

VETRIL IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

NOVEMBER 2022



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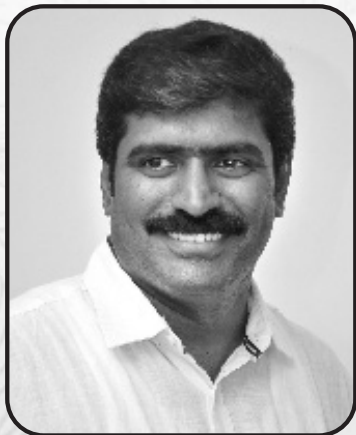
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Preface



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My Dear Aspirants,

Greetings to all of you! "What we think we become" Gautama Buddha. We all have dreams. To make dreams come into reality it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and continuous effort.

We at VETRII IAS Study Circle are committed to provide the right guidance, quality coaching and help every aspirants to achieve his or her life's cherished goal of becoming a civil servant.

The class room coaching at VETRII IAS Study Circle is meticulously planned to equip the aspirants with all the relevant facts and fundamentals of the subjects. Further the VETRII IAS Study Circle Study materials aim to support the candidate by providing the most relevant study material in a comprehensive manner.

We also thank other family members of Vetrii for making this effort a reality.

We wish the aspirants ALL THE VERY BEST
for their journey in Civil Services !

Published by:

VETRI SHUNMUGAM PUBLICATION

F Block New No. 1, 3rd Floor, 9th Street,
1st Avenue Main Road, Chinthamani,
Anna Nagar (E), Chennai – 102.

Phone : 044-2626 5326

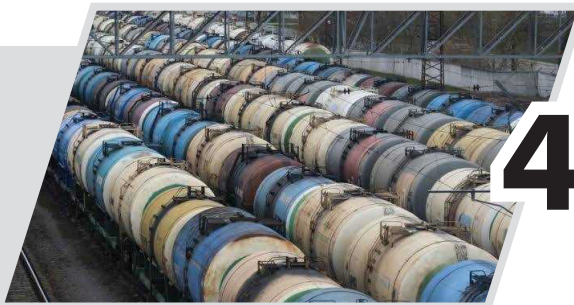
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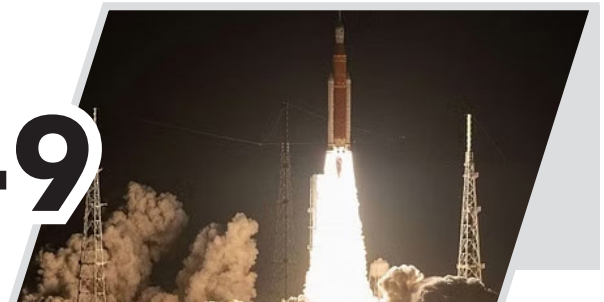
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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
October 31	National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed every year on 31st October to mark the birth anniversary of the “Iron Man of India” Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel, who is endeared as ‘Sardar’. 31st October 2022 marks the 147th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It was celebrated for the first time in 2014.
October 31	World Cities Day (WCD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Cities Day is celebrated on October 31 every year to highlight the need for international cooperation to promote global urbanisation and address its challenges. On December 27, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established World Cities Day through a resolution. The first celebration took place on October 31, 2014. “Better City, Better Life” has been the general theme of World Cities Day since its inception, but each year, a sub-theme is also announced. The sub-theme for 2022 is “Act Local to Go Global.” <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mission of SDG 11 is to “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”
November 1-5	India Water Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The India Water Week was conceptualized and organized for the first time in 2012. India Water Week 2022 is the 7th edition and theme for 2022 is “Water Security for sustainable development with equity” .



Date	Day	Theme / Remark
November 3	Sadhaya Vizha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raja Raja Cholan's birth anniversary is celebrated as 'Sadhaya Vizha' by several organisations every year in Thanjavur district. The Kalakattur Kadan Mainthan inscription stands as evidence of the good governance of Raja Raja Cholan.
November 6	International Day for preventing the exploitation of the environment in War and Armed conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 5 November 2001, the UN General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as the International Day for preventing the exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed conflict.
November 7	Infant Protection Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is celebrated to spread awareness about the measures to be taken to save the lives of infants and provide sufficient protection and care.
November 9	National Legal Services Day 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day aims to raise awareness about various provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act and litigants' rights. The day was first observed by the Supreme Court of India in 1995. <p>About NALSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted on November 9, 1995, under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 the provisions of Article 39A (provisions of equal justice and free legal aid.) and to organise Lok Adalats. The chief justice of India serves as the patron-in-chief of NALSA.
November 10	World Science Day for Peace and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 2022 - Basic Sciences Sustainable Development
November 11	National Education Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Education Day is celebrated every year to commemorate the birth Anniversary of India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Theme 2022 - Changing Course , Transforming Education.
November 12	World Pneumonia Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day dedicated to spread awareness among people to understand the need to stand together and demand action in the fight against this disease. Theme 2022 - Championing the fight to stop pneumonia.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
November 13	World Kindness Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is observed to inspire and encourage people to show greater kindness to one another in the hope of creating a fairer, better world. The first World Kindness Day took place in 1998 and was organised by the non-profit organization: World Kindness Movement (WKM). Theme 2022 - Be kind whenever is possible
November 14	World Diabetes Day 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme for 2022 : 'Access to diabetes education' which underpins the larger multi-year theme of 'access to care'. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has an estimated 77 million people (1 in 11 Indians) clinically diagnosed with diabetes, which makes it the second most affected in the world, after China.
November 14-20	Child Safety Week 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Child Safety Week is organised by an NGO Arpan since 2019, Child Safety Week is a collaborative movement to encourage collective action towards addressing the issue of Child Sexual Abuse. Important dates in the Child Safety Week 14th November: Children's Day, India 18th November: World Day for Prevention, Healing and Justice to End Childhood Sexual Violence 19th November: World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse 20th November: World Children's Day

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
November 19	World Toilet Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Toilet Day is celebrated on November 19 every year to raise awareness about people living without access to safely managed sanitation and initiate action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. The United Nations aims to explore how poor sanitation systems spread human waste into rivers, lakes and soil, polluting underground water resources. The UN General Assembly declared World Toilet Day an official UN day in 2013 after Singapore had tabled the resolution. It is the same day the World Toilet Organization came into existence in 2001. Under PM Modi's flagship program "Swachh Bharat Mission" the nation saw an acceleration in the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put the focus on sanitation.
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on November 25, every year to pay tribute to the Mirabal sisters, the Dominican Republic activists who were murdered at the order of Rafael Trujillo in 1960. In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution for the Elimination of Violence Against Women to raise awareness about gender-based violence against women. In 1999 the General Assembly proclaimed 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Theme 2022 - 'UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls.'
November 26	National Milk Day 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Milk Day is observed on November 26 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the "Father of the White Revolution in India", Dr Verghese Kurien, who was fondly known as the 'Milkman of India'. National Milk Day is annually organised by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. Theme 2022: 'Dairy Net Zero'

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
November 26	Constitution Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constitution Day, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', is celebrated in our country on 26th November every year since 2015 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26th January 1950.

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

India Participates in First-ever Trilateral Military Exercise with Mozambique & Tanzania

- India participates in the first edition of the 3-day India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral exercise (IMT TRILAT).
- The Indian Navy has participated in the Maiden Trilateral Exercise with Mozambique and Tanzania.
- Indian Navy Participates in Maiden Trilateral Exercise with Mozambique and Tanzania.
- The exercise has three main objectives including capability development to address common threats through training and sharing of best practices, enhancing interoperability, and strengthening maritime cooperation.
- The exercises will be held in two phases - Harbour phase and sea phase.

About Mozambique

- Capital - Maputo
- President - Filipe Nyusi

About Tanzania

- Capital - Dodoma
- President - Samia Suluhu Hassan
- Vice-President - Philip Mpango

Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2022

- Royal Australian Navy ships HMAS Anzac, an Anzac-class frigate and HMAS Adelaide, a Canberra-class landing helicopter dock arrived in Visakhapatnam for participating in the 3rd edition of 'Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE) 2022' exercise with the Indian Navy (IN).

- Countries like India, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Maldives, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Laos, Cambodia, and the Philippines will be participating in the exercise.

About IPE 2022

- IPE began in 2017 as an annual activity coordinated by the Australian Defence Force to deliver on the promise of the 2016 Defence White Paper to strengthen Australia's engagement and partnerships with regional security forces.
- It aims to promote security and stability in Australia's near region through bilateral and multilateral engagement, training and capacity building.

DRDO tests Phase 2 of ballistic missile defence

- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the maiden flight test of **Phase 2 of the ballistic missile defence (BMD) interceptor** missile successfully.
- The **AD1 is a longrange interceptor missile** designed for both low exoatmospheric and endoatmospheric interception of long range ballistic missiles as well as aircraft.
- It is propelled by a twostage solid motor and equipped with an indigenously developed advanced control system, navigation and guidance algorithm to precisely guide it to the target.
- The test was conducted at the **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island**.

About DRDO

- Formation - 1958
- Functions under the **Minister of Defence - Rajnath Singh.**
- Chairman - **Dr Sameer V Kamath.**

IPR for New Design & Camouflage**Pattern Uniform**

- The Army has obtained the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for its new combat uniform.
- The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademark, Kolkata completed the process of registration.
- The Indian Army now holds the exclusive "IPR" for the design and camouflage pattern.
- The new Digital Pattern Combat Uniform for the Indian Army soldiers was unveiled this Army Day on January 15, 2022.
- Workshops to train civil and military tailors in stitching the new uniform as per the specified design, are being organised in coordination with instructors from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Delhi.

Note

- Intellectual property rights (IPR) are the rights given to persons over the creations of their minds: inventions, literary and artistic works, and symbols, names and images used in commerce.
- The National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy 2016 was adopted in May 2016 as a vision document to guide future development of IPRs in the country.
- The Head Office of the Patent office is at Kolkata and its Branch offices are located at Chennai, New Delhi and Mumbai.
- India was ranked 40th position out of 132 in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2022 rankings released by World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

Navy chiefs of Quad countries meet

- The Navy chiefs of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S., which comprise the Quadrilateral (Quad) grouping, met in Japan and exchanged views on "further enhancing interoperability"

in future editions of the Malabar multilateral naval exercise.

- 2022 marks 30 years of the Malabar Exercise, which began as a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S. in 1992.
- Recently, International Fleet Review (IFR) was conducted by the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force at Yokosuka to commemorate the 70th anniversary of its formation.
- Indian naval ships Shivalik and Kamorta arrived at Yokosuka in Japan to participate in the IFR and the Malabar Exercise.

About QUAD

- The Quad or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia was set up in 2017 to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.
- QUAD Members - Australia, India, Japan, United States
- Quad Plus additional members - New Zealand, South Korea and Vietnam.

About Japan

- Capital - Tokyo
- Prime Minister - Fumio Kishida
- Currency - Japanese yen

32nd International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) meeting between Sri Lankan and Indian navies.

- 32nd International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) meeting between Sri Lankan and Indian navies was held in Colombo on board SLNS Sayura off the coast of Kankesanthurai.
- The talks between the navies of the two countries was held to mainly discuss common maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean region.
- The objective of the IMBL meeting is to strengthen relationships between the two neighbouring countries and discuss actions to be taken pertaining to the navies and Coast Guard personnel to overcome maritime challenges.
- The Sri Lankan delegation at the IMBL meeting was led by Commander Northern Naval Area, Rear Admiral Aruna Tennakoon, while the Indian delegation was headed by Flag Officer Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area, Rear Admiral S Venkat Raman.

About Sri Lanka

- Legislative capital - Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Executive and judicial capital - Colombo
- Currency - Sri Lankan rupee
- President - Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Prime Minister - Dinesh Gunawardena

Garuda-VII air exercise

- The 7th edition of the Bilateral Exercise Garuda VII-2022 is being held between Indian Air Force (IAF), and French Air and Space Force (FASE) at Air Force Station, Jodhpur, Rajasthan from October 26 – November 12, 2022,
- In this exercise, FASE will participate with four Rafale fighter aircraft, one A-330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft and a contingent of 220 personnel.
- The IAF is participating with Su-30 MKI, Rafale, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and Jaguar fighter aircraft, as well as the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Mi-17 helicopters.
- It is the 4th edition of exercise hosted by India viz. 2003 (1st), 2006 (3rd) and 2014 (5th) at Air Force stations Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Kalaikunda (West Bengal) and Jodhpur, respectively.
- In France, the second, fourth, and sixth editions took place in 2005, 2010, and 2019.

Note

- Japan hosts the Malabar multilateral naval exercise involving India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. began on November 8, 2022 as the International Fleet Review and the 18th Western Naval Pacific Symposium, also hosted by Japan, concluded with 13 and 27 countries attending, respectively.

Sea Vigil – 22' drill tests security forces' preparedness in TN

- The exercise is being held from November 15 to **November 18 in Chennai** to check the preparedness of security forces and intelligence agencies against possible terrorist attacks along the entire coast of India.
- About **1,000 personnel** were drafted for the exercise from the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Central Industrial Security Force, the

National Security Guard (NSG), the Fisheries Department, the Directorate – General of Lighthouses and Lightships, intelligence agencies, the Mercantile Marine Department, Immigration, Customs, the Coastal Security Group and the police.

Operation – Sea Sword 2

- INS Trikand participated in the 'Sea Sword 2', which is a Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) led Focused Operation held in the Northwest Arabian Sea to counter terrorism, prevent narcotics trade and stop smuggling entities from using the seas.
- The Indian Navy's long range maritime patrol aircraft also participated in the operation and provided air support.
- This effort is a part of the Indian Navy's commitment towards ensuring safety of the seas and collective security in the region, supported by Prime Minister's SAGAR vision.

About INS Trikand:

- INS Trikand (F51) is the third and the final ship of the 2nd batch of Talwar-class frigates of the Indian Navy.
- INS Trikand was built by the Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia.
- The other two Talwar-class frigates, INS Teg and INS Tarkash were commissioned in 2021 at the Western Fleet.

Exercise Garuda Shakti (8th Edition) 2022

- The **8th edition of the India-Indonesia bilateral joint training exercise "Garuda Shakti"** began at the Sangga Buana training centre in **Karawang, West Java, Indonesia**.
- **Garuda Shakti 2022** is a part of military-to-military exchange programs.

Note

- The first edition of Exercise Garuda Shakti was conducted in 2012 in India.

About Indonesia

- Capital - Jakarta
- Currency - Indonesian rupiah
- President - Joko Widodo

Harimau Shakti-2022

- The **India-Malaysia joint military exercise, 'Harimau Shakti-2022'**, commenced at **Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia**.
- The exercise is an annual training event between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army that has been held **since 2012**.
- The joint military exercise involving troops of India and Malaysia aims to enhance inter-operability in the planning and execution of various operations in the jungle terrain.

About Malaysia

- Capital – Putrajaya (administrative /Judicial Capital) Kuala Lumpur (ceremonial and legislative)
- Monarch - Abdullah
- Prime Minister - Anwar Ibrahim

Samanvay 2022

- The Annual Joint **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise "Samanvay 2022"** from 28th to 30th November 2022 at **Air Force Station in Agra** is being conducted by the Indian Air Force.
- The exercise aims to provide a unique platform for the exchange of domain knowledge, experience and best practices with the participating Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries.
- In India various national and regional stakeholders are involved in Disaster Management.
- The exercise will promote a synergistic approach by involving various institutions like the Armed Forces, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Defence

Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Civil Administration.

About NDMA

- NDMA is the apex statutory body for disaster management.
- It was formally constituted on **27th September 2006**, in accordance with the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- Chairperson - Prime Minister.

Ikshak launched at Chennai

- **Indian Navy's third Survey Vehicle 'Ikshak'** has been launched in **Chennai at Larsen and Toubro (L&T)'s Kattupalli facility**.
- Ikshak is the third of the **four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project** which was built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) and Larsen and Toubro (L&T)** for the Indian Navy.

Note

- Contract for building **four SVL ships** was signed between the **Ministry of Defence and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata** in October 2018 for a total cost of Rs 2435 Crores.
- The first ship '**Sandhayak**' was launched on Dec 5, 2021 at GRSE, Kolkata.
- The **second ship, 'Nirdeshak'** was launched on 26 May 22 at Kattupalli, Chennai.
- The fourth vessel is under construction.

1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

COP27 puts climate compensation on agenda for first time

- Delegates from around the world attended the opening ceremony of the **COP-27 meeting in Sharm ElSheikh in Egypt** on November 6, 2022.

- Delegates at the **COP 27 climate summit in Egypt** agreed to put the delicate issue of whether rich nations should compensate poor countries most vulnerable to climate change on the formal agenda for the first time.
- At COP26 last year in **Glasgow**, highincome nations blocked a proposal for a loss and

damage financing body, instead supporting a three year dialogue for funding discussions.

About COP

- The Conference of Parties (COP) is the apex decision-making body of the **United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC)**. The UNFCCC was formed in **1994** to stabilize the greenhouse gas emissions and to protect the earth from the threat of climate change.
- The first conference was held in **1995 in Berlin**.
- COP members have been meeting every year since the year 1995.
- As of 2019, the number of member countries in the UNFCCC has reached **197**.

