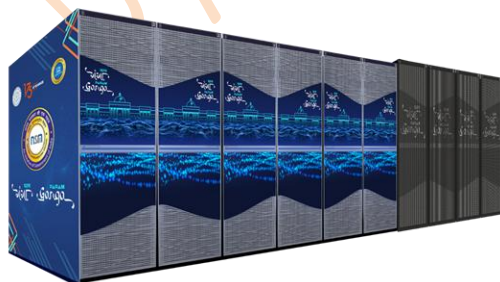


Key Points

- 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"



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

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

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.

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.

Source: Indian Express

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



Why in News

- 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.

Source: PIB

GOES-T: NOAA's launched by NASA



- NASA has recently successfully launched weather satellites Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-T) for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

About GOES-T

- The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, GOES-T, was launched on a United Launch Alliance **Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.**
- GOES-T is positioned in a geostationary orbit 22,300 miles above the earth, **it will be renamed GOES-18.**
- The first two of the GOES-R series were launched in GOES-16 launched in 2016 and GOES-17 launched in 2018.

Source: NASA.com

Environment

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.**

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.
- At present, there are about 100 known living root bridges spread across 72 villages in the state.

India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- 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.

Source: Indian Express

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.
- Project Dolphin is being “handled” by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Gangetic Dolphin Scientific Name: Platanista gangetica

Source: Indian Express

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

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

Centre for Science and Environment's State of India's Environment Report, 2022

- Union Environment Minister has recently released 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 adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 192 United Nations member states in 2015.
- 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.

State-wise report

- Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year 2030.
- Kerala ranked first, followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh in the second position.
- Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand shared the third position.

Among the Union Territories

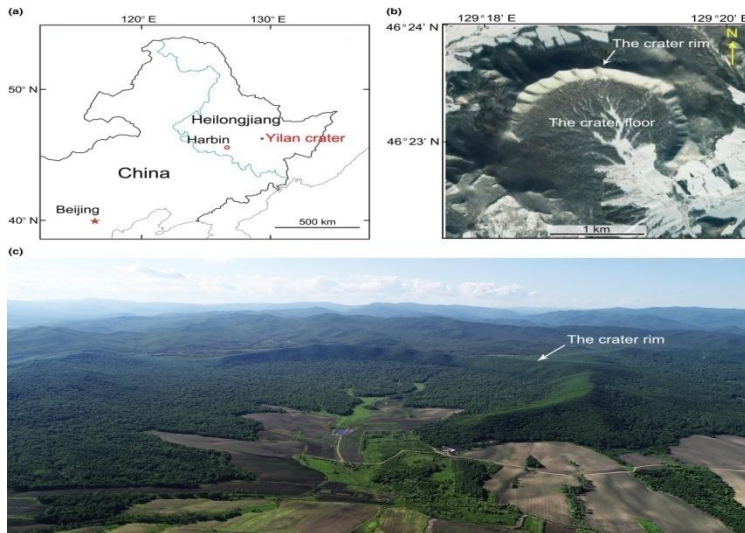
- **Chandigarh was ranked first, followed by Delhi.**
- Lakshadweep and Puducherry in the second place and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the third,

Source: Economics Times

Yilan crater

Why in news

- Recently a team of geologists have discovered a crater named "Yilan Crater", in the northwest of Yilan in Heilongjiang Province of China.



About the Yilan crater

- It is slightly larger than Xiuyan which spans about 1.85 kilometres, making it the largest crater on Earth under 100,000 years old.
- Carbon-14 dating of charcoal and organic lake sediments suggests the crater formed between 46,000 and 53,000 years ago.

Source- Science Tech Daily

International Monsoons Project Office

Why in news

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh has launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) through a high-level virtual event on the occasion of National Science Day 2022.

About International Monsoons Project Office

- 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.

Significance

- It reiterates the importance of monsoons for the national economy.
- 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**.

- Setting up the IMPO in India would mean expanding an integrated scientific approach to solve the seasonal variability of monsoons, enhancing the prediction skill of monsoons and cyclones, strengthening monsoon research for better support operations and services.
- It also helps in promoting knowledge sharing and capacity building in areas of monsoon research crucial for agriculture, water resources and disaster management, hydropower and climate-sensitive socio-economic sectors.

Schemes

“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

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

Project UNNATI



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.