Important COP Meetings

- COP 1 in 1995 at Berlin, Germany.
- COP 2 in 1996 at Geneva, Switzerland.
- COP 3 in 1997 at Kyoto, Japan : **Kyoto Protocol was adopted**.
- COP 4 in 1998 at Buenos Aires, Argentina
- COP 5 in 1999 at Bonn, Germany.
- COP 6 in 2000 at Hague, Netherlands.
- Resumption of COP 6 in 2001 at Bonn, Germany
- COP 7 in 2001 at Marrakech, Morocco - **Marrakech Accords and Adaption Fund was established**.
- COP 8 in 2002 at **New Delhi, India - Kyoto Protocol entered into force**.
- COP 9 in 2003 at Milan, Italy
- COP 10 in 2004 at Buenos Aires, Argentina
- COP 11 in 2005 at Montreal, Canada
- COP 12 in 2006 at Nairobi, Kenya
- COP 13 in 2007 at Bali, Indonesia
- COP 14 in 2008 at Poznan Poland
- COP 15 in 2009 at Copenhagen, Denmark
- COP 16 in 2010 at Cancún, Mexico - **Green Climate Fund was adopted**
- COP 17 in 2011 at Durban, South Africa
- COP 18 in 2012 at Doha, Qatar - The **Doha Amendment** to the Kyoto Protocol entered into force.
- COP 19 in 2013 at Warsaw, Poland - The term **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions** was coined.

- COP 20 in 2014 at Lima, Peru
- COP 21 in 2015 at Paris, France - The parties will also “pursue efforts to” limit the temperature increase to **1.5 °C**. Prior to the conference, 146 national climate panels publicly presented a draft of national climate contributions (called “**Intended Nationally Determined Contributions**”, INDCs).
- COP 22 in 2016 at Marrakech, Morocco - twenty-second Conference of the Parties (COP22), the twelfth meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP12), and the first meeting of the parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA1).
- COP 23 in 2017 at Bonn, Germany - **Talanoa Dialogue** - a process designed to help countries enhance and implement their Nationally Determined Contributions by 2020 was adopted.
- COP 24 in 2018 at Katowice, Poland
- COP25 in 2019 at Madrid, Spain
- COP 26 in 2020 at Glasgow, United Kingdom.
- COP 27 in 2022 at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

COP27: India insists on higher global climate finance target by 2024

- The 27th session of the **Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27)**, with a view to building on previous successes and paving the way for future ambition to effectively tackle the global challenge of climate change is being held in **Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt**.
- India has stressed at the ongoing UN climate summit COP27, developing countries require substantive enhancement in climate finance from the floor of \$100 billion per year to meet their ambitious goals and rich countries need to lead the mobilisation of resources.
- At COP 27 the **Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)** was launched with India as a partner.
- The Mangrove Alliance aims to facilitate India's goal to increase its carbon sink.
- Under the Alliance, India will collaborate with Sri Lanka, Indonesia and other countries to preserve and restore the mangrove forests in the region.

Background

- At the **COP 15 held in Copenhagen in 2009**, developed countries had committed to jointly mobilise **\$100 billion a year by 2020** to help developing countries tackle the effects of climate change. However, rich countries failed to deliver the finance.
- Developing countries, including India, are pushing rich countries to agree to a new global climate finance target – also known as the **new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG)**.

India Announced its long-term Low Emission Development Strategy at COP 27

- At the **United Nations Conference of Parties (COP)** in Sharm el Sheikh, India announced its **LTLEDS (Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy)** which is premised on expanding its nuclear power capacity by at least threefold in the next decade, apart from becoming an international hub for producing green hydrogen and increasing the proportion of ethanol in petrol.
- These steps were consonant with India's **"five decade journey" to net zero**, or being carbon neutral by 2070 which was the **commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 26th COP in Glasgow**.
- While 195 member countries, signatories to the UN climate agreements, were obliged to submit the long term document by 2022, only 57 countries have done so. India is the latest addition.
- The **LTLEDS (Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy)** has been prepared in the framework of India's right to an equitable and fair share of the global carbon budget.
- India "aspires" to maximise the use of electric vehicles, with ethanol blending to reach 20% by 2025 (it is currently 10%) with a "strong shift" to public transport for passenger and freight traffic.

- India will also focus on improving energy efficiency by the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme, the National Hydrogen Mission, increasing electrification, enhancing material efficiency, and recycling and ways to reduce emissions.
- India's forest and tree cover is a net carbon sink absorbing 15% of carbon dioxide emissions in 2016, and the country is on track to fulfilling its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitment of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of additional carbon sequestration in forest and tree cover by 2030.

COP-27 sets up loss and damage fund

- The 27th United Nations Climate Change conference is held from in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.
- The COP27 made history by establishing a fund for losses and damages arising from climate change – a demand developing countries facing the devastating impacts of global warming have made for decades, and that has been consistently blocked by rich countries until now.
- COP27 President Sameh Shoukry announced that the loss and damage fund would serve the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

India Hosts 2nd BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministerial Meeting

- India hosted the **2nd Agriculture Ministerial-level meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in New Delhi**.
- The **Action Plan for Strengthening BIMSTEC Agricultural Cooperation (2023-2027)** was adopted at the 2nd BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministerial Meeting.

About BIMSTEC

- Formation - 1997 (Bangkok Declaration)**
- Members (7) - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.**
- BIMSTEC Secretariat is situated in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**

19th ASEAN-India Summit in Cambodia

- The Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar led the Indian delegation, including the External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar, at the 19th ASEAN-India Summit in **Phnom Penh, Cambodia**.
- At the summit, ASEAN and India adopted a joint statement announcing the elevation of the existing **Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
- Both sides reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The Joint Statement also reiterated the commitment to enhance India-ASEAN cooperation in various areas such as maritime activities, counter-terrorism, transnational crimes, cyber security, digital economy, regional connectivity, smart agriculture, environment, science & technology, tourism, among other areas.
- The Joint Statement also proposes expediting the review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) to make it more user-friendly, simple, and trade-facilitative.

G20 Summit at Bali

- PM Narendra Modi left for Bali to attend the G20 summit on November 15 and 16.
- Food and energy security and post COVID health issues are at the top of the agenda in sessions at the summit in the Indonesian city.

About G20

- The G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum of major developed and developing economies comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- Formation - 26 September 1999.
- Chairman - Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia.
- First Meeting in in Cologne, Germany
- G20 Countries - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

Note

- India will assume the Presidency of the G20 for one year from **December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023** and the G20 Leaders' Summit will take place in **New Delhi in 2023**.

G20 Summit at Bali, Indonesia

- The 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit took place in Bali from 15-16 November 2022.
- The Summit was the pinnacle of the G20 process and intense work carried out within the Ministerial Meetings, Working Groups, and Engagement Groups throughout the year.
- Leaders of the G20 grouping in a joint declaration at the end of the G-20 summit in Bali said that the Ukraine war was causing economic difficulties and insecurity worldwide, and the threat of using nuclear weapons was "inadmissible".
- In the event, Indian PM Modi held meetings separately with the leaders of Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Singapore and the U.K.

India's Presidency of G 20 in 2023.

- India's G20 presiden-cy will be "inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action oriented.
- India stated that it would give priority to "women led development" on its G20 agenda, which would be driven by the theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" which was unveiled recently.
- India is expected to showcase its geographical and cultural diversity during the year, and will hold approximately 200 G20 meetings at different locations across the country.

About G20

- The G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum of major developed and developing economies comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- Formation - 26 September 1999
- Chairman - Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia
- First Meeting in Cologne, Germany
- G20 Countries - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United

Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

India to hold 'offsite' on Andaman as G20 President

- As India is about to take over the G20 presidency formally, the Union government plans to fly diplomats from all missions of G20 countries, invitees and United Nations agencies to a resort on the **Andaman Island for a special briefing by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the G20 Secretariat.**
- The "offsite" for 30 to 40 diplomats will take place at **Taj Exotica hotel on Havelock Island from November 25 to 27.**
- At the event the G20 'Sherpa' Amitabh Kant, 'Sous Sherpa' Abhay Thakur, and **G20 National Coordinator and former Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla** will give the diplomats a preview of India's plans for the next year of its presidency.
- India has already announced that in a departure from the previous G20s, which stick to a single venue for most events, it hopes to hold the 200 or so G20 official meetings in about 50 locations, including all the States and Union Territories across India.
- Another key decision was to hold the G20 summit in September, rather than November, given the levels of pollution in Delhi due to crop burning at the later time.

19th Meeting of the CITES

- The 19th meeting of the **Conference of the Parties (CoP19) to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)**, also known as the 19th World Wildlife Conference took place from 14 to 25 November 2022 in Panama Convention Center, Panama City, Panama.
- Two Indian turtle species – the red-crowned roofed turtles (Batagur kachuga) and Leith's soft-shell turtle (Nilssononia leithii)** have been added to the **Appendix I** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Red-crowned roofed turtle:

- It is native to **India, Nepal and Bangladesh** and known to be widely found in the Ganga and Brahmaputra River basins, according to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- At present in India, the National Chambal River Gharial Sanctuary is the only geographic area where the species is found in substantial numbers.

Leith's soft-shell turtle:

- The species inhabits rivers and reservoirs mainly in southern peninsular India, in states like Odisha, **Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.**
- Its presence is substantial in the **Cauvery, Tungabhadra, Ghataprabha, Bhavani, Godavari** and Moyar drainages.

About CITES

- CITES, also known as Washington Convention, is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals from the threats of international trade.
- India is a member country.
- Signed on 3 March 1973.
- Location - Geneva, Switzerland.

22nd Edition IORA

- India participated in the **22nd Council of Ministers** meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA-COM), which was held at Dhaka in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh is the current IORA Chair.**
- The Indian delegation was led by the Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.
- The meeting adopted the '**IORA's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific' (IOIP)** which would guide enhancement of IORA's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The 22nd COM Meeting also adopted **Dhaka Communique**, as the outcome document and the COM also endorsed **India's candidature for IORA Vice-Chair for the period 2023-25 by consensus.**

- India will set up an **e-Office at the IORA Secretariat** and also announced provision of e-subscription by **India to Mahatma Gandhi Library at IORA Secretariat**.

About IORA

- IORA is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to fostering regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region.
- Formation – 1997
- Secretary General – H.E. Salman Al Farisi
- Headquarters – Ebene, Mauritius
- Members – 23 Members and 10 Dialogue Partners

1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

Jamshed J Irani passes away

- Padma Bhushan Awardee **Jamshed J Irani**, who was also known as the “**Steel man of India**”, passed away at the age of **86 years** at **Jamshedpur, Jharkhand**.

About Jamshed J Irani:

- He was born on 2nd June 1936 in **Nagpur, Maharashtra** and started his professional career in **1963** with the British Iron and Steel Research Association in Sheffield.
- In 1968 he joined the **Tata Iron and Steel Company**.

Awards and Honour

- International Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in **1996**.
- He was conferred an honorary knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II in **1997**.
- In 2007, he received the **Padma Bhushan**.

Freedom Fighter Vishwanath Das

passes away

- Odisha freedom fighter Vishwanath Das passed away at **106 years of age**.
- He was born on **Balikuda in Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha**.
- He accepted the invitation of Mahatma Gandhi and participated in the freedom struggle. He is also known as '**Balikuda Gandhi**'.
- In 2020, on the occasion of the **Quit India Movement Day** he received the **President's Award** and was **honoured by the former President Pranab Mukherjee in 2012**.

Elaben Bhatt dies at 89

- Elaben Bhatt, 89, Gandhian, leading women's empowerment activist and founder of the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), passed away in Ahmedabad after a brief illness.

- In 2007, she became part of a group of world leaders called the Elders, founded by Nelson Mandela to promote human rights and peace across the world.
- Elaben was the Chair person of the Sabarmati Ashram and recently resigned as the Chancellor of the Mahatma Gandhi founded Gujarat Vidhyapith.
- SEWA which was founded by her in 1972 is one of the largest cooperatives working for women, with a base of over two million members from as many as 18 States in the country and in neighbouring nations.

Awards and Honour

- Ramon Magsaysay Award - 1977
- Right Livelihood Award - 1984
- Padma Bhushan - 1986

Tributes paid to poet Azha Valliappa

- The centenary celebrations of Azha Valliappa, popularly known as Kuzhandai Kavignar (children's poet) was held.
- Every year, the poet's birthday on November 7 was celebrated as children's literature day.
- The year 2022 marks the 100th anniversary of the writer as he was born on November 22, 1922.

Literary writer Ilasai Aruna passes away (84)

- Ilasai Aruna worked as a teacher in Ottapidaram, Tuticorin district.
- He is also the author of several classical poetry works including Manithanai Paaduvom (மனிதனைப் பாடுவோம்), Printing Mistakes (அச்சுப்பிழைகள்), Songs of Karisal (கரிசல் கீதங்கள்), A Dream's Title (ஒரு கனவின் தலைப்பு)
- He had written many modern poetry like An Indian Poet's Usual Anger (ஓர் இந்திய கவிஞரின் சராசரி கோபம்), An Abnormal's Rambling (ஒரு அபநர்மலின் முனகல்). He has also written short story compilation like Stories of Karisal Forest (கரிசல் காட்டுக் கதைகள்) and A Poet's Stories (ஒரு கவிஞரின் கதைகள்).
- He is the author of two collections of books on literary men of the Karisal land.

- He has received many awards including VOC Award, Tamil Scholar Award, Bharathi Award, Bharathi Great Services Award.

141st Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel

About Sardar Vallabhai Patel

- He was born on 31st October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat.
- The first deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of Independent India.
- He headed various Committees of the Constituent Assembly of India, namely:
 - Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights.
 - Committee on Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas.
 - Provincial Constitution Committee.
- He integrated the farmer's cause in Kheda Satyagraha (1918) and Bardoli Satyagraha (1928) with the national freedom movement.
- In March 1931 Patel presided over the Karachi session (46th session) of the Indian National Congress in which Gandhi-Irwin Pact was formed.

About Statute of Unity

- The Statue of Unity is the tallest statue in the world.
- In 2018, the Government of India unveiled the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat to mark the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.
- In January 2020, it was added to the 'Eight Wonders' of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Birsa Munda Birth Anniversary (Janjatiya Gaurav Divas)

- President Droupadi Murmu, who was appointed India's first tribal woman president, visited Ulihatu village in the Khunti district of Jharkhand – the birthplace of 'Bhagwan' Birsa Munda – and paid floral tributes.

Note

- The Munda tribe inhabits the Chota Nagpur region of the present-day Jharkhand.

- Birsa Munda was born in **1875**, during the time when the British were attempting to establish control over and exploit forest lands, disrupting the tribal way of life.
- A feudal zamindari system was introduced, destroying the **tribal "Khuntkatti" agrarian and land ownership system** that was more community-based.
- The Raj brought in outsiders – moneylenders and contractors, as well as feudal landlords – to aid them.
- Munda received his early education under the guidance of his teacher Jaipal Nag. Influenced by him, Birsa converted to Christianity in order to join the **German Mission school but discontinued later**.
- The **Sardar Agitation (1886-1890)** had a strong impact on him and he became a part of the anti-missionary and anti-government programmes.
- The **Ulgulan movement of 1899** involved the use of weapons and guerrilla warfare to drive out foreigners.
- Munda encouraged the tribals to refuse following colonial laws and paying rent.
- He encouraged changes in the social sphere too, challenging religious practices to fight against superstition, and became known as '**Bhagwan**' (God) and '**Dharati Aba**' (Father of the earth) by his followers.
- As per Doctrine of Lapse, any princely state under the direct or indirect control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a legal male heir would be annexed by the company.
- She was determined to not give up on the Dominion of Jhansi and started assembling an army of rebellions, including women.
- She was supported by **Tantia Tope and Nana Sahib**.
- After a fierce war, when the British army entered Jhansi, Rani Lakshmibai tied her son Damodar Rao to her back and fought bravely using two swords in both her hands.
- She **died on June 17, 1958**, martyring her life for India's freedom.
- Rani Lakshmibai's **tomb** is situated in the **Phool Bagh area of Gwalior**.

Tamil scholar Avvai Natarajan dies at 86

- Tamil scholar Avvai Natarajan, who served as the Vice-Chancellor of Tamil University in Thanjavur and known for his exceptional oratorical skills, died in Chennai
- He taught Tamil in Raja Serfoji Government College in Thanjavur and Thiagarajar College in Madurai for a few years in the late 1950s and 1960s. He worked as news reader in All India Radio.
- He was brought to the Department of Information and Public Relations of Tamil Nadu government when M. Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister in 1974.
- He served as the Secretary of the Department of Tamil Development and Culture.
- He was the Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil University from 1992 to 1995.
- Later, he served as the Vice Chairperson in the Governing Board of Central Institute of Classical Tamil.
- He was the General Secretary of the 5th World Tamil Conference (WTC) held in Madurai.
- He was the member of the committee for the 7th World Tamil Conference (WTC) which was held in Mauritius.

Awards and Honour

- Padma Shri - 2011
- Kalaimamani Award - 2009

Rani Lakshmibai (November 1835 – June 1858)

- **Maharani Laxmibai** is regarded as one of the leading figures of India's rebellion in 1857 against the British, which is also referred to as the first war of independence.
- She was also known to have fiercely guarded Jhansi against the British till her death in 1858.