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.
- 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.

Source: PIB

4th PoshanPakhwada



Why in News

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

Key Points

- For the celebration of PoshanPakhwada, 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 (Modern, IT based, Traditional & Regional Activities).
- Ministry of Women and Child Development will be the nodal Ministry for coordinating activities during the PoshanPakhwada.

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

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.

Source: newsonair

Union Jal Shakti Minister launches Sujalam 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

- 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.

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
- 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.

Source: PIB

Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project



Why in news

- Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project has been started in 5142 villages and 141 villages in Malegaon have been included in the scheme under the guidance of Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

- Projects like tree planting and bamboo planting, orchard planting, earthworm manure, Nadeb manure production, drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, etc. are implemented under this scheme. For this, training camps are organized for farmers in every district.

More information about the scheme

- The Government of Maharashtra has launched the Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojana 2022 for the benefit of farmers in Maharashtra. Under this scheme, the drought stricken areas of the farmers will be made drought free by the state government so that the farmers can cultivate and the farmers can get good income and they can strengthen themselves and their families financially.
- The benefit of this scheme will be given by the state government to small and middle class farmers in Maharashtra.
- The scheme will focus on the cultivation of crops according to the availability of water in the state and will help the farmers in facing the difficulties due to climate change. Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojana Registration 2022 has been started in 5142 villages in 15 districts of Maharashtra.

Important points

- Under this scheme small and middle class farmers in the state will benefit.
- Through this Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Yojana Maharashtra 2021, the focus will also be on increasing the income of farmers.
- The state government has allocated a budget of Rs 4,000 crore for the scheme.
- Through this scheme, the Government of Maharashtra will alleviate the drought affected areas of the state. In which farmers can cultivate.
- To launch this scheme, the Government of Maharashtra has taken a loan of about Rs. 2800 crore from the World Bank.
- Through Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Yojana 2022, the quality of soil will be checked first and there will be improvement in increasing the income of farmers and increase in agriculture.
- **Source: Krushiyojana**

405 Airports under UDAN Scheme



Why in News

- Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency, has awarded 948 routes, from which, 405 routes involving 65 airports including 8 heliports and 2 water aerodromes have been operationalized under UDAN as on 09.03.2022.

About UDAN Scheme:

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (UdeDeshka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses.
- An airport which is included in the awarded routes of UDAN and requires upgradation/development for commencement of RCS operations, is developed under "Revival of unserved and underserved airports" scheme.
- Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency has identified 154 RCS airports including 14 water aerodromes and 36 helipads so far under UDAN for operation of RCS flights.
- Besides Viability Gap Funding (VGF), other concessions from Central, State Governments and airport operators are extended to Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) to encourage operations from unserved/underserved airports/heliports/water aerodromes and to keep the air fare affordable.

Source: PIB

PM-DAKSH Scheme



सत्यमेव जयते

PM DAKSH

Why in News

- The amount of funds earmarked under PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur KushaltaSampannHitgrahi) 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.

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 SafaiKaramcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

- The Ministry aspires to reach out to 2.71 lakh people between calendar year 2021-22 and 2025-26.

Source: PIB

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

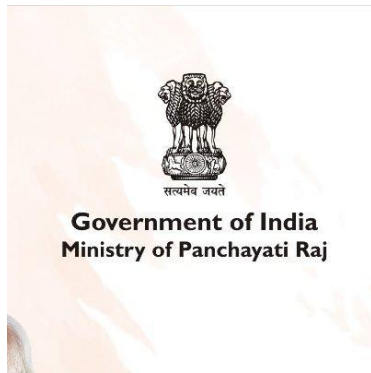
- The EatSmart Cities Challenge was launched by MoHUA in collaboration with **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** on 15th April, 2021, to scale up the **Eat Right India** approach to city level.
- The EatSmart Cities Challenge has the objective of motivating Smart Cities to develop 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.
- These winning cities will be awarded Rs. Fifty lakh each from MoHUA

- **Source: PIB**

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 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.

Source: PIB

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:

- **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.

Source: PIB

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.
- 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

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

- 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

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):

- 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

SwatantrataSainik Samman Yojana (SSSY)



Why in News

- The Government has approved the continuation of the **SwatantrataSainik 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 SwatantrataSainik 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

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, ParshottamRupala 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 MatsyaSampadha 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.