About her life

- She was born in **1835** in Varanasi. She was initially named **Manikarnika Tambe**.
- She was married to **Gangadhar Rao Newalkar, the Maharaja of Jhansi, in 1842**.
- The East India Company took advantage of the Maharaja's death and applied the Doctrine of Lapse.

- Perarignar Anna Award - 2010
- Notable Works
- Vazvikka Vantha Vallalar (வாழ்விக்க வந்த வள்ளலார்)
- Peraringar Anna (பேரறிஞர் அண்ணா)
- Kambar Virunthu (கம்பர் விருந்து)
- Kambar Kaatchi (கம்பர் காட்சி)
- Bharathi Palsuvai (பாரதி பல்சுவை)
- Tirupaavai Vilakkam (திருப்பாவை விளக்கம்)
- Tiruvenpaavai Vilakkam (திருவெம்பாவை விளக்கம்)
- Sangam Age Literary Feminist Poets (சங்க இலக்கியப் பெண்பாற் புலவர்கள்)
- Arulukku Avvai Sonnathu (அருளுக்கு அவ்வை சொன்னது)
- Thirukkovaiyar (English) (திருக்கோவையார்)
- Pulamai Selviyar (புலமைச் செல்வியர்)

About Dr Verghese Kurien:

- He was born on **26th November 1921** in Kozhikode.

- He was an Indian engineer and entrepreneur who is credited with starting the “white revolution” also known as **Operation Flood**, which turned India from a dairy importer to the world’s greatest milk producer by implementing a farmer-cooperative system.
- He was the **Founder and Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** from 1965 to 1998.

Awards and Honour

- Ramon Magsaysay Award - 1963
- Padma Shri - 1965
- Padma Bhushan - 1966
- Padma Vibushan - 1999
- World Food Prize - 1989

About the Indian Dairy Association (IDA):

- President- Dr R.S. Sodhi
- Headquarters- New Delhi.
- Formation - 1948

1.5 SPORTS AND GAMES

ICC Rankings: Suryakumar Yadav becomes world's No.1 T20I batter

- Suryakumar Yadav became the world's number one batter in T20 Internationals, rising to the top on the back of his incredible form in recent times.
- Yadav overtook Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan to become just the second Indian player to hold the top T20I batter ranking.
- Yadav has accumulated 863 points with Rizwan at 842 points. New Zealand's Devon Conway completes the top three with 792 points.

Squash Team's maiden Gold in Asian Championship

- Indian Men's Squash team wins first ever gold in Asian Championships in South Korea.
- They defeated Kuwait in the final in straight sets in Cheongju, South Korea.

- It was Saurav Ghoshal and Ramit Tandon who won their games in the final to dole out a 2-0 defeat to Kuwait.

India to host Women's World Boxing Championship 2023

- India is set to host the **2023 International Boxing Association (IBA) Women's World Boxing Championship**, elite women's competition, in **2023** in New Delhi.
- The women's World Boxing Championship will be hosted by India for the **3rd time**.
- Previously, India hosted the Women's championship in **New Delhi, Delhi, in 2006 (4th edition) and 2018 (10th edition)**.
- Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 marks the **13th edition of the Championship**.

Asian Boxing Championships 2022

- Indian women boxing stars **Lovlina Borgohain, Parveen Hooda, Saweety Boora and Alfiya Pathan** triumphed in the women's

finals and bagged **gold medals at the 2022 ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan.**

- In the event, Indian Women's team won 4 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals which is 7 medals in total completing the event.

England become the first team to hold both World Cups in white-ball cricket

- England defeated Pakistan by 5 wickets to lift the trophy of the ICC T20 World Cup. The match was played on Melbourne Cricket Ground in Australia.
- **England become the first team to hold both World Cups in white-ball cricket.** England already won the ODI World Cup in 2019.
- Man of the Tournament - Sam Curran.

Youth World Boxing Championships, Spain

- Indian boxers **Vishwanath Suresh, Vanshaj, and Devika Ghorpade** won gold medals at

the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Championships 2022 in **La Nucia, Spain.**

- Vishwanath Suresh won **India's first gold at the prestigious championships.**
- Bhawana Sharma and Ashish won silver medals.
- With 11 medals, India topped in the ongoing edition of the event, followed by Uzbekistan (10), Ireland (7) and Kazakhstan (7).

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Uzbekistan	5	3	2	10
2	India	4	3	4	11
3	England	2	2	3	7
	Kazakhstan	2	2	3	7

7 sixes in an over

- Ruturaj Gaikwad creates history by hitting 7 sixes in an over in Vijay Hazare Trophy to create a world record.

1.6 BOOKS & AUTHORS

New Book About E. K. Janaki Ammal by Nirmala James

- Retired school teacher **Nirmala James** has authored a new book titled **"E.K.Janaki Ammal: Life and Scientific Contributions"**, featuring the life and remarkable achievements of Edavalath Kakkat Janaki Ammal (E.K.Janaki Ammal), **India's first woman botanist.**
- The book, published by Enview Research and Development, was released during the event organised on the **125th birth anniversary of E.K.Janaki Ammal.** She was born on **4th November 1897** in Thalassery, Kerala.
- Nirmala James has authored around 25 books including books for children
- Note: Janaki Ammal received **Padma Shri** in 1977

New Books on Siddha Medicine launched

- The book release ceremony of **'Sugam Tarum Siddha Maruthuvam'** (சுகம் தரும் சித்த

மருத்துவம்), a collection of Siddha Medicine articles published in Dinamani by Government Siddha Doctor **Cho.Thillaivanan, 'Noi Nadi Siddha Maruthuvam Nadi'** (நோய் நாடி சித்த மருத்துவம் நாடி) and **'Ver Paru Thazhai Paru'** (வேர் பாரு தழை பாரு) was held at **Devaneya Pavanar District Library Hall in Anna Salai in Chennai.**

- The English translation of the book **'Odalam Vanga'**, written by **Minister M.Subramanian** called **"Come Let's Run"** which is about the 125 marathons he ran will also be released.
- For the first time in Tamil Nadu, the government is cultivating **200 acres of herbal plants in Dindigul.** The farmers of these areas have been trained on the method of cultivation.
- An office has been built for **Siddha Medical University at a cost of Rs.2 crore.**
- The university will be set up on 25 acres at **Madhavaram Dairy in Chennai.**
- Union AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has approved the establishment of Siddha

Hospitals at 100 places in Tamil Nadu and on these lines Siddha Medical College and Siddha Hospital with 50 beds each will be established at Namakkal and Palani.

Note

- **Siddhargal" or Siddhars** were the premier scholars of this system in ancient times. Siddhars, mainly hailing from Tamil Nadu laid the foundation for Siddha system of medicine. Hence, it is called Siddha medicine.

Book by former Reserve Bank of India Governor C. Rangarajan was released

- The book "Forks in The Road - My Days at RBI and Beyond", written by the former Reserve Bank of India Governor C. Rangarajan was released at a function in Chennai.

1.7 AWARDS & HONOURS

Nobel Laureate Venki Ramakrishnan Awarded UK's Royal Order Of Merit

- **India-born Nobel laureate Professor Venki Ramakrishnan** has been awarded the prestigious **Order of Merit by Britain's King Charles III** in recognition of his distinguished service to science.
- The 70-year-old UK-based molecular biologist is among six appointments made to the historic order by the late Queen Elizabeth II before her death in September and the first to be appointed by Charles.
- The **Order of Merit** is an **exclusive mark of honour conferred by the British sovereign**.
- He received the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2009** for his **work on ribosomal structure** and was **knighted by the Queen in 2012**. He was **President of the UK's Royal Society from November 2015 until November 2020**.

Note

- The **Order of Merit, founded in 1902 by King Edward VII**, is conferred on individuals of exceptional distinction in the armed forces, science, arts, and literature, or for the promotion of culture based on the personal choice of the monarch.
- Professor Venki was born in **Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu** and studied biology in the US before moving to the UK where he is the Group Leader of the leading research hub **MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge University**.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar awarded Gandhi Peace Pilgrim award

- Indian spiritual leader and the **founder of Art of Living**, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was presented with the **Gandhi Peace Pilgrimage award at Dr.Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Centre in Atlanta** in recognition of his tireless efforts to spread the messages of peace and non-violence as espoused by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr Martin Luther King Jr.
- The award was presented to him for his outstanding service and contribution for humanity to bring the change we want to see in the world.

National Sports Awards 2022

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2022.
- The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 30th November, 2022.
- National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.

Note

- **'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award'**: awarded for the spectacular and most outstanding 1 performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over the period of the past four years.
- **Arjuna Award**: awarded for good performance over a period of the previous four years and for showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.

- **Dronacharya Award** : awarded for coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work on a consistent basis and for enabling sportspersons to excel in International events.
- **Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and Games**: awarded to honour sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and who continue to contribute to promotion of sports event after their retirement.
- **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar** : awarded to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National level, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.
- The overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2022		
S.No.	Name of the sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Sharath Kamal Achanta	Table Tennis
Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2022		
1.	Ms Seema Punia	Athletics
2.	Shri Eldhose Paul	Athletics
3.	Shri Avinash Mukund Sable	Athletics
4.	Shri Lakshya Sen	Badminton
5.	Shri Prannoy HS	Badminton
6.	Shri Amit	Boxing
7.	Ms Nikhat Zareen	Boxing
8.	Ms Bhakti Pradip Kulkarni	Chess
9.	Shri R. Praggnanandhaa	Chess
10.	Ms Deep Grace Ekka	Hockey
11.	Ms Shushila Devi	Judo
12.	Ms. Sakshi Kumari	Kabaddi
13.	Ms. Nayan Moni Saikia	Lawn Bowl
14.	Shri Sagar Kailas Ovhalkar	Mallakhamb
15.	Ms. Elavenil Valarivan	Shooting
16.	Shri Omprakash Mitharval	Shooting
17.	Ms. Sreeja Akula	Table Tennis
18.	Shri Vikas Thakur	Weightlifting
19.	Ms Anshu	Wrestling
20.	Ms. Sarita	Wrestling
21.	Shri Parveen	Wushu
22.	Ms Manasi Girishchandra Joshi	Para Badminton
23.	Shri Tarun Dhillon	Para Badminton
24.	Shri Swapnil Sanjay Patil	Para Swimming
24.	Ms. Jerlin Anika J.	Deaf Badminton
Dronacharya Award for Outstanding coaches in Sports and Games 2022		
A. Regular Category		

S.No.	Name of the Coach (S/Shri/Ms)	Discipline
1.	Shri Jiwanjot Singh Teja	Archery
2.	Shri Mohammad Ali Qamar	Boxing
3.	Ms Suma Siddharth Shirur	Para Shooting
4.	Shri Sujeet Maan	Wrestling
B. Lifetime Category :		
1.	Shri Dinesh Jawahar Lad	Cricket
2.	Shri Bimal Prafulla Ghosh	Football
3.	Shri Raj Singh	Wrestling
d. Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and games 2022		
1.	Ms Ashwini Akkunji C.	Athletics
2.	Shri Dharamvir Singh	Hockey
3.	Shri B.C. Suresh	Kabadi
4.	Shri Nir Bahadur Gurung	Para Athletics
e. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2022		
S.No.	Category	Entity Recommended for RashtriyaKhel Protsahan Puruskar, 2022
38	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and young Talent	TransStadia Enterprises Private Limited
39	Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology
40	Sports for Development	Ladakh Ski & Snowboard Association
f. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2022		
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar		

53rd IFFI

- The 53rd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is set to be held between November 20 and 28 in New Delhi
- The Ministry of State for Information and Broadcasting announced that the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award will be given to Spanish film Director Carlos Saura at the 53rd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- A children's film package, as suggested by UNICEF, has been introduced for the first time in IFFI, and which would include the screening of about seven films.
- Opening Film and Closing Film : The Austrian film 'Alma and Oskar', directed by Dieter Berner, opened the annual festival while Krzysztof Zanussi's 'Perfect Number' is the closing film.
- Country Focus : France is the 'Spotlight' country and 8 films were be screened under the 'Country Focus' package.
- The theme of the opening ceremony was **"Evolution of Indian Cinema in the last 100 years"**.
- The legendary Spanish filmmaker **Carlos Saura** was given the **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award**. Carlos Saura's daughter, Anna, accepts the award on behalf of the filmmaker at the opening ceremony of the IFFI.
- The Telugu film veteran actor Chiranjeevi was conferred 'Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022' award.

Note

- IFFI was first held in **1952** and has since been held annually to provide a common platform for the best cinema at an International level to project excellence in the art of filmmaking.

'Karnataka Ratna' Award at 67th Kannada Rajyotsava

- The Karnataka government posthumously conferred 'Karnataka Ratna', the state's highest civilian award, on the late actor Puneeth Rajkumar, on the occasion of the 67th Kannada Rajyotsava (State Formation Day) at an event held at the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Puneeth Rajkumar is the **9th recipient** of the award.
- The Award consists of a **full silver plaque** and a **50-gram gold medal**.

About Karnataka Ratna:

- Karnataka Ratna was instituted in 1992 by the then Chief Minister S Bangarappa by the Government of Karnataka.
- In 1992, first award was presented to Puneeth's late father Rajkumar (Cinema) and author Kuvempu (Literature).
- Karnataka Ratna award was last awarded to Dr Veerendra Heggade for his social service in 2009.

About Karnataka

- Capital - Bengaluru
- Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief minister - Basavaraj Bommai

T.N. wins 'Reformist State' award

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin felicitated **Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan** and senior officials in the Finance Department over **Tamil Nadu receiving the 'Reformist State' award during the 4th TIOL National Taxation Awards 2022 ceremony held in New Delhi.**

About TIOL National Taxation Awards 2022

- The objective of the awards is to motivate, encourage, acknowledge the contribution of compliant taxpayers, tax technology service providers, active facilitators, positive-minded fiscal journalists, tax-friendly commissionerates, reform-minded States to the wheels of economic growth and act as a reliable channel providing Taxpayers' feedback to the Policy Makers.
- The Jury which consists of former judges and former secretaries select the winners under various categories.

- The fourth edition of the TIOL Tax Congress 2022 was held on November 7 at Taj Palace at New Delhi.
- The winners under the '**Reformist State Category**' are
 - Gold - Rajasthan
 - Silver - Odisha
 - Jury - Haryana
 - Jury - Tamil Nadu
 - Jury - Bihar

India receives EXCELL Award at International Conference on Family Planning

- India's family planning measures got appreciation on a global stage with the country receiving **Excellence in Leadership in Family Planning (EXCELL) Awards -2022.**
- The award was received at the **International Conference on Family Planning held in Pattaya, Thailand.**
- India came out as the only country which bagged this award in the 'country category' at the conference.
- The International Conference of Family Planning focuses on universal access to family planning. It provides a platform to discuss various issues pertaining to family planning and awareness about the same.

National Family Health Survey (NFHS)

- First conducted in **1992-93** and the latest one in **2019-21 - NFHS 5** is a survey that is conducted nationwide in a representative sample of households.
- The survey is being conducted with an aim to provide high-quality data on the health and family welfare situation of the country and simultaneously highlight the main issues pertaining to the areas.

Mission Parivar Vikas

- The mission is one of the flagship schemes of the Government.
- Under the scheme, **145 districts in 7 states of Assam, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh** are identified to be in high focus based on the **Total Fertility Rate (TFR).**

Tamil Isai Sangam Awards

- Marking the 80th anniversary of the Tamil Isai Sangam, Musician Dr.S.Sowmya will be presented with the Isai Perarignar Award and Pann Isai Perarignar Award will be given to Mayilai P.Sargurunatha Odhuvar, a renowned Thirumurai music songs scholar.
- At the 80th anniversary function of the Tamil Isai Sangam at Raja Annamalai Forum, Chief Minister M.K.Stalin will present the two awards, a silver medal, a gold medal and a prize money of Rs.10,000 to each awardees.

Gandhi Mandela Award

- The Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama was conferred the Gandhi Mandela Award 2022, the peace prize from the New Delhi-based Gandhi Mandela Foundation at Thekchen Choeling in Dharamshala's McLeodGanj by Himachal Pradesh governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.
- A government of India registered Trust, the Gandhi Mandela Foundation is a non-profit organisation, formed with the motive to promote Mahatma Gandhi's and former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela's values of non-violence. It has constituted an international prize, the Gandhi Mandela Award.
- The foundation instituted the award on the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, MK Gandhi.
- The award is given to personalities who have carried forward the legacies of Gandhi and Mandela by making significant contributions in the fields of Peace, Social Welfare, Culture, Environment, Education, Healthcare, Sports and Innovation.

Champions of the Earth Award 2022

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced the 2022 Champions of the Earth Award, honouring five environmental protectors – a conservationist, an enterprise, an economist, a women's rights activist, and a wildlife biologist—for their transformative efforts to prevent, halt, or reverse ecosystem degradation.
- The UNEP Champions of the Earth 2022 awards highlight global efforts to protect

the environment in the backdrop of the United Nations (UN) Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).

- Dr Purnima Devi Barman has been honoured with the U.N. Environment Programme's 2022 Champions of the Earth award in the Entrepreneurial Vision category.