Source: PIB

Field assessment of Swachh Survekshan 2022 launched



- 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)**.
- 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

Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS),

Why in news

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) have preparing to launch a guaranteed return scheme, Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS).

About Minimum Assured Return Scheme

- This will be the first scheme from the pension regulator that will offer a guaranteed return to investors.

What kind of returns will the scheme offer?

- The actual returns will depend on the market conditions.
- Any shortfall will be made good by the sponsor, and the surplus will be credited to the subscribers' accounts.
- The floating guarantee depends on the development of the 1-year interest rate until retirement.
- The current 1-year interest rate is assigned to each annual contribution made and is valid until retirement so that, at each point of time, there is a different minimum return.

Source : Indian Express

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurates 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme for students

Why in news

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has recently inaugurated the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme.

About 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme

- The scheme aims to identify, train and offer career and academic guidance to talented students in government-run and State-aided educational institutions.
- It also aims to offer spoken English lessons to enable students to face interview panels successfully.
- The scheme will offer training capsules in coding and robotics to keep pace with technological advancements.

Source : The Hindu

PM Gati-Shakti National Master Plan

The infographic features a large image of a container ship at sea. To the left, text reads: 'A Giant Stride in India's \$5 Trillion Economy Goal', 'Gati Shakti National Master Plan', 'Multimodal Connectivity Infrastructure to various Economic Zones', and 'Targets upto 2024-25 for Ministry of Shipping'. Below this, three bullet points with icons describe the goals: 1. Increase in Cargo capacity at the Ports to 1,759 MMTPA from 1,282 MMTPA in 2020. 2. Cargo movement on all National Waterways will be 95 million MT from 74 million MT in 2020. 3. Cargo movement on Ganga to be increased from 9 to 29 million MT. On the right side of the infographic is a portrait of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his arms crossed.

Why in news

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India urged State governments as well as the private sector to adopt the Gati Shakti portal to plan infrastructure projects and develop special economic zones.

About Gati Shakti Master Plan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced it on India's 75th Independence Day.

- It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc.
- Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, Agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive.
- It will also leverage technology extensively including spatial planning tools with ISRO imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).
- It will also leverage technology extensively including spatial planning tools with ISRO imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).

Source- The Hindu

Awards and Honours

Oscar Awards 2022



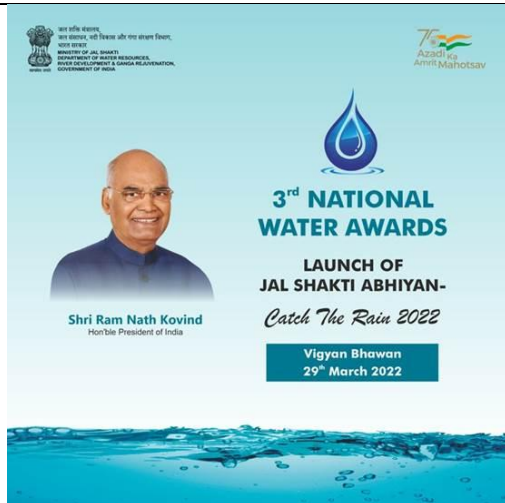
- The **94th Academy Awards (Oscar Awards)** ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honored the best films released between March 1 and December 31, 2021.
- Will Smith won the first Oscar as Best Actor of his career for his performance in King Richard. Jessica 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
- Best Documentary Short Subject: The Queen of Basketball

- Best International Feature Film: Drive My Car
Source: Newsonair

National Water Awards



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.

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.

Source: PIB

Karolina Bielawska from Poland wins the Miss World 2021 crown

Context

- 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

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

Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar & National Safety Awards

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**

Atmanirbhar Sangathan Award



- Navprabha Mahila Prabhag Sangh, a village near Lohara taluka in Osmanabad district, has been awarded the 'Atmanirbhar Sangathan' award by the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
- The Union Ministry of Rural Development had invited nominations from all over the country for the 'Atmanirbhar Sangathan' award at the national level under the Dindayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Campaign (DAY-NRLM).
- Ward teams were nominated by various states in the country. The team from nearby, Taluka Lohara was nominated by 'Umed'. Out of these, three teams have been selected at the national level. Out of these three teams, Navprabha Mahila Prabhag Sangh, Jevali, Taluka Lohara ward team has been declared as self-reliant organization.