About Purnima Barman

- Dr. Barman is an Indian wildlife biologist.
- She leads the "Hargila Army", an all-female grassroots conservation movement dedicated to protecting the Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila) from extinction.
- The women create and sell textiles with motifs of the bird, helping to raise awareness about the species while building their own financial independence.

About Hargila – The Greater Adjutant Stork

- Hargilas are five-foot-tall birds that live in wetlands in parts of Southeast Asia, including India and Cambodia. In India, they can be found in Assam and Bihar in India.
- According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, there are only about 1,200 Hargilas left in the world, categorizing the species as "endangered."

About UNEP Champions of the Earth

- The award was first established in 2005.
- It is the highest environmental honour bestowed by the United Nations (UN).
- It recognizes individuals and organizations whose actions have a positive impact on the environment.
- The Champions of the Earth are acknowledged in four categories: Policy Leadership, Inspiration and Action, Entrepreneurial Vision, & Science and Innovation.

About the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Formation – June 5, 1972
- Headquarters – Nairobi, Kenya
- Head- Inger Andersen

Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar Award 2022

- The Tamil Writer Annamalai has been selected for the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar Award 2022 by the Rashtrakavi Kuvempu

Prathishtana (Trust), Kuppali, Karnataka.

- The national award was instituted in memory of the late poet laureate Kuvempu of Kannada Literature
- Since 2013, the memorial foundation named after him has been honoring the best writers in each language with the Rashtriya Puraskar National Award.
- The award carries a cash award of ₹5 lakh, a silver medal and a citation.

About Annamalai

- Annamalai writes under the pen name **Imayam**.
- He has authored seven novels, six short story collections and a novella.
- He has brought new sensibilities to his writings in Tamil.
- His debut novel 'Koveru Kazhudaigal' has been translated into English, French and many other Indian languages.

About Kuvempu

- First Kannada writer to receive the **Jnanpith Award in 1967**.
- **Rashtrakavi ("National Poet") in 1964**.
- **Karnataka Ratna in 1992**.
- **Padma Vibhushan in 1988**.
- He penned the **Karnataka State Anthem Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujate**.

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2022

- The awards winners are
 - **"Distinction of Merit"** for the restoration of the 17th century stepwells inside the **Qutb Shahi Tombs Complex in Hyderabad, Telangana**.
 - **"Award of Merit"** for the conservation work on the **Domakonda Fort**, built in the 18th century in **Kamareddy district, Telangana**.
 - Byculla Station of Mumbai also won the **"Award of Merit"**.
 - The restoration of the 100-year-old **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in Mumbai** has won the **Award of Excellence**. The museum is a

part of the Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai's world heritage property. It was established as the **Prince of Wales Museum of Western India in 1922**.

Note

- The **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation ('Awards')** recognizes exemplary efforts by individuals and organizations to restore or conserve structures, places and properties of heritage value in the region.

About UNESCO

- Headquarters - Paris, France
- Formation - 16 November 1945
- Director-General - Audrey Azoulay (France)

Shilp Guru and National Awards

- 30 Shilp Guru Awards and 78 National Awards for the year 2017, 2018 and 2019 were presented to master craftspersons at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

About Shilp Guru Awards:

- The Shilp Guru Awards are given to **legendary master crafts persons in recognition of excellent craftsmanship**, product excellence and the role played by them as gurus in the continuance of crafts to other trainee artisans as a vital part of traditional heritage.
- The Awards were **started in 2002**, to celebrate the **Golden Jubilee of the resurgence of Handicrafts in India**.
- The Award consists of a gold coin, 2.00 lakhs prize money, a Tamrapatra, a shawl and a certificate.

National Awards:

- The Awards are being awarded **since 1965 for outstanding craftsmanship in different craft categories**.
- The main crafts for which the Awards have been given are Metal Engraving, Chikan Hand Embroidery, Khurja Blue Pottery, Mata Ni Pachedi Kalamkari, Bandhani, Tie & Dye, Hand Block Bagh Print, Warli Art, Stone Dust Painting, Sozni Hand Embroidery, Terracotta, Tanjore Painting, Sholapith, Kantha Hand Embroidery, Palm leaf Engraving, Brass wire inlay on wood, Wood Tarkashi, Madhubani Painting, Gold Leaf Painting, straw craft etc.
- The Award consists of 1.00 lakh prize money, a Tamrapatra, a Shawl and a certificate.

Winners from Tamilnadu and Pudhucherry			
Year of Awards	Name	Crafts	Awards
2017	Shri. V.K.Munusamy (Pudhucherry)	Terracotta	Shilp Guru
2019	Shri V.Panner Selvam (TN)	Tanjore Painting	Shilp Guru
2019	Shri. K.Venkateshan (Pudhucherry)	Terracotta	National
2019	Shri Sri Masilamani (Pudhucherry)	Sholapith Craft	National

National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG)

- The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) in association with the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir organized the 25th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) in Katra, Jammu & Kashmir.
- The theme of the Conference is “Bringing Citizens, Industry and Government closer”.
- The National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) was presented under 5 categories of the NAeG Scheme - 2022 to 18 e-Governance initiatives at Central, State and District levels, Academic & Research Institutions and Public Sector Undertaking. This includes 9 Gold and 9 Silver Awards.

The Gold Awardees are:

Category I - Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation		
Central level initiatives	e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (eGramSwaraj & Audit Online)	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
State/UT level initiatives	MINE MITRA	Directorate of Geology & Mining, (Uttar Pradesh)
Category II - Excellence in Providing Citizen Centric Delivery		
Central level initiatives	Judgement & Orders search Portal (High Courts of India)	e-Committee, Supreme Court of India.
State UT level initiatives	e-Registration (Self Help Portal) for document registration	Department of Registration & Stamps. (Maharashtra).
Category III- Excellence in District level initiative in e-Governance		
North - East States + Hill States	Parvarish (A step Towards Kuposhan Mukta Bharat)	District Cachar, (Assam).
UTs (including Delhi)	GAASH	District Srinagar, (Jammu and Kashmir).
Other States	Gang Canal Regulation Computerization Project	District Sri Ganganagar, (Rajasthan).
Category IV- Outstanding research on Citizen Services by Academic/Research Institutions		
Category IV	Video Analytics for Safety and Compliance Applications	Indian Institute of Tehnology, Bombay

Category V	Trinetra: Command Center (i3C)	Integrated and Control	Police Department, (Gujarat).
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Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.C. Award

- TN CM Mr. Stalin handed over the newly incorporated 'Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.C. Award' to port management expert Ennarasu Karunesan, who is known for having introduced innovations in port management and maritime infrastructure.

Note

- The award was incorporated in **2021** to mark the **150th birth anniversary of VOC**. Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.C. Award would be awarded every year to a Tamil, **who has excelled in ship-building and related technology**. A **cash prize of Rs.5 lakh** and a citation would be part of the award.

1.8 CULTURAL PANORAMA

Tamil estampages to be moved from Mysuru to Chennai

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** on January 6, 2022 directed the Director (Epigraphy), ASI, in Mysuru, to transfer the estampages and other connected Tamil documents and inscriptions to the Office of the Deputy Superintending Epigraphist, South Zone, ASI, in Chennai.
- These unpublished estampages will help unearth more information about Tamil Nadu's history and culture. Estampages are exact replicas of inscriptions copied from stone or copper plates to paper using specialised ink.

- These are made by pressing wet paper on to the rock or metal face, and wiping a specialised ink on it.

- The ASI move follows an order of the Madras High Court order dated August 19, 2021.

- The court also directed the ASI to **name the Chennai branch as 'Epigraphy Branch-Tamil'**. It also asked the Tamil Nadu government to provide assistance to the ASI to set up the branch.

Note

- The ASI was established in **1861** by **Alexander Cunningham**.

1.9 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

New chairperson of the Law Commission

- Retired High Court Chief Justice **Rituraj Awasthi** was appointed chairperson of the Law Commission, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said.
- Justice K.T. Sankaran, Professor Anand Paliwal, Professor D.P. Verma, Professor Raka Arya and M Karunanithi have been appointed as members of the commission.
- The appointment comes after more than two years after the **22nd Law Commission was notified on February 24, 2020**.

About Law Commission

- It is a **non-statutory body** and is constituted

by a notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs.

- The **first Law Commission** was established in **1834** by the East India Company under the **Charter Act of 1833**, and was presided by **Lord Macaulay**.

India's Dr. J.A. Jayalal elected as Secretary General of Commonwealth Medical Association

- **Commonwealth Medical Association**, a body of medical associations of 58 countries under the Commonwealth announced the names of new office bearers.

- India's Prof. Dr. J.A. Jayalal, former President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has been elected as the Secretary-General for the association.
- The Office Bearers election for 2022-24 was held in Malaysia during the Annual executive meeting and council meeting held from 4th to 6th November 2022.
- In this Dr. Muragaraj, serving as President of the Malaysia Medical Association elected as President unopposed.
- For the first time in the history of 60 years of Commonwealth Prof. Dr. J.A. Jayalal has been elected as the Secretary General of CMA.
- He hails from Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu, and serving as Professor and HOD of Surgery in Kanyakumari Government Medical College.
- He has served as the **President of the Indian Medical Association in the year 2021 and Head of UNESCO Bioethics Chair India.**

Note

- CMA was established in **1962**. CMA works in association with the commonwealth secretariat in the UK and meet often with heads of Governments and policymakers.

Greg Barclay re-elected as ICC chairman

- Greg Barclay has been re-elected unopposed as the chairman of the **International Cricket Council (ICC)**
- Barclay, an Auckland-based commercial lawyer, was originally appointed as the ICC Chair in November 2020. He was previously the **Chair of New Zealand Cricket (NZC)** and was a **director of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2015**.
- Jay Shah from India was elected as the head of the powerful **Finance and Commercial Affairs (F&CA) committee**.

About ICC

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) is the global governing body of cricket. It was founded as the **Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909** and later the name was changed as International Cricket Council in 1987. The ICC has its headquarters in **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**.

New Full Time Member for NITI Aayog

- The government has appointed senior economist Dr Arvind Virmani as a full-time member of the NITI Aayog.
- Virmani, founder-chairman of the non-profit public policy organisation Foundation for Economic Growth and Welfare, has served as the Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance during the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government from 2007-09.
- The NITI Aayog, the government's premier think tank headed by the Prime Minister, at present has three members – Dr V K Saraswat, Professor Ramesh Chand and Dr V K Paul.

About NITI Aayog

- Formation - January 1 2015
- Chairperson - Prime Minister
- Vice Chairperson - Suman Bery

New Governor of West Bengal

- Former bureaucrat CV Ananda Bose has been appointed as the new Governor of West Bengal.
- Mr Bose is the recipient of the Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship. He is also the first ever Fellow of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie, which trains top civil service officers.

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Arun Goel appointed as Election Commissioner

- Former secretary of the Ministry of Heavy Industries Arun Goel has been appointed as the **New Election Commissioner of India**.
- The post of one Election Commissioner in the three-member Commission has been vacant since May 15, 2022, when the former Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar took charge as the Chief Election Commissioner upon the retirement of Sushil Chandra from the post.

Note

- **Article 324** of the Constitution provides that the **power of superintendence, direction, and control of elections to parliament**, state legislatures, the office of the president of India, and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission.
- The **Election Commissioner Amendment Act, 1989** was adopted on **1 January 1990** which turned the commission into a three members body.

New President of Indian Olympic Association

- Legendary athlete P.T. Usha has been elected as the First Woman President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

About PT Usha

- She is a retired Indian track and field athlete.
- Born in Kuttali, Kozhikode, Kerala.
- Won 4 Asian gold medals and 7 Silver medals.
- Often called the "Queen of Indian track and field".
- Nominated member of the Rajya Sabha.
- Padma Shri in 1985



2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

9th India-U.S. Economic and Financial Partnership

- Indian Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and United States Treasury Secretary Dr. Janet L. Yellen met in New Delhi for the 9th meeting of India-U.S. Economic and Financial Partnership.
- The U.S. Treasury and Ministry of Finance launched the Economic and Financial Partnership in 2010 as a framework to cement the economic bonds between the two nations and build a foundation for greater cooperation and economic growth.
- A dedicated session on climate finance for the second time under the Economic and Financial Partnership was conducted.
- The two countries discussed issues relating to cryptocurrency regulation.

Jaishankar meets Blinken; discusses Ukraine war, Indo-US ties

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Cambodia and discussed bilateral ties, Ukraine conflict, energy issues, G20 and the situation in the Indo-Pacific.
- The meeting between the top diplomats of the two countries took place on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Summit to be held in Cambodia.
- Jaishankar is accompanying Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who is leading the Indian delegation to the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and the 17th East Asia Summit, both of which will be held in Cambodia.

About Cambodia

- Capital - Phnom Penh

- Prime Minister - Hun Sen
- Currency - Riel

UK govt approves 3,000 visas for Indians per year under new scheme

- The UK government led by Rishi Sunak has approved 3,000 visas for young Indian professionals to work in the country every year.
- Under the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme, the UK will offer 3,000 places to Indian Nationals with degrees aged between 18-30 to come to the UK to live and work for two years.
- According to the UK Home Office data, around 118,000 Indian students received a UK student visa in the year ending June 2022, an 89 per cent rise from the previous year. Besides this, the British government said it is also strengthening the ability to remove immigration offenders.

About United Kingdom

- Capital - London
- Monarch - Charles III
- Prime Minister - Rishi Sunak
- Currency - Pound sterling

8th Norway-India Joint Working Group Maritime Meeting held in Mumbai

- 8th Norway-India Joint Working Group Maritime Meeting held in Mumbai.
- Both sides joined hands on the Norway-India cooperation on a green maritime future, and presented their visions and plans for a green maritime sector.
- Discussions were held on use of alternative fuels like green ammonia and hydrogen for futuristic shipping.

- India and Norway are a part of the Green Voyage 2050 project.
- Green Voyage 2050 project: Launched in May 2019, this project is a partnership between Norway and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to transform the shipping industry towards a lower carbon future.
- The Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways has prepared Maritime India Vision 2030 and identified more than 150 initiatives across various maritime sectors.

About Norway

- Capital - Oslo
- Prime Minister - Jonas Gahr Støre
- Currency - Norwegian krone

India - Australia trade pact set to open up opportunities

- The Australian Parliament ratified the **Free Trade Agreement with India** which will significantly open up opportunities for many Indian business sectors like IT sector, pharmaceutical and textile sector.
- **The India - Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (INDAUS ECTA)** was actually signed by India with the previous Australian administration under Prime Minister Scott Morrison.
- However the present government under Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese extended the bipartisan support to the agreement which would create a potential for jobs by attracting Australian investments to India and improve the manufacturing in India at a scale to serve the Indian market and the rest of the world from India.

Note

- India - U.A.E. Free Trade Agreement can be compared with the INDAUS ECTA.
- India - U.A.E. FTA was signed on February 18, 2022 and the agreement came into Force on May 1, 2022.

About Australia

- Capital - Canberra
- Currency - Australian dollar
- President - Anthony Albanese

India ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting

- The **first India-ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting** was held at Siem Riep, Cambodia to commemorate the **30th Anniversary of India-ASEAN relations in 2022**.
- The year **2022** has been designated as **ASEAN-India Friendship Year**.
- The meeting was co-chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Cambodia General Tea Banh**.
 - India made two proposals for expanding the scope and depth of the India-ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) defense relations.
 - India-ASEAN Initiative for Women in UN Peace Keeping Operations which would underline the importance of women officers in peacekeeping missions for ensuring lasting peace.
- India-ASEAN Initiative on Marine Plastic Pollution which includes channelising of the energy of the youth towards addressing the critical issue of marine pollution.
- The centrality of ASEAN in the Indo Pacific region is the cornerstone of India's Act East Policy.

About ASEAN

- ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is a political and economic union of 10 member states in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration between its members and countries in the Asia-Pacific.
- Formation - 8 August 1967 (**Bangkok Declaration**)
- Secretary-General - Lim Jock Hoi.
- Headquarters - Jakarta, Indonesia

2.2 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

All employees can opt for EPFO pension scheme: SC

- The Supreme Court upheld the **Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2014** of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation as **"legal and valid"** while striking down certain provisions.
- The SC uses its extraordinary powers under **Article 142 of the Constitution** to allow eligible employees who could not join the scheme by the cut-off date should be given an additional chance as there was a lack of clarity on the issue in view of judgments passed by the high courts of Kerala, Rajasthan and Delhi.
- The bench further held as **invalid the condition in the 2014 scheme** that required employees to make a further contribution at 1.16 per cent on salary exceeding Rs 15,000.
- The **2014 amendment had capped the maximum pensionable salary** (basic pay plus dearness allowance) at **Rs.15,000 per month**. **Prior to the amendment**, the maximum pensionable salary was capped at **Rs.6,500 a month**.

Note

- Before the amendments were introduced, **every employee**, who became a member of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme of 1952 as on November 16, 1995, **could avail the EPS**. **In the preamended** version of EPS1995, the maximum pensionable salary was **₹6,500**.
- The 2014 amendments to the EPS **raised the cap from ₹6,500 to ₹15,000** and stayed that only employees, who were existing EPS members as on September 1, 2014, could continue to contribute to the pension fund in accordance with their actual salaries. They were given a **window of six months to opt for the new pension regime**.
- The Employees Provident Fund Organisation and the Centre challenged the verdicts of the high courts of Kerala, Rajasthan and Delhi, which had quashed the 2014 scheme.

Supreme Court, in a majority verdict, upholds the EWS quota

- The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in a **3:2 majority decision**, upheld the validity of the **103rd Constitutional Amendment**, which provides **10% reservation** in government jobs and educational institutions to the **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** of society **but excludes the "poorest of poor" among Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST)**.
- Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) from its scope.
- **Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, Bela M. Trivedi and J.B.Pardiwala** delivered the majority opinions on the five judge Bench in an hour-long session.
- **Chief Justice U.U. Lalit and Justice S. Ravindra Bhat** gave the minority view.
- The three judges in the majority held that reservation on economic criterion alone did not violate the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

Reservation is not a long time solution

- Justice Bela M. Trivedi, who was part of the majority judgment, said the reservation policy must have a time span. She pointed out that at the end of 75 years of our Independence, India need to revisit the system of reservation in the larger interest of the society as a whole, as a step forward towards transformative constitutionalism.
- The representation of AngloIndian communities in Parliament and Assemblies has already stopped by virtue of the 104th Constitutional Amendment from January 25, 2020.
- Long-term solution, however, lies in eliminating the causes that have led to the social, educational and economic backwardness of the weaker sections of the community.

State to set norms to identify the beneficiaries of EWS quota

- The majority judgment of the Constitution Bench held that the lack of guidelines to

identify economic backwardness under the **10% EWS quota cannot be used to question the 103rd Amendment.**

- The question as to whether any particular section or person falls within the class of 'economically weaker sections of citizens' should be based on the parameters laid down and indicators taken into consideration by the state.

Verdict may seal fate of challenge to T.N.

quota law, Justice Bhat cautions

- Justice S. Ravindra Bhat held that upholding the verdict quota creation of 10% Economically Weaker Section reservation over and above the 50% existing quota will have an impact on the case pending in the court which challenges the 69% reservation in Tamil Nadu.
- The breach of the 50% limit in reservation is the principal ground of attack against the 76th Constitutional Amendment of 1994 which inserted, as Entry 257A, the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 1993 in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.
- The Tamil Nadu quota law of 1993 was challenged by a student, C.V. Gayathri.

Kerala HC offers interim relief to Vice-Chancellors

- The Kerala High Court restrained Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, in his capacity as Chancellor of universities, from passing final orders on the show-cause notices he issued to Vice-Chancellors of eight universities.
- The Court restrained the Governor until the court takes a call on the writ petitions filed by the latter seeking to quash the notices.
- Mr. Khan had issued the notices to the Vice-Chancellors citing violation of University Grants Commission (UGC) norms in their appointment.
- **Note :** Article 153 of the Constitution of India states that there shall be a Governor for each State.

Role of Governors in State Universities:

- In most cases, the Governor of the state is the ex-officio chancellor of the universities in that state.
- While as Governor he functions with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, as Chancellor he acts independently of the Council of Ministers and takes his own decisions on all University matters.

Case of Central Universities:

- Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, and other statutes, the President of India shall be the Visitor of a central university.
- With their role limited to presiding over convocations, Chancellors in central universities are titular heads, who are appointed by the President in his capacity as Visitor.

SC orders release of all life convicts in Rajiv case

- The Supreme Court ordered the immediate release of six life convicts who have been in prison for over three decades in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.
- The six convicts are: Nalini, Ravichandran, Jayakumar, Suthenthiraraja (Santhan), Murugan and Robert Payas.

Note

- In 2018, the then AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu recommended the names of all the seven convicts, including Perarivalan, for premature release. But the decision remained pending before the state's Governor following which Perarivalan approached the Supreme Court.
- On May 18, 2022 the apex court had ordered the release of Perarivalan, exercising its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution. The bench said the same order will apply to the six other accused as well.

2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

In A First, CRPF Appointed Two Women Officers As IG

- In first of its kind, the CRPF has appointed two women officers from its cadre as Inspectors General (IG) of its specialised anti-riots unit RAF and the Bihar Sector.
- This is the first time that the RAF will be headed by a woman IG. An IG is the head of the sector in the CRPF.
- Annie Abraham has been appointed as the IG of the blue duangree donning Rapid Action Force (RAF) while Seema Dhundia has been posted as the IG of the Bihar Sector.
- Both officers joined the paramilitary force in 1987 as the first batch of women officers. They have also commanded an all-women Indian police contingent at the UN.

About CRPF

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is a federal police organisation in India under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Formation - 27 July 1939.
- Director General - Dr. Sujoy Lal Thakur IPS

Thiruppugazh panel to study flooded areas in Chennai

- A committee headed by retired IAS officer V. Thiruppugazh was formed to conduct another round of study of the areas that had been flooded in the northeast monsoon in Chennai.
- Previously in January 2022, the committee headed by retired IAS officer V Thiruppugazh to devise flood mitigation plans and long-term plans for water management in Chennai submitted its interim report to TN CM MK Stalin
- Although flooding had reduced in the core city after the construction of stormwater drains based on the recommendation of the committee, there are still reports of waterlogging in some areas and the panel would suggest remedial measures.

Shyam Saran Negi, Independent India's first voter, dies

- Independent India's first voter Shyam Saran Negi died at his residence in Kalpa in Himachal Pradesh. He was 106.
- Mr. Negi was the Election Commission's brand ambassador. He voted in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly election on November 2, 2022 through postal ballot for 34th time.

Note

- **Article 326** of the Indian Constitution describes **Universal Adult Suffrage** as the basis for elections to all levels of an elected government.
- The term "universal adult franchise" refers to the right of all citizens to vote who are 18 years of age and above, regardless of caste, education, religion, race, or ethnicity.
- The voting age was reduced **from 21 to 18 years old** by the **61st Amendment Act of 1989**.
- In India, there are certain requirements for becoming a voter. A registered voter:
 - must be a citizen of India;
 - must have attained 18 years of age;
 - must not be of unsound mind;
 - must not have been declared bankrupt by a competent court.

Women outnumber men in revised voters' list of Chennai

- Women voters outnumber men in the 16 constituent assemblies in Chennai district as per the draft electoral rolls released.
- Of the total 38,92,547 voters, 19,75,778 are women, 19,15,611 are men and 1,058 are others.

Level of groundwater extraction lowest in 18 years, finds study

- According to an assessment made by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) it was found that groundwater extraction in India saw an 18year decline.

Key Highlights of the report

- The total annual groundwater recharge for the entire country is 437.6 billion cubic metres (bcm) and annual groundwater extraction for the entire country is 239.16 bcm.

- Out of the total 7,089 assessment units in the country, 1,006 units have been categorised as “overexploited” in the report.
- The 2022 assessment suggests that groundwater extraction is the lowest since 2004, when it was 231 bcm.
- Such joint exercises between the CGWB and States/Union Territories were carried out earlier in 1980, 1995, 2004, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2017 and 2020.

DigiLocker users can now digitally store health records and link them with ABHA

- DigiLocker, the authentic documents exchange platform under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has successfully completed its **2nd level of integration with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**.
- DigiLocker’s secure cloud-based storage platform can now be used as a health locker to store and retrieve health documents such as vaccination records, doctor prescriptions, lab tests, hospital discharge summaries, etc.
- DigiLocker had previously completed level 1 integration with ABDM, in which the platform added an ABHA creation facility for its 13 crore users.
- The latest integration will now enable **users to utilize DigiLocker as a Personal Health Records (PHR) app**.
- ABHA holders can also link their health records from different ABDM-registered health facilities like hospitals and labs and access them via DigiLocker.

About Digilocker

- DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of MeitY under the ‘Digital India’ programme (**July 1, 2015**)
- The beta version of the service was rolled out in February 2015, and launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi **on 1 July 2015**. The storage space provided was 100 MB initially, and was later increased to **1 GB**.

Transfer of seven High Court judges

- The Supreme Court Collegium led by **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** published its resolution recommending the transfer of **seven High Court judges**.

Procedure of transfer of HC judge:

- **Article 222** of the Constitution makes provision for the **transfer of a Judge (including Chief Justice) from one High Court to any other High Court**.
- The initiation of the proposal for the transfer of a Judge should be made by the Collegium consisting of Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the four seniors most Judges of the Supreme Court.
- The proposal once referred to the Government, the Union Minister of Law and Justice would submit a **recommendation to the Prime Minister** who will then advise the President as to the transfer of the Judge concerned.
- After the President approves the transfer, the notification will be gazetted and the judge remains transferred.

RTI portal of Supreme Court launched

- The Supreme Court launched its **Right to Information (RTI) portal** to help people access information about the Supreme Court.
- The RTI portal would help the people to file RTI applications online.
About RTI Act, 2005
- The **RTI Act, 2005** sets out the rules and procedures regarding citizens’ right to information. This act was enacted in order to consolidate the fundamental right in the Indian constitution ‘freedom of speech’.
- **It replaced the former Freedom of Information Act, 2002.**

Consultation meeting for the Union Budget of 2023–24

- The States urged the Centre to rein in its reliance on raising revenues through cesses and surcharges which reduce the State’s share in the divisible pool of taxes.
- The proposition was made by the states at a **consultation meeting for the Union Budget of 2023–24, steered by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** and attended by **Chief Ministers, Deputy CMs as well as Finance Ministers of States**.
- **Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan** noted that the share of cesses and

surcharges had grown from **10.4% of gross tax revenue in 2011-12 to 26.7% in 2021-22** which has deprived the States of their legitimate share of revenue collected by the Union Government.

- Some states raised concern about the pending dues from the five year GST compensation window for States that expired on June 30, 2022.

Note

- The **Compensation Cess** is a Cess that will be collected on the supply of select goods and or services or both till 1st July 2022. The Cess will compensate the states for any revenue loss on account of implementation of GST.

2.4 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

TNSDC brings on board engineering students under 'Naan Mudhalvan'

- The **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC)** has brought on board over 2 lakh students from engineering colleges across the State to take courses offered under the '**Naan Mudhalvan**' scheme.
- The Anna University ViceChancellor and an expert committee were former to select the courses and they were shortlisted for 19 courses.
- Each stream of students would be given 34 options. Some of them are blended courses (Online and offline components) and some are purely online.

Over 12.5 lakh to be enrolled in Naan Mudhalvan portal

- The **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation Managing Director, J. Innocent Divya**, called on the corporates to partner with the **Naan Mudhalvan project** to help students passing out of various institutions to acquire new skills and find jobs.

About Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

- Launched on March 1, 2022.
- The scheme was launched as a skill development program for the students of Government Schools and Colleges.
- TN Government also launched the '**Kalloori Kanavu**' programme under the '**Naan Mudhalvan**' initiative which aims to guide and counsel students who have completed Class XII.

- Naan Mudhalvan portal was launched by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on August 29, 2022 which is aimed to get over 12.5 lakh students registered on the portal by the end of the year.

Women save money due to free bus travel, finds T.N. Planning Commission study

- The study, '**A Report on the Zero Ticket Bus Travel Scheme for Women in State Owned Bus Transport Corporations**,' was conducted by the State Planning Commission.
- The study was conducted among the women passengers in the three districts of Nagapattinam, Tiruppur and Madurai.
- Nagapattinam was chosen to see how women in the agriculture belt commute.
- Tiruppur was taken to see how women in industrial belts commute.
- Madurai was chosen for being a major trading centre as well as a tourist destination.

Key Highlights of the Study

- Women passengers in Nagapattinam, Madurai and Tiruppur, who avail themselves of the zero ticket bus travel scheme, save on an average ₹888 every month.
- Savings across different occupational categories of women passengers range from ₹756 to ₹1,012 a month.
- Though the scheme is operational in buses originating from urban centres, women from rural households benefit more than urban users.

2.5 COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONS

Sinha Committee to look into MGNREGA's efficacy

- The Government has constituted a committee under the leadership of former Rural Development secretary **Amarjeet Sinha** to review the implementation of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** scheme to assess the programme's efficacy as a poverty alleviation tool.
- The Committee has been given **three months to submit its suggestions**.
- The Committee will study the various factors behind demand for MGNREGA work, expenditure trends and inter-state variations, and the composition of work.

- The scheme will suggest the required changes in focus and governance structures to make MGNREGA more effective

About MGNREGA

- The scheme was launched in 2005.
- The scheme guarantees **100 days of unskilled work per year for every rural household** that volunteers.
- The scheme was launched as a poverty alleviation instrument for the rural region providing them with a safety net in the form of guaranteed work and wages.
- It is implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development (MRD)**.





3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

A third of world heritage glaciers under threat, warns UNESCO's study

- The UNESCO study, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), showed that the glaciers on the UNESCO World Heritage list have been retreating at an accelerated rate since 2000 due to CO₂ emissions, which are warming temperatures.
- They are currently losing 58 billion tonne of ice every year equivalent to the combined annual water use of France and Spain and are responsible for nearly 5% of observed global sea level rise.
- As many as 50 UNESCO World Heritage sites are home to glaciers, representing almost 10% of the Earth's total glacierised area.
- The study states that a third of the glaciers are under threat, regardless of efforts to limit temperature increases.
- The study highlights the urgent need to cut greenhouse gas emissions and invest in nature based solutions, which can help mitigate climate change.

About UNESCO

- Headquarters - Paris, France
- Formation - 16 November 1945
- Director-General - Audrey Azoulay (France)

A new species of endemic honeybee has been discovered in the Western Ghats

- The new species has been named **Apis karinjodian** and was given the common name **Indian black honeybee**.
- It is after a gap of more than 200 years that a new species of honeybee has been spotted in the **Western Ghats**. The last honeybee described from India was *Apis indica* in 1798.

- The distribution of *Apis karinjodian* ranges from the central Western Ghats and Nilgiris to the southern Western Ghats, covering the States of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

About Western Ghats

- The Western Ghats extend from the **Satpura Range in the north**, go south past **Goa**, through **Karnataka** and into **Kerala** and **Tamil Nadu** end at Kanyakumari embracing Indian ocean.
- A chain of mountains runs parallel to India's western coast, approximately 30-50 km inland.
- These mountains cover an area of around **140,000 km² in a 1,600 km long stretch**.
- It is recognized as **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- It is **one of the eight hotspots** of biological diversity in the world due to its high level of biological diversity and endemism.

T.N. notifies Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Tamil Nadu government has declared an area in the reserve forests of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts as the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The sanctuary will include 686.406 sq. km of reserve forests in the Anchetty, Urigam and Jawalagiri ranges of the Hosur Forest Division, which covers the forest stretches of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts.
- This would be part of a protected landscape contiguous to the forests that constitute the Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary shared between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- The declaration of the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary has been made under Section 26A (1) (b) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

- The declared landscape lends continuity to the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve through the Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, the Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve of Karnataka and the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in the Erode Forest Division of Tamil Nadu.
- The total area under the protected area management is 7,072.95 sq. km. which comes to 30.92% of the State's Forest area.
- The Protected Areas in the State includes **5 National parks, 15 Wildlife sanctuaries, 15 bird sanctuaries and 2 conservation reserves besides 5 Tiger Reserves.**

Note

- Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer State in Protected Area management and development of forest resources and wildlife.

Name of Wildlife Sanctuary	Sanctuary Area in Ha	District in which located	Year in which started
WILDLIFE SANTUARIES			
Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary	21776	Nilgiris	1940
Mundanthurai Wildlife Sanctuary (R.F. 35228.38+ R.L.22979.20)	58207.58	Tirunelveli	1962
Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary	1728.81	Nagapattinam	1967
Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary	84149	Coimbatore	1976
Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary	22358	Tirunelveli	1976
Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary	40239.55	Kanyakumari	2007
Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary	141160.94	Erode	2008, 2011
Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary	26910.81	Theni and Madurai	2009
Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary Block A and Block B	12407.27	Thanjavur and Tiruvarur	2013
Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary	60895.482	Dindigul and Theni	2013
Gangaikondan Spotted Deer Sanctuary	288.4	Tirunelveli	2013
Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary	50433.48	Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri	2014
Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary	35673.33	Tirunelveli	2015
Total	606389.657		

Researchers discover new crab species in Vellar estuary in Cuddalore district

- Researchers have discovered a new species of estuarine crab at the mangroves of Parangipettai near the Vellar river in Cuddalore district.
- The species has been named *Pseudohelice annamalai* in recognition of Annamalai University's 100 years of service in education and research.
- So far, only two species — *Pseudohelice subquadrata* and *Pseudohelice latreillii* — have been confirmed within this genus.

Nicobar project gets assent for diversion of 130 sq. km of forest

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted an in principle (Stage 1) clearance for the diversion of 130.75 sq. km of forest on Great Nicobar Island for the mega ₹72,000 crore project that includes a transshipment port, an airport, a power plant and a greenfield township.
- The project implementation agency is the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO)**.
- The area is nearly **15% of the thickly forested Great Nicobar Island** that is spread over 900 sq. km.
- The area diverted is nearly a quarter of all the forest land diverted in the past three years across the country which is 554 sq. km as per information provided in the Lok Sabha in July and 65% of the 203 sq. km of forest land diverted in the three year period 2015-18.
- The forest area is home to nearly **650 species of flora and 330 species of fauna**, including endemic species such as the Nicobar shrew, the Nicobar long tailed macaque, the Great Nicobar crested serpent eagle, the Nicobar paradise flycatcher and the Nicobar megapode, among many others.