- The award will be presented at the hands of dignitaries on the occasion of International Women's Day on 08 March 2022 at Vigyan Bhavan, Delhi.
- The NavprabhaMahila Ward team selected for the award has been formed in October 2017.
- **Source: AIR**

Swadesh Darshan Awards



Why in News

- 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.

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

Boltzmann Medal

Why in news

- Recently the prestigious Boltzmann Medal for 2022 has been awarded to Prof Deepak Dhar from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune for his contribution in the field of 'Statistical Physics'



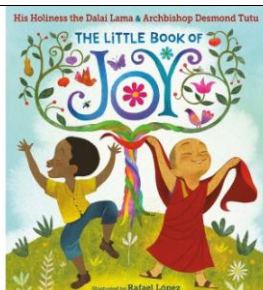
- He became the first Indian to be awarded, Boltzmann Medal.
- He shared the award with American scientist John Hopfield.

About the Boltzmann Medal

- The Boltzmann Medal (or Boltzmann Award) is a prize awarded to physicists that obtain new results concerning statistical mechanics.
- It is named after the celebrated physicist Ludwig Boltzmann.
- The Boltzmann Medal is **awarded once every three years** by the Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), during the STATPHYS conference.

Books and Authors

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.

Source: Indian Express

NITI Aayog and FAO launch book titled Indian Agriculture towards 2030



Why in News

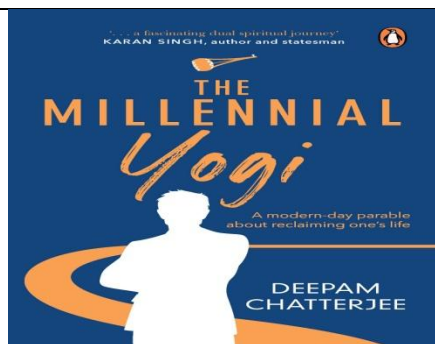
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar released a book titled *Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems*, at an event organized by **NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization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

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
- 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

'The Millennial Yogi'



- Recently, the former army captain **Deepam Chatterjee**, who had to quit the force due to a debilitating spinal injury, has come out with a book that mixes mysticism and music to take readers on a journey of awakening named "The Millennial Yogi".

- The book talks about Jayshankar Prasad, or Jay, who has had a shady-yet-mercurial rise in his journey as an entrepreneur but has little idea as to what is around the corner.

Important Days

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.

Source: HT

March 22, World Water Day

Context

- 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

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

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.

Source: India Today

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 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'.

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

National Vaccination Day



Why in News

- National Vaccination Day is observed every year on March 16.

Key Points

- Vaccines are essential to help us develop immunity against deadly diseases.
- The theme of National Vaccination Day 2022 is 'Vaccines Work for all'.

History:

- It was on March 16, 1995, when the day was first celebrated officially after the Pulse Polio Immunisation programme became operational.

- The first dose of the Oral Polio Vaccine was administered in 1995 on this date, under the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Polio Eradication Initiative which had begun in 1988.
- Vaccination against Polio, however, had already started in 1978 and on March 27, 2014, India was declared polio-free, by WHO.

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:

- 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

World Wildlife Day



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

World Hearing Day



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

Sports

SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship 2022



Why in News

- 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

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

MirabaiChanu wins the BBC ISWOTY 2021 award



Why in News

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

Key Points

- MirabaiChanu created history in 2021 when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
- 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, **KarnamMalleswari** has been presented the **BBC Lifetime Achievement award**.

Source: TOI

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

SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross



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.

Source: PIB

Ashleigh Barty announces retirement from tennis



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

2022 German Open (Badminton)



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

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 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

International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2022



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.
- 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 ISL Winner's Shield

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 P.J.N 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

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

Why in news

- Recently FIFA and UEFA decided to indefinitely suspend all Russian teams, whether national representative teams or club teams, from participation in all competitions run by the two football bodies.



About FIFA

- It is the highest global governing body of football (also known as soccer to distinguish it from American football), the world's most popular game.