Note

- The compensatory afforestation which is a key condition for the environmental clearance is planned to be done on "nonnotified forest land" in Haryana.

Siberian rubythroat recorded in the Nilgiris

- A rare winter migrant, **Siberian rubythroat (*Calliope calliope*)**, has been recorded in the Nilgiris recently
- The bird breeds in the **coniferous forests of Siberia** and is known to **winter in Thailand, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh**.
- The Siberian rubythroat is a ground loving song bird. The male has a red throat edged with a narrow black border and a broad white border. Females lack brightly coloured throat and borders.

Note

- According to the data posted on the eBird website, the bird had been seen only once in Tamil Nadu, in Chennai.

World's largest active volcano in Hawaii erupts

- Mauna Loa, the **world's largest active volcano**, has erupted for the first time in nearly four decades.
- It is the volcano's first eruption since 1984.

Note

- The active volcano in India is Barren Island and is uninhabited, located about 140 km from Port Blair.

NITI Aayog proposes decarbonising of industrial emissions

- **NITI Aayog and MN Dastur & Company** jointly prepared a report on the policy framework of the CCUS.
- **Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)** is the technology which can be used for **decarbonising carbon dioxide (CO₂)** from high polluting sectors such as steel, cement, oil, gas, petrochemicals, chemicals and fertilisers.
- It has a critical role to play for the country to **halve CO₂ emissions by 2050**, CCUS technology would help in promoting the low carbon-hydrogen economy and in removal of the CO₂ stock from the atmosphere.
- India needs a sustainable solution for the decarbonisation of sectors that contribute to 70% of emission.

- CCUS has an important and critical role to play for **India to accomplish net-zero by 2070.**

About NITI Aayog

- Formation - 1 January 2015
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- Chairperson - Prime Minister
- Vice Chairperson - Suman Bery

Vetrii IAS Study Circle



Vetrii IAS Study Circle



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Wholesale inflation slipped to single digit at 8.4% in October

- India's wholesale price inflation slipped below 10% for the first time in 19 months this October, when it eased to 8.4% from 10.7% in September.
- Base effect, cooling commodity prices eased the Wholesale inflation
- This is the fifth successive month of wholesale inflation moderating since it hit a record high of 16.63% in May; food price inflation eased to 6.5%.

Over 10% increase in area under wheat and oilseeds cultivation

- Cultivation of wheat, the main rabi crop, begins in October every year. The harvesting takes place in March-April.

- Apart from wheat, other important crops like pulses and mustard are cultivated during Rabi season of 2022-23 crop year (July to June).
- It has been reported that wheat cultivation area has increased by 10.5 percent and oilseeds cultivation area by 13.58 percent during Rabi season.

Crop	Cultivated area (last year) lakh hectares	Cultivated area (Current year) lakh hectares
Wheat	138.35	152.88
Paddy	8.33	9.14
Oil seeds	66.71	75.77
Pulses varieties	94.37	94.26
Corn, barley and cereals	26.70	26.54

4.2 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT SECTOR

Das to meet CEOs of banks to discuss slow deposit growth

- Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das will hold a meeting with CEOs of public sector banks on Wednesday to discuss issues concerning slow deposit growth and the sustainability of high credit demand.
- According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, **deposits rose by 9.6% compared with 10.2% on a year-on-year basis**, while credit offtake witnessed a jump of 17.9% as against 6.5% a year earlier.
- The meeting would also review the functioning of **Digital Banking Units** unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently.

About Digital Banking Units

- It is a **specialised fixed point business unit or hub**, set up by scheduled commercial banks, housing certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally in self-service mode at any time.
- The DBUs are being set up to ensure the benefits of digital banking reach across the country.

CCI to take up anti-profiteering matters

- The government notified changes to empower the **Competition Commission of India** to take charge of **matters relating to the anti**

profiteering provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, starting December 1.

- The CCI will now be entrusted with assessing whether firms have passed on benefits of GST rate reductions or input tax credits through commensurate price reductions for consumers.

Note

- So far, **National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA)** is the anti-profiteering watchdog of GST and it is all set to be subsumed into the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Centre sets standard for e-commerce reviews

- The Centre is planning to bring out a standard for publishing product reviews on e-commerce platforms titled **"Indian Standard (IS) 19000:2022 Online Consumer Reviews – Principles and Requirements for their Collection, Moderation and Publication"**
- The standard will initially be voluntary for compliance by all e-commerce platforms. BIS will also develop a Conformity Assessment Scheme for the standard to assess compliance.
- The framework for the standard was prepared by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.
- The framework was meant to safeguard and protect consumer interest from fake and deceptive reviews on e-commerce platforms.
- Once made mandatory, if required, the violation of the standards by any entity may be considered as an unfair trade practice or violation of consumer rights and a consumer may submit such grievances to the National Consumer Helpline, Consumer Commissions or the CCPA.

- Taking cognizance of the impact of fake and deceptive reviews and protection of consumer interest in e-commerce, the **Department of Consumer Affairs constituted a committee** to develop a framework on checking fake and deceptive reviews in e-commerce on **10th June, 2022**.

- The committee included various stakeholders including e-commerce companies, industry associations, consumer organizations and law chairs.

Meesho included on the government's 'ONDC' site

- All e-commerce companies have joined the **'Open Network for Digital Commerce' (ONDC)** platform created by the Central Government to facilitate the sale of goods at competitive prices.
- Customers who become members of ONDC can compare and buy products marketed by all e-commerce companies on the platform.
- 'ONDC' has joined the central government's platform to provide more opportunities for the products of small traders and to make online trading a public welfare activity.

Note

- Open Network for Digital Commerce, (ONDC), is a private non-profit company established by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** to develop **open e-commerce**. It was incorporated on December 31, 2021.

4.3 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

October's GST revenue crosses ₹1.51 lakh crore.

- India's gross GST revenue touched ₹1,51,718 crore in October, 16.6% higher than a year ago, marking the second highest monthly collections since the launch of GST.

- Revenue from domestic transactions, including imports of services, increased 18% during the month, with the Finance Ministry stating that October marked the second highest collection from domestic transactions "next only to April 2022".

- While Haryana recorded a **37% increase**, followed by **Karnataka (33%), Kerala (29%), West Bengal (26%) and Tamil Nadu (25%)**, revenues grew slower than the national average in Gujarat and **Telangana (11%), Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (10%) and Uttar Pradesh (16%)**.
- Six States** clocked **negative growth**, year on year, including Chhatisgarh (3%), Assam (13%), Mizoram and Manipur (23% each) and Bihar (1%). The erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir clocked a sharp 34% drop in revenues, even as they jumped 74% in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

About GST:

- GST was launched on **July 1, 2017**.
- GST had replaced the old Indirect tax regime in India.
- It was introduced with the idea of **"One Nation- One Market- One Tax"**.
- 2022 marks the **Fifth Anniversary of GST**.
- GST is an indirect, multi-stage, consumption-based tax system. It subsumes several domestic indirect taxes like service tax, purchase tax, value-added tax, excise duty, and others under one head.
- It does **not include Petroleum, Liquor, and stamp duty**.
- The Three taxes application under the **GST are CGST (Central) SGST (State) and IGST (integrated)**
- The Four tax slabs are **5%, 12%, 18%, 28%**.

Russia becomes India's top crude oil supplier in October 2022

- Russia has become **India's top oil supplier in October**, surpassing traditional sellers Saudi Arabia and Iraq, according to data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa.
- Russia, which made up for just 0.2% of all oil imported by India till March 31, 2022, supplied 9,35,556 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil to India in October – the highest ever.
- Russia now makes up for 22% of India's total crude imports, ahead of Iraq's 20.5% and Saudi Arabia's 16%.

Note

- Crude oil is a type of fossil fuel which occurs naturally. It is an unrefined petroleum product composed of hydrocarbon deposits and other organic materials.
- There are over 100 crude oils which are traded internationally, owever the **most famous are West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent**.

Govt allows sugar exports of up to 6 mt for 2022-23

- The government allowed exports of up to **6 million tonne (mt) of sugar on quota basis during the sugar season (SS) 2022-23**.
- The ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution stated that the measure has been taken to balance the price stability of sugar in the country and the financial positions of sugar mills in the country.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade already notified to extend the inclusion of sugar exports under Restricted category up to October 31, 2023. Balance quantity of sugar produced by sugar mills in the country would be allowed for exports.
- Ethanol Production:** For the production of ethanol in the country which is a priority area for India to reduce dependence on fuel imports and to move towards green energy.
- Higher ethanol prices for producers have already encouraged distilleries to divert more sugar towards ethanol.
- The sugar export policy is another mechanism to ensure availability of sufficient sugarcane/ sugar/ molasses for ethanol production.
- Diversion of sugar towards ethanol production during ESY 2022-23 is expected to be 4.5-5 mt.

Six years since demonetisation, cash with public at record high of ₹30.88 lakh crore

- As per the fortnightly data on money supply released by the RBI the currency with the public increased to **₹30.88 lakh crore** as on October 21. The central bank data for Reserve Money had put the currency in circulation at **₹17.7 lakh crore** on November 4, 2016.

- ₹30.88 lakh crore with the public illustrates that cash usage is still robust even six years after the demonetisation move.
- At ₹30.88 lakh crore, the currency with the public is 71.84% higher than the level for the fortnight ended November 4, 2016.
- On November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the decision to withdraw ₹500 and ₹1,000 denomination notes with the ultimate aim of reducing corruption and black money in the economy.
- The intent of the move, which was criticised by many experts for poor planning and execution, was to make India a "less cash" economy.
- By executing transactions of Rs 1 lakh crore in 2021-2022, the government exceeded the program's first-year objective of Rs 88,000 crore.
- The government's most recent assessment indicates that it will be difficult to reach its overall asset monetisation goal of Rs 1,62,422 crore in 2022-2023, which is expected to result in a shortfall of Rs 38,243 crore.

Note

- **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** estimates aggregate monetisation potential of **Rs 6 lakh crores** through core assets of the Central Government, over a four-year period, from FY 2022 to FY 2025.

- Assets liquidated in FY 2022-23 (Ministry wise Monetisation)

- Coal - Rs.17,000 crore
- National Highways - Rs.4,100 crore
- Railway - Rs.1,829 crore
- Energy - Rs.2,000 crore

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO)

- According to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, the unemployment rate in urban areas for persons above the age of 15 eased to 7.2% in July - September from 9.8% a year ago and 7.6% in the previous quarter.

- The unemployment ratio is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

- The unemployment rate was 6.6% for men and 9.4% for women in July-September 2022. The rate was 9.3% and 11.6%, respectively, in July - September 2021.

- The WPR- Working Population Ratio is defined as the **percentage of employed persons in the population**.

- The WPR in urban areas for persons aged 15 and above stood at 44.5% in July -September 2022, an increase from 42.3% in the corresponding period in 2021. It was 43.9% in April - June 2022.

Widening Trade Deficit

- India's merchandise exports shrank 16.7% in October to \$29.8 billion as the global slow down dented overseas demand for the country's goods.
- The first contraction since February 2021 dragged outbound shipments below the \$30 billion level for the first time in 20 months.
- The Imports grew 5.7% year-on-year to \$56.7 billion, widening the trade deficit in October to \$26.91 billion, as per data released by the Commerce Ministry.

Note

- October was the fourth successive month when the gap between India's imports and exports exceeded \$25 billion.
- It is stated by the Ministry of Commerce that the October trade data was impacted by the Deepavali, Dussehra festive period as factory workers tend to go on leave and production drops.

Government earned Rs 33,422 crore from asset monetization, till date in FY23

- According to reports, the government has already monetized assets worth Rs 33,422 crore under the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) for 2022-2023.
- The Coal Ministry has raised the most money, at Rs 17,000 crore, and the Ports and Shipping Ministry has surpassed its total budgetary target.

- The WPR among men was 68.6% and among women, 19.7%. It was 66.6% and 17.6%, respectively, in 2021.
- The **labour force participation rate (LFPR)**, defined as the **percentage of persons in labour force who are working or seeking or available for work in the population**.
 - The LFPR among men was 73.4% and 21.7% among women. In 2021, it was 73.5% and 19.9%, respectively.

4.4 INDICES

Decline in pre-primary enrolments continued in 2021-22, says government report

- According to a report released by the **Ministry of Education**, the number of children entering pre primary classes in 2021-2022 declined, resulting in **30% fewer students** as compared to pre-Covid times.

Key Highlights of the Report

- A total of **94.95 lakh students** entered pre-primary classes in 2021-2022, registering a drop of 10% as compared to 1.06 crore children in 2020-21 which is in turn low when compared to 1.35 crore 2019-20.
- Enrolment in primary classes, which include **classes 1 to 5**, recorded a drop for the first time, falling from **12.20 lakh in 2020-2021 to 12.18 lakh in 2021-2022**. However, the total number of students from primary to higher secondary increased by **19 lakh to 25.57 crore**.
- Also for the first time since the pandemic, the report records a **decline in the number of schools** due to closures as well as a lack of teachers.
- There were 20,000 fewer schools in 2021-2022 as the total number of schools dropped from 15.09 lakh to 14.89 lakh.
- There were also **1.89 lakh or 1.98% fewer teachers** as their number reduced from 96.96 lakh in 2020-2021 to 95.07 lakh in 2021-2022.
- Computer facilities were available in 44.75% of schools, while Internet access was available only in 33.9% of schools. However, their availability has improved as compared to

pre-Covid when only 38.5% of schools had computers and 22.3% had Internet facilities

Enrolments in government schools up; private schools see drop

- According to the **Ministry of Education's Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 202122 report**, **government schools** continued to see a rise in enrolment for the second consecutive year since the COVID19 outbreak, while private schools saw a decline.
- According to the report, **83.35 lakh new students** sought admission in **government schools in 2021-22**.
- The report states that there has been an **increase in enrolments of 9.4%** over the twoyear period since 2019-20 in government schools.
- Since 2019-20, there has been a total **decline of 10.1% in enrolments in private schools**.

Adaptation Gap Report 2022 raises alarm on climate finance

- According to **United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Adaptation Gap Report, 2022 : Too Little, Too Slow - Climate adaptation failure puts world at risk'** global efforts in adaptation planning, financing and implementation are not enough to prepare vulnerable communities around the world to adapt to the rising risks from the impacts of climate change.
- The report was released on November 3, 2022 ahead of the **COP27 UN climate conference at Sharm El-Sheikh**.

Key Highlights of the Report

- The global efforts in adaptation planning, financing and implementation **are not keeping pace with the growing risks.**
- Adaptation needs require **\$340 billion a year by 2030** but currently it stands at less than one-tenth of that amount.
- The estimated annual adaptation **needs are USD 160-340 billion by 2030 and USD 315-565 billion by 2050.**

Note

- According to recently released **UNEP's Emissions Gap Report, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the Paris Agreement **may raise global warming by 2.4-2.6°C by the end of the century.**
- As per the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, climate risks will intensify with each tenth of a degree.
- One third of the 197 country Parties to the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** have incorporated quantified and time-bound targets on adaptation. However, Combined mitigation and adaptation finance flows in 2020 fell short of the annual US\$100 billion global goal pledged by developed countries.

Best Countries 2022 Report

- Best Countries 2022 is the 7th edition of the analysis released by US News & World Report.
- According to the **US News & World Report's overall Best Countries 2022 ranking, India has bagged the 31st rank among 85 countries.** **Switzerland** has topped the list followed by Germany and Canada.
- India has topped the list of nations with the cheapest manufacturing costs by global survey respondents, followed by China and Vietnam.
- Top 5 Countries are
 - Switzerland
 - Germany
 - Canada
 - United States of America
 - Sweden

- **Belarus (ranked 85th)** became the lowest-ranked country on the list while **Uzbekistan and Iran ranked 84th and 83rd respectively.**

India's Performance in the Report

- Under the **open for business** sub ranking, **India scored 100% in cheap manufacturing costs** but has scored **only 16.2** under 'favourable tax environment', **18.1** in the 'not corrupt' category and **3.5** in 'transparent government policies.
- Under the **quality of life** category, **India has scored 1.9** in 'income equality'; **4.3** in 'safe'; **2.3** in 'well-developed public health system'; and **9.9** in 'economically stable' sub-parameter.

Note

- The report evaluates **85 countries** across **73 attributes** which are grouped into **10 sub-categories**, including adventure, agility, entrepreneurship, open for business, social purpose and quality of life.

State of Food and Agriculture 2022 released

- The **United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** has released the **2022 edition of the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)**, which examines **how agricultural automation** can play an important role towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), **especially SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)**
- The SOFA is one of FAO's major annual flagship publications, aiming to offer balanced science-based assessments of vital issues in food and agriculture.
- The report highlighted the drivers and barriers to adoption of agricultural automation, including digital technologies across the world. The report suggests policies for inclusive and sustainable adoption.
- The report states that food production can be made more efficient and environmentally friendly by using agricultural automation, which can range from tractors to Artificial Intelligence (AI). However, if it remains inaccessible to small-scale producers and other marginalised groups, it can worsen inequalities.

About Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

- Director - General – QU Dongyu
- Formation – October 16, 1945
- Headquarters – Rome, Italy

UNDP Report: Social, Economic Benefits of a Global Green Revolution at Risk

- The report titled “**How Just Transition Can Deliver the Paris Agreement**,” released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** states that the nations fail to recognize the opportunities given by a “**green revolution**” face increased social inequality, civil unrest, and less competitive economy if suggested net-zero emissions paths are not carried out efficiently.
- The concept of a “**just transition**” is critical to fulfilling the Paris Agreement’s global climate targets as countries transition to sustainable economies.
- **Note:** A Just Transition means ensuring efficient and coherent climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and regulations that limit labour market disruptions and job losses and support for workers and companies impacted by the transition.
- The report was released in advance of the UNFCCC (UN Climate Change) Conference of the Parties (COP 27), which will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
- The report examines both **enhanced short-term climate pledges**, referred to as “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs), and **long-term strategies in which governments** explain their plans for net zero emissions.
 - As of October 31, 2022, 170 nations had submitted an upgraded NDC, and 65 (38%) of those countries explicitly include just transition.
 - The ratio of developed to developing nations is nearly equal (51% vs 49%), with Central and Eastern Europe leading the way, followed by the Americas and the Caribbean, and Africa. Asia-Pacific and Arab countries fall behind.

About United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Formation – November 22, 1966
- Head - Achim Steiner
- Headquarters - New York

Global Carbon Budget 2022 report

- The Annual Global Carbon Budget report is based on research from more than 100 scientists from the University of Exeter, the University of East Anglia (UEA), CICERO and Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich. It provides an annual stocktake of both carbon emissions and carbon sinks.
- The report was launched at COP 27 in Egypt

Key Highlights of the Report

- The world is projected to spew 40.6 billion tonnes of CO₂ (GtCO₂) into the atmosphere in 2022, with no sign of the decrease that is urgently needed to limit warming to 1.5 degree Celsius.
- The projection of 40.6 GtCO₂ total emissions in 2022 is close to the highest-ever annual total of 40.9 GtCO₂ in 2019. If current emissions levels persist, there is a 50 percent chance that warming of 1.5 degree Celsius will be exceeded in nine years.
- The projected emissions decrease in China (0.9 percent) and in the European Union (0.8 percent), but increase in the US (1.5 percent), India (6 percent) and the rest of the world (1.7 percent).
- In India, emissions in 2022 are to increase by 6 percent, driven mostly by a 5 percent increase in coal emissions.

The Global Population achieved 8 billion

- According to the **United Nations (UN) World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results (27th edition)**, the global population is projected to achieve 8 billion on November 15, 2022, and India is expected to **overtake China as the world’s most populated country in 2023**.
- The UN population report said the **global population is growing at its slowest rate since 1950**, having fallen under 1 per cent in 2020.

- The world's population could grow to **around 8.5 billion in 2030** and **9.7 billion in 2050**. It is projected to reach a **peak of around 10.4 billion people** during the 2080s and to remain at that level until 2100.
- More than half of the projected increase in the global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in eight countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania. Countries of sub-Saharan Africa are expected to contribute more than half of the increase anticipated through 2050.
- As per UN estimates, over 27 per cent of the country's population is between the ages of 15-29. At 253 million, **India is also home to the world's largest adolescent population (10-19 years)**.
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has noted that **India has its largest ever adolescent and youth population**. According to UNFPA projections, India will continue to have one of the youngest populations in the world till 2030 and is currently experiencing a demographic window of opportunity, a "youth bulge" that will last till 2025.

4.5 MONEY AND BANKING

RBI's digital rupee

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** launched the **first pilot project for central bank digital currency (CBDC) or e-rupee**.
- The first pilot for the digital rupee, **wholesale segment (e₹-W)** will commence on November 1.
- The Reserve Bank of India defines **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** as a digital form of legal tender issued by a central bank.
- It is a digital form of fiat currency, i.e. the Indian Rupee. As a result, it can be exchanged for fiat currency one for one.
- The pilot will include **nine banks**, including **SBI, Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank, Yes Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and ICICI Bank**, settling secondary market transactions in government securities.

Note

- CBDC is a **digital or virtual currency**, but it is **not comparable** to the **private virtual currencies or cryptocurrencies** that have mushroomed over the last decade. Private virtual currencies do not represent any person's debt or liabilities as no issuer exists.

Amended Electoral bond scheme

- Recently, the government had notified a **10-day window in October** for the **22nd tranche of electoral bonds** under the Centre amended the Electoral Bond Scheme.

- The amendment grants itself the power to conduct extra fortnight of electoral bond sales in years when States and Union Territories with a legislature have polls.

About Electoral Bond Scheme

- Launched in **2018** as an alternative to cash donations to political parties.
- **State Bank of India** is the only bank authorised to issue and encash these bonds.
- Electoral bonds are purchased anonymously by donors and are **valid for 15 days** from the date of issue.
- As debt instruments, these can be bought by donors from a bank, and the political party can then encash them.
- These can be redeemed only by an eligible party by depositing the same in its designated account maintained with a bank.
- The bonds are issued by SBI in denominations of **Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore**.
- The bonds are available for purchase by any citizen of India for a period of ten days each in the months of **January, April, July and October** as may be specified by the Central Government. Recently this provision has been amended to conduct extra fortnight sale when states or Union territories have elections.



5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mission Prarambh

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched **India's first privately built rocket - 'Vikram-S' (VKS)**, a suborbital launch vehicle, from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The rocket "**Vikram-S**," which is the **first in the Vikram series**, is named after **Vikram Sarabhai**, the father of the Indian Space Programme and founder of ISRO.
- It is being developed under the mission "**Mission Prarambh**" (the beginning), which represents a new beginning.
- **Prarambh** is the **maiden mission of Hyderabad-based space-tech startup Skyroot Aerospace**, and received support from ISRO as well as the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACE).
- The engine used in the launch vehicle is named after former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam called '**Kalam-80**'.

About 'Vikram-S' Rocket & Prarambh

Mission

- Vikram-S" is one of the **world's first all-composite rockets with 3-D printed solid thrusters** for spin stability of the launch vehicle.
- According to **Skyroot Aerospace**, the **Vikram-S** is the **quickest and most affordable voyage to space**.
- It has a body mass of 545 kg, a length of 6 metres, and a diameter of 0.375 metres.
- The three satellites carried by Vikram-S includes one by SpaceKidz India called FunSat, parts of which were developed by school students.

- The Vikram rockets will be able to carry between 290 kg and 560 kg payloads into sun-synchronous polar orbits.

About the Indian Space Research

Organisation (ISRO)

- Chairman – S. Somanath
- Headquarters – Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Formation - August 15, 1969

ISRO to attempt 200th successful launch of sounding rocket in a row

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will attempt the 200th consecutive successful launch of the **Rohini RH-200** sounding rocket from **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thumba, Kerala**.
- RH-200 is a **solid motor powered**, expendable rocket capable of climbing up to a height of **70km bearing payloads** designed to study the upper atmosphere.

Note

- An RH-200 had lifted off successfully from Thumba for the **199th time in a row in October, 2022**.
- VSSC Director - S. Unnikrishnan Nair.

About ISRO

- Headquarters - Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Formed - 15 August 1969
- Chairman - Sreedhara Panicker Somanath

5.2 SPACE

China launches 3rd and final space station component

- The uncrewed Mengtian ("Dreaming of the Heavens") module was launched atop China's most powerful rocket, the Long March 5B, from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in the southern island province of Hainan.
- China's third and final module was docked with its permanent space station to further a more than decade-long effort to maintain a constant crewed presence in orbit.
- The space station is set to be the second permanently inhabited outpost in low-Earth orbit after the NASA-led International Space Station.

Note

- Tiangong officially the Tiangong space station is a space station being constructed by China and operated by China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) in low Earth orbit between 340 and 450 km (210 and 280 mi) above the surface.
- Launches of components
 - 29 April 2021 - Tianhe
 - 24 July 2022 - Wentian
 - 31 October 2022 - Mengtian
 - December 2023 - Xuntian

China successfully launches cargo spacecraft for its space station in orbit

- China successfully launched its cargo spacecraft **Tianzhou-5** to deliver supplies for its space station Tiangong, the construction of which is expected to be completed in 2022.
- The Long March-7 Y6 rocket, carrying Tianzhou-5 was launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern island province of Hainan has successfully entered its designated orbit.

RISAT2 satellite makes reentry into Earth's atmosphere

- ISRO's RISAT2 satellite which was launched in 2009 and weighing around 300 kg has made an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere near Jakarta.

- The Indian System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM) facility in ISTRAC, Bengaluru, had been monitoring the re-entry utilising Multi Object Tracking Radar (MOTR) at SDSC, Sriharikota.

About RISAT2

- RISAT-2, or Radar Imaging Satellite-2 was an Indian radar imaging reconnaissance satellite that was part of India's RISAT programme.
- It was built by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and was launched by the PSLVC12 launch vehicle in 2009 from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

Note

- A reconnaissance satellite also known as a spy satellite is an Earth observation satellite or communications satellite deployed for military or intelligence applications.

Gaganyaan cryogenic engine test successful: IPRC

- Indian Space Research Organisation's Propulsion Research Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in the Tirunelveli district has successfully conducted a 70-second-long 'Pressure Chamber Test' of the cryogenic engine to be used in 'Gaganyaan' programme.
- The pressure chamber test of C20 E11 MK III was earlier conducted for about 30 seconds at Mahendragiri on October 28. The test was conducted to check the efficacy of the engine to be used in ISRO's prestigious 'Gaganyaan', which is designed for India's human spaceflight programme.
- Following the success of the test, the duration of the test was increased to 70 seconds.

Note

- The C20 E11 MK III engine is assigned for the LVM3-M3 mission identified for launching the next 36 OneWeb India-1 satellites of the OneWeb, the London-based satellite communications company.

NASA's Artemis 1 Launch

- NASA's Artemis 1 mission was launched from Launch Complex 39B of the Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 12.17 PM IST on November 16, 2022.
- Around eight minutes after launch, the core stage engines cut off and the core stage separated from the rest of the rocket.
- After this, the Orion spacecraft was propelled by the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage (ICPS).
- NASA also deployed the Orion spacecraft's four solar arrays.
- After completing "translunar injection," Orion separated itself from ICPS and is on its way to lunar orbit.
- Artemis II will follow in Artemis I's footsteps.

PSLV-C54 successfully launched

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in one of its longest missions successfully placed nine satellites, including an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS - 06) in multiple orbits with the help of the space agency's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C54).
- The vehicle took off precisely at 11.56 a.m. from the first launch pad (FLP) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), SHAR, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- This is the 56th flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the 24th flight of the PSLV - XL version with 6 PSOM - XLs
- The eight nano satellites include
 - ISRO Nano Satellite - 2 for Bhutan (INS - 2B)
 - Anand - India's first private earth imaging satellite.
 - Astrocast (four satellites),
 - Two Thybolt satellites.
- Notably, EOS - 6 is the Oceansat series' third generation satellite.

IndiaBhutan SAT or ISRO Nano Satellite 2 for Bhutan (INS2B)

- BhutanSat (aka INS-2B) is the collaborative mission between India and Bhutan.

- The INS - 2B satellite has two payloads .
 - NanoMx, a multispectral optical imaging payload developed by SAC,
 - APRSDigipeater, which is jointly developed by DITTBhutan and URSC.

About the Indian Space Research

Organisation (ISRO)

- Chairman - Sreedhara Panicker Somanath
- Headquarters - Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Formation - August 15, 1969

China sends new crew to Tiangong space station

- China successfully launched **Shenzhou-15 spaceship**, a spacecraft carrying three astronauts to **Tiangong (China's under-construction space station)** atop the **Long March-2F Y15** carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- The spacecraft carried three astronauts - **Fei Junlong, Deng Qingming, and Zhang Lu.**

Note

- Tiangong (Palace in the Sky) is a space station constructed by China and operated by **China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) in low Earth orbit** between 340 and 450 km above the surface.

Sriharikota gets India's first private space launchpad

- India's first ever launchpad for a private launch vehicle was established at Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The launch pad was established by **Agnikul, the Chennai headquartered space tech start-up.**
- The facility, which was designed by Agnikul and executed with the support of ISRO and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACE), has two sections: the Agnikul launchpad and the Agnikul mission control Center.

Note

- Agnibaan is Agnikul's highly customizable, two stage launch vehicle, capable of carrying up to 100 kg in payload to orbits 700 km high.

- **Agnilet is the world's first single piece 3D printed engine**, fully designed and manufactured in India.
 - Its successful test firing in early 2021 made Agnikul, the first company in the country to test its engines at ISRO.
 - Agnibaan and Agnilet will be used in the Agnikul's first launch.
- First privately developed rocket all set for launch**
- India's first privately developed rocket, Vikram-S, is poised to create history as it undergoes final preparations at the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) launch pad in Sriharikota for launch between November 12 and 16.
 - It was developed by the Hyderabad based Skyroot Aerospace.
 - The mission was named 'Prarambh' (the beginning) – since it is the first mission for Skyroot Aerospace.
 - It was unveiled by ISRO Chairman S. Somanath in Bengaluru after the technical launch clearance from the space regulator IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre)
 - Skyroot is set to become the first private space company in India to launch a rocket into space, heralding a new era for the space sector which was recently opened up to facilitate private sector participation.

About ISRO

- Headquarters - Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Formed - 15 August 1969
- Chairman - Sreedhara Panicker Somanath

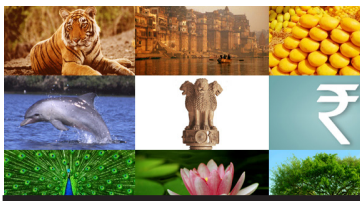
5.3 LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCE

Myositis

- Myositis is the name for a group of rare conditions that can cause muscles to become weak, tired and painful.
- The word myositis simply means **inflammation in muscles**. If something is inflamed, it may be swollen.
- Myositis can affect people of any age, including children.
- The main muscles to be affected are around the shoulders, hips and thighs.
- It is an **autoimmune disorder**. Autoimmune Disorder is a problem with the immune system, where it mistakenly attacks healthy tissue.
- thigh muscles.
- **Dermatomyositis**, which affects several muscles and causes a rash. It's more common in women and can also affect children (juvenile dermatomyositis).
- **Inclusion body myositis (IBM)**, which causes weakness in the thigh muscles, forearm muscles and the muscles below the knee.
- **Symptoms** of polymyositis include:
 - muscle weakness
 - aching or painful muscles and feeling very tired
 - finding it hard to sit up, or stand after a fall
 - swallowing problems, or finding it hard to hold your head up
 - feeling unhappy or depressed

Types of myositis

- Polymyositis, which affects many different muscles, particularly the shoulders, hips and



6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

PM Modi pays homage to sacrifices of unsung tribal heroes in Rajasthan's Mangarh.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended a public programme 'Mangarh Dham ki Gaurav Gatha' and paid tribute to 1,500 tribals, led by Govind Guru, who were massacred by the British at Mangarh Dham on November 17, 1913 in Banswara district of Rajasthan.
- He paid tributes to Govind Guru whose death Anniversary was on 30th October.
- Mangarh Dham was declared as a National Monument in the Banswara district of Rajasthan.

Note

- In pre-Independent India, Bhils and other tribes engaged in a long stand-off with the British, with over 1.5 lakh tribals rallying to the Mangarh Hill on November 17, 1913, under the leadership of Govind Guru.

NALSA All India Campaigns

- Justice Chandrachud, Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), has launched **two all India campaigns** in order to foster a spirit of inclusivity.
- The campaigns include
 - "Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach"
 - "Haq_hamara_bhi_hai@75," a special campaign for legal aid in prisons and childcare institutions
- The two week pan-Indian campaigns, which is taking place **from October 31 to November 13, 2022**, aims to work at the grassroots and build capacity for the incapacitated.
- Campaign 'Haq_hamara_bhi_hai@75' is aimed at providing basic legal assistance to undertrial prisoners and children in conflict with law.

- The campaign "Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign" aims to be fundamental in decreasing the vulnerability of the marginalised strata of the society as it would facilitate their capacity to foster a just, peaceful and inclusive society.

About NALSA

- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted **on November 9, 1995, under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** to fulfill the provisions of **Article 39A (provisions of equal justice and free legal aid.)** and to organise Lok Adalats. The chief justice of India serves as the patron-in-chief of NALSA.
- At the state level, State Legal Services Authority has been constituted. The chief justices of the high court serve as its patron-in-chief.
- At the **District level, District Legal Services Authority** has been constituted. The district judge serves as its ex-officio chairman.

Centre 'doubles' fertilizer subsidy

- To insulate farmers from the sharp increases in the prices, the Centre announced a **doubling of fertiliser subsidy to Rs 2.15 trillion from the budgeted level for FY23.**
- The Union Cabinet approved a subsidy of ₹51,875 crore for nitrogen, phosphorus and potash (NPK) and sulphur for phosphatic and potassium fertilizers for the ongoing rabi season.
- From the budget estimate of ₹21,000 crore of nutrient based subsidy, the amount has been more than doubled.
- The Centre said the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) rates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the kharif season (April-September, 2022) will be Rs 60,939 crore, as against Rs 57,150 crore in 2021.