- FIFA is also the international governing body for futsal (a kind of mini football played indoors on a hard court between two teams of five players each) and beach soccer (five-a-side played on a beach).
- FIFA is responsible for organising and promoting football's major international tournaments, most importantly the football **World Cup, which began in 1930, and the Women's World Cup which began in 1991.**

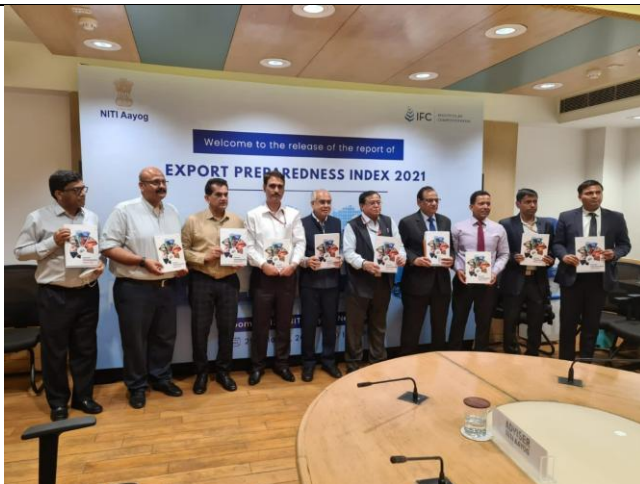
FIFA presidents

- **Gianni Infantino, a Swiss-Italian football administrator,** has been president of FIFA since 2016.

Source : Indian Express

Reports and Indexes

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 places 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 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

UP's Moradabad 2nd most noise polluted city globally

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

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).

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.

Source: TOI

Building Digital Skills for the changing workforce: Report



Why in News

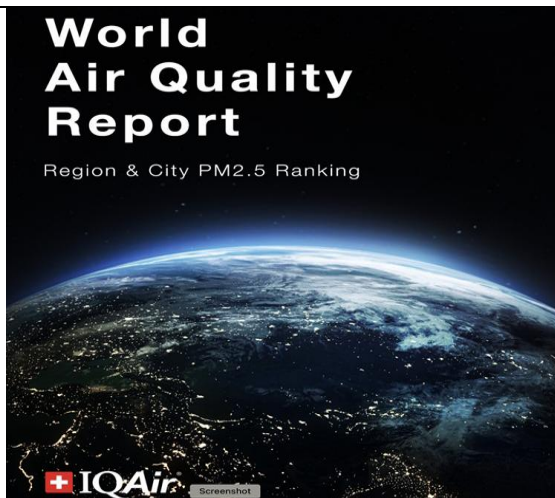
- About 27.3 million workers, representing 7% of the country's workforce, will require digital skills training for their jobs over the next year, as demand for such skills, especially cloud-related skills, became more acute during the pandemic, according to a new report.

Key Points

- 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.

Source: The Hindu

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.

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.
- 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.
- 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

Report on Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)



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.
- 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

Wealth Report 2022

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

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.

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

New Appointments

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

Pramod Sawant takes oath as Goa CM



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

Gilbert Hounbo will be the next Director-General of ILO



Why in News

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

Key Points

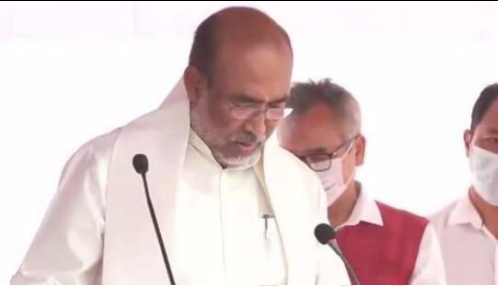
- Hounbo is currently President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- He will be the 11th Director-General of the ILO, and the first African to hold the post.

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

Source: ET

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



Context

- 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

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. Dharami.
- The youngest CM of the state, Dharami 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



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.
- 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.

Source: The Hindu

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 IlkerAyci, former chairman of Turkish Airlines, turned down the Tata Group's offer to be the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Air India.

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

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):

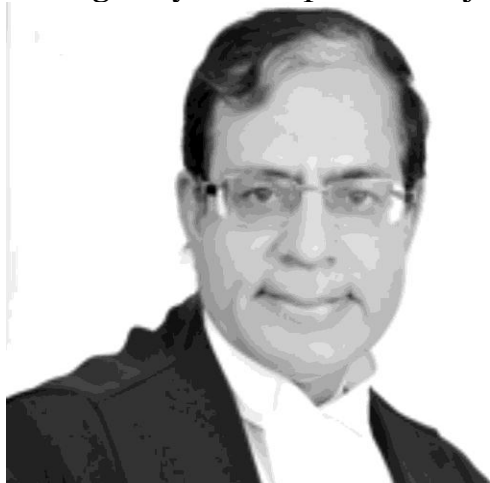
- It is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.
- **Founded:** 1999
- **Headquarters:** Hyderabad
- The IRDAI is a 10-member body with a Chairman, five Whole-time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

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



- Former banker Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as the new chairperson of **the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- She is the first woman chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- She is also the first person from the private sector working at the regulator, has been appointed for a three-year term.
- She replaces bureaucrat **Ajay Tyagi** whose tenure as SEBI chairman ends recently.

Manu Kumar Srivastava elected as Maharashtra Chief Secretary



- Manu Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as the chief secretary of the state. Manu Kumar Srivastava is a 1986 batch IAS officer. According to the seniority of the service, Srivastava has been appointed as the chief secretary. Former chief secretary Debashish Chakraborty recently retired.
- Manu Kumar Srivastava is currently the additional chief secretary of the home department. Srivastava is fond of singing. They also take time out of their busy daily schedules for their hobbies. They have a huge fan base because of their melodious voice. They also have a YouTube channel. Through that, they are listening to their various songs to the audience.
- Manu Kumar Srivastava was selected in the Indian Police Service at 22. The state government appointed Chakraborty as chief secretary on November 30, 2021. The state's current chief secretary, Debashish Chakraborty, was supposed to give him an extension of six months, but the central government denied permission. Srivastava's name was being discussed for the post of chief secretary at that time.
- Manu Kumar Srivastava, the new secretary of state, is known for singing. Manu Kumar Srivastava (Home), Sujata Sounik (Service), Manoj Sounik (Finance) and Nitin Karir (Revenue) were the four candidates for the post. Finally, the name of Manukumar Srivastava was sealed.
- Source: ABP MAZA

Sanjay Pandey appointed as Mumbai Police Commissioner



- Sanjay Pandey has been appointed as the Police Commissioner of Mumbai. At the same time, Hemant Nagrale has been appointed as the managing director of Maharashtra State Security Corporation.

- Hemant Nagrale, who was currently Mumbai police commissioner before Sanjay Pandey, was the state's director-general of police. Nagrale took over as Mumbai Police Commissioner after Parambir Singh had to step down as Mumbai Police Commissioner. After that, Pandey was appointed as the Director-General of Maharashtra.

Sanjay Pandey's career in the police service

- Education in IT Computer from IIT Kanpur
- IPS officers in the 1986 batch
- He first started working in Pune as Assistant Commissioner of Police.
- In 1995, as DCP of the Narcotics Department, he cracked down on drug rackets in the city.
- 1997, while in the Economic Offenses Wing, the Abhuday Bank scandal leather was investigated, and corruption was exposed.
- While in the SPG in 1999, he was deployed under the protection of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- On April 9, Sanjay Pandey was given the additional charge of the Director General of Maharashtra Police.
- Source: ABP MAZA

Obituaries

Former Chief Justice of India R C Lahoti passes away

- 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

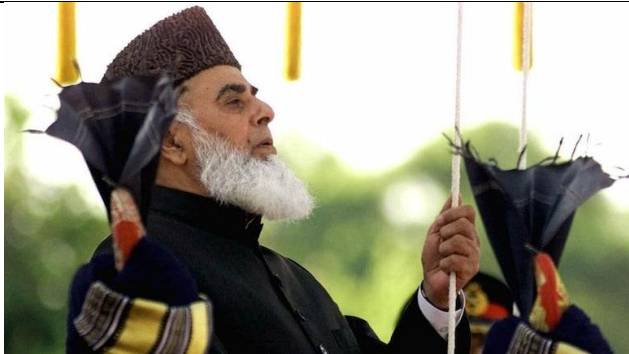
Former Andhra Pradesh Governor Kumudben Joshi passes away



- Kumudben Manishankar Joshi, the former Governor of Andhra Pradesh passed away at 88.
- Kumudben Joshi was the Governor of Andhra Pradesh from 26 November 1985 to 7 February 1990.
- She was the second female Governor of the state after Sharda Mukherjee.
- Joshi was a member of the Rajya Sabha thrice.

Source: newsonair

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

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