- A bag of Diammonium Phosphate cost ₹1,350 and it would have cost ₹2,650 without subsidy.
- The subsidy was around ₹2,400 per bag as a bag was being sold for about ₹266 instead of the market price, which was ₹2,700.

About Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS)

Programme

- NBS for Fertilizers was initiated in the year 2010.
- Under the scheme, a fixed amount of subsidy decided on an annual basis is provided for **Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, except for Urea**, based on the nutrient content present.
- The scheme is administered by the **Department of Fertilizers under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**.
- **Subsidy on Urea:** The Centre pays subsidy on urea to fertiliser manufacturers on the basis of cost of production at each plant and the units are required to sell the fertiliser at the government-set Maximum Retail Price (MRP).

Note

- India aims to end imports of urea from 2025 as the nation boosts its local production capacity with the commissioning of new plants.
- **Production of indigenous local urea** containing **nanoparticles** of the crop nutrient would rise to 5 MT by 2025.

Wheat export doubles to \$1.48 bn in April-September

- The overall export of Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) products increased to \$13.77 billion in April-September 2022 from \$11.05 billion in the same period a year earlier.
- Wheat export rose to \$1,487 million in April-September 2022 from \$630 million in April-September 2021.
- Basmati rice exports too increased to \$2.28 billion during April-September 2022 from \$1.66 billion a year ago.
- Shipments of non-basmati rice registered a growth of 8% to \$3.20 billion.
- Export of poultry products rose 83% to \$57 million, while shipments of dairy products increased 58% to \$342 million.

- Export of fresh fruits increased to \$313 million during the period under reviews as compared to \$301 million a year ago.
- Export of lentils increased from \$135 million to \$330 million.
- For 2022-23, an export target of \$23.56 billion has been fixed by APEDA and export of \$13.77 billion has already been **achieved in the six-month period**.

About APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)

- Formation - 1986
- Chairman - **Dr. M. Angamuthu (IAS)**
- Functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

Technical Textiles: Centre clears 20 research projects worth ₹74 crore

- The Textiles Ministry has cleared **20 strategic research projects worth ₹74 crore** in areas such as agro-textiles, speciality fibre, smart textiles, activewear textiles, protective gear and sports textiles under the government's National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).

About NTTM

- It was approved in 2020 by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** with total outlay of **Rs.1480 Crore**.
- **The implementation period is four years**, from FY 2020-21 to FY 2023-24.
- It aims to position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles by taking the domestic market size from USD 40 billion to USD 50 billion by 2024.
- It also supports the **'Make in India'** Initiative promoting domestic manufacturing of related machinery and equipment.

Nagaland to host Tokhü Emong Bird Count

- **Nagaland** is hosting the **first edition** of the **Tokhü Emong Bird Count (TEBC)** between November 4 to 7, a four-day documentation event to list birds in the state.
- The event is being organised in collaboration with the Wokha Forest Division and the **Divisional Management Unit**, Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP), Wokha, and **Bird Count India**.

- The event is being held during the **Tokhü Emong post-harvest festival** of the Lotha Nagas to spread awareness about Nagaland's bird diversity.

About Nagaland

- Capital - Kohima
- Chief minister - Neiphiu Rio
- Governor - Jagdish Mukhi
- Official bird - Blyth's tragopan

Note

- The **Sálím Ali Bird Count** is a birding event, initiated by the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** in 2018 to commemorate the birth anniversary (12 November) of the "**Bird Man of India**", late Dr. Sálím Ali (1896-1987).

National Tribal Dance Festival begins in Raipur, Chhattisgarh

- Chhattisgarh is hosting the **3rd National Tribal Dance Festival** as a part of the celebrations of its 23rd State Foundation Day (November 1).
- The National Tribal Dance Festival is being held from **1st November 2022 to 3rd November 2022**.
- About **1500 tribal artists** will take part in the event of which 1400 will be from India and 100 will be from other countries including Mongolia, Tongo, Russia, Indonesia, Maldives, and Mozambique.

About Chhattisgarh

- Capital - Raipur
- Chief minister - Bhupesh Baghel
- Governor - Anusuiya Uikey

Mathura-Vrindavan aims to be carbon neutral by 2041

- Mathura-Vrindavan, one of India's largest pilgrimage centers, aims to become a "net zero carbon emission" tourist destination by 2041.
- Tourist vehicles will be banned from the entire Braj region, which includes famous pilgrim centres such as Vrindavan and Krishna Janmabhoomi. Instead, only electric vehicles used as public transport will be allowed into the area.
- All 252 waterbodies and 24 forests in the area will also be revived.

- The Government plans to **divide the entire region into four clusters**, each containing **two of the eight key cities** and form small circuits called **Parikrama Paths** which the pilgrim can undertake **either on foot or using electric vehicle**.

Note

- To attain a net zero carbon emission status, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced to as close to zero as possible with any remaining emissions reabsorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance.

Agriculture Minister Launches Portal on National Mission on Natural Farming

- Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, launched the NMNF portal (National Mission on Natural Farming Portal)
- The NMNF portal (<http://naturalfarming.dac.gov.in>) developed by the Agriculture ministry was launched in the **first steering committee meeting of the National Natural Farming Mission held at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- The portal contains all the information about the mission, implementation outline, resources, implementation progress, farmer registration, blog etc., which will be useful for the farmers. Also, this website will help in promoting natural farming.

Note

- Natural Farming can be defined as "**chemical-free farming and livestock based**". Soundly grounded in agro-ecology, it is a diversified farming system that integrates crops, trees and livestock, allowing the optimum use of functional biodiversity.
- Natural Farming is promoted as '**Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati**' (BPKP) under the centrally sponsored scheme **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)**.

PM Modi launches new Complaint Management System portal

- PM Modi launched the new **Complaint Management System portal of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** on the occasion of the **Vigilance Awareness Week**.

- The portal is envisioned to provide end-to-end information to the citizens through regular updates on the status of their complaints.
- PM also release a series of pictorial booklets on “Ethics and Good Practices”; **Compilation of best practices on “Preventive Vigilance” and a Special issue “VIGEYE-VANI” on public procurement.**

National Awareness Week

- Central Vigilance Commission observes Vigilance Awareness Week every year to bring together all stakeholders in spreading the message of integrity in all spheres of life.
- In 2022, it is being observed **from 31st October to 6th November** with the theme of “**Corruption-free India for a developed nation**”

Note

- The CVC was set up by the Government in **February, 1964** based on the recommendations of the **Committee on Prevention of Corruption**, headed by **Shri K. Santhanam**.
- In **2003**, the Parliament enacted CVC Act conferring statutory status on the CVC.

Education Ministry forms panel to strengthen assessment, accreditation of higher educational institutions

- The Ministry of Education has set up a high-level panel to strengthen the assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions.
- The panel will be headed by **Dr K Radhakrishnan, Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur**. He is also the chairperson of the Standing Committee of IIT Council.
- The mandate of the committee includes strengthening the assessment and accreditation processes and preparing a **road map for the National Accreditation Council** envisioned in the National Education Policy, 2020.

Central Government Decision on Compulsory Purchase from Listed Entrepreneurs

- The Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises said that central government public sector enterprises have set

a target of minimum **4 percent compulsory procurement from scheduled and tribal entrepreneurs.**

- The decision was taken on the **5th meeting of the Human Rights Monitoring Committee (HPMC)** of the **National Scheduled and Scheduled Tribes Center (NSSH)** was held in Delhi.
- The committee was chaired by Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises **Narayan Rane** under **National SC-ST Hub scheme.**

Note

- The **National SC-ST Hub** has been set up to provide **professional support to entrepreneurs from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes** to fulfil the obligations under the **Central Government Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises Order 2012**, adopt applicable business practices and leverage the **Stand-Up India initiative.**
- The **Hub** was launched by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in **October 2016.**

Miss Northeast 2022

- **Irene Dkhar** from Meghalaya was crowned **Miss Northeast 2022** during the finale at **Kohima** in Nagaland.
- This was the **first Miss Northeast pageant**, which was initiated by the **North East Beauty Pageant Organisation** and presented by the **Beauty and Aesthetic Society of Nagaland (BASN).**
- The pageant was sponsored by the **Nagaland government.**

About Nagaland

- Capital - **Kohima**
- Chief minister - **Neiphiu Rio**
- Governor - **Jagdish Mukhi**

AnSI builds tribal hut replicas to promote unique heritage

- In a first of its kind bid to showcase the heritage of tribal communities, especially those of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) has recreated the huts of several communities at its different regional centres.

- The zonal anthropological museums of AnSI are important tourist destinations and the construction of these tribal huts and a monolith within the premises will help increase interest of visitors.

About AnSI

- Formation - 1945
- Head Office - Kolkata
- Director - Gauri Basu

Chandigarh Airport To Be Renamed After Bhagat Singh

- The Union Government issued an order stating that the **Chandigarh airport** will be renamed after freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.
- An elaborate process is followed in naming and renaming of airports, and the final approval has to come **from the Union Cabinet**.
- Generally, airports are known by the name of the city where they are located.
- In some cases, a specific name is proposed by the respective state government supported by a resolution passed in the state legislative assembly concerned.
- The same is then sent to the Union Cabinet for the final approval.

About Bhagat Singh (Born 27 September 1907- 23 March 1931)

- He was convicted of the murder of **John Saunders and Channan Singh**, and hanged in **March 1931, aged 23**.
- In 1926, he founded the **Naujawan Bharat Sabha**
- In 1928, he established the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** along with Sukhdev, Chandrashekhar Azad and others.
- Notable work - **Why I Am an Atheist**.
- On **8th April 1929, Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt** threw a bomb in the Central Assembly at Delhi, from the Visitors' Gallery.

MNRE Notifies National Bio Energy Programme

- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, Government of India has notified the **National Bioenergy Programme**. MNRE has continued the National Bioenergy Programme for the period from FY 2021-22 to 2025-26.

- The Programme has been recommended for implementation in **two Phases**. The **Phase-I** of the Programme has been approved with a budget outlay of **Rs. 858 crore**.

- The National Bioenergy Programme will comprises of the following sub-schemes:

- **Waste to Energy Programme** (Programme on Energy from Urban, Industrial and Agricultural Wastes /Residues) to support setting up of large Biogas, BioCNG and Power plants (excluding MSW to Power projects).
- **Biomass Programme (Scheme to Support Manufacturing of Briquettes & Pellets and Promotion of Biomass (non-bagasse) based cogeneration in Industries)** to support setting up of pellets and briquettes for use in power generation and non-bagasse based power generation projects.
- **Biogas Programme to support setting up of family and medium size Biogas in rural areas.**
- To utilize the huge surplus biomass, cattle dung, industrial and urban biowaste available in the country for recovery of energy, the MNRE has been promoting bioenergy in India since the 1980s.
- One major support extended by MNRE has been Central Financial Assistance provided for setting up of Bioenergy projects such as Biogas, BioCNG, Power from urban, Industrial and Agricultural Waste / Residues for reducing their capital cost/ interest on loan therefore increasing project viability.

Modi unveils logo, theme, site of G20 presidency

- PM Narendra Modi unveiled the logo, theme and website of India's G20 presidency during an online event.
- India will assume the presidency of the powerful grouping from the current chair Indonesia on December 1.

About G 20

- The G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum of major developed and developing economies comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU).

- Formation - **26 September 1999.**
- Chairman - **Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia**
- First Meeting in in **Cologne, Germany**
- G20 Countries - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

Note

- India will assume the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023 and the G20 Leaders' Summit will take place in New Delhi in 2023.

D.Y. Chandrachud takes charge as the 50th Chief Justice of India

- **Justice Dhananjaya Yashwant Chandrachud** was sworn in as the 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI) by President Droupadi Murmu at a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Justice Chandrachud as CJI will have a **term of two years** and will head **India's judiciary until November 10, 2024, a day before he completes 65 years.**
- His father, Y.V. Chandrachud, holds the distinction of being the longest serving Chief Justice, who headed the judiciary from February 22, 1978 to July 11, 1985.
- He has been part of several Constitution Benches and landmark verdicts of the top court, including
 - **Ayodhya land dispute.**
 - Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India case, in which it was unanimously held that the right to privacy was a Fundamental Right.
 - Headed the bench that expanded the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act to include unmarried women for **abortion between 20 and 24 weeks of pregnancy.**
 - Judgments on decriminalising same-sex relations, after it partially struck down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code.

- Part of the benches that ruled on the validity of the Aadhaar scheme and the Sabarimala issue, and paved the way for permanent commission for women officers in the armed forces.

Note

- **Article 124 of the Constitution of India provides for the manner of appointing judges to the Supreme Court.**
- Constitutional Provisions pertaining to Supreme Court - **Article 124 to 147.**

15th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Expo 2022 held at Kochi, Kerala

- The **15th edition of Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Expo 2022** held at Hotel Grand Hyatt, Kochi, Kerala which was jointly inaugurated by the Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan.
- It was held on the theme: **Sustainable AtmaNirbhar Urban Mobility'** which emphasizes on designing and implementing efficient, high quality and sustainable transport system in the cities.
- It was organized by the MoHUA in collaboration with the Government of Kerala.

About UMI:

- It was initiated in **2008** as a flagship event held under the aegis of the MoHUA to emphasize on building capabilities at the State and city level to address the problems associated with urban transport for the development of sustainable urban transport systems.

Centre launches programme to strengthen Kashi-T.N. bond

- The Union government announced a month-long programme **from November 16 to December 16 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam'** to strengthen and rekindle the cultural and civilisational bond between Tamil Nadu and Varanasi.
- The Programme is introduced as a part of **'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'**.

- The knowledge partners for the programme would be **IIT Madras and the Banaras Hindu University**.
- Uttar Pradesh government would be the host State.

About Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- The programme was launched on **31st October, 2015** on the occasion of the **140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- It aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing.
- The states carry out activities to promote a sustained and structured cultural connect in the areas of language learning, culture, traditions & music, tourism & cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices, etc.

Aadhaar rules amended; supporting doc may be updated at least once in 10 years

- The government has amended **Aadhaar regulations**, specifying that supporting documents may be updated at least once by Aadhaar holders on completion of 10 years from the enrolment date.
- The updation would ensure continued accuracy of Aadhaar-related information in the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR), according to gazette notification issued by ministry of electronics and IT.
- The changes have been made by amending the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations.

Note

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (**Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services**) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016") on 12 July 2016.

India Saved USD 4.2 Billion Through Solar Power Between January & June

- According to the report titled "The Sunny Side of Asia" India has saved USD 4.2 billion in fuel costs by utilising solar energy in the 1st half

of 2022 and avoided the need of 19.4 million tonnes of coal which would have further stressed the strained domestic supply.

- The report was jointly developed by energy think tank **Ember, the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) and the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)**.

Key Findings of the report:

- The report which analysed the solar growth over the last decade has found that 5 of the top 10 economies with solar capacity are within Asia which includes, China (1st), Japan (3rd), India (5th), South Korea (8th) and Vietnam (9th).
- Solar power is expected to grow at an average annual growth rate of 22% until 2030 across 5 Asian economies – China, India, the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Terminal 2 (T2) of Kempegowda International Airport at Bengaluru.

- With the inauguration of **T2, passenger handling capacity** as well as counters for check-in and immigration will double, helping the people immensely.
- Built at a cost of around Rs 5,000 crore, Terminal 2 will be able to handle around 5-6 crore passengers from the current capacity of 2.5 crore annually.
- Terminal 2 is designed as a tribute to the Garden city of Bengaluru and the passenger experience is meant to be a "walk in the garden".
- Passengers will travel through 10,000+ sq mts of green walls, hanging gardens and outdoor gardens and these gardens have been made in India using indigenous technology.
- The Bengaluru Airport has already established a benchmark in sustainability with 100 per cent usage of renewable energy across the campus.
- Terminal 2 has been created with sustainability principles woven into the design.

About Karnataka

- Capital - Bengaluru

- Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief minister - Basavaraj Bommai

India participates in World Travel Market 2022 (WTM) at London to step up recovery of Inbound tourism

- Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is participating at **World Travel Market (WTM) 2022 from 7th to 9th November in London** which is one of the largest international travel exhibitions.
- The theme of this years exhibition is **'The Future of Travel Starts Now'**.
- India's participation at WTM is significant to step up recovery of Inbound tourism to pre-pandemic level.
- The Tamil Nadu Tourism Department has opened its pavilion at the World Travel Market-2022.
- **The event will help Tamil Nadu to showcase its tourism potential at a global platform and assist the government to plan its activities to promote tourism.**

New Changes in UTS App

- The Indian railways has introduced some changes in the UTS App.
- The users changes allow the users to book unreserved tickets on the UTS mobile app from a distance of upto 20 km from a station on non-suburban sections, up from 5 km.
- In suburban areas, the distance has been enhanced to 5 km from the existing 2 km.
- The Railway Board issued new instructions to all zones on, giving effect to the new proximity norms.

Note

- **The Un-Reserved Ticket through Mobile Application (UTS app) was started by the Indian Railways on 27 Dec, 2014 from Mumbai Suburban area.**
- **From November 1, 2018, booking of unreserved tickets on all non-suburban sections across all Zonal Railways has been made available using the UTS app to enable seamless booking of unreserved tickets all over Indian Railways.**

Centre to promote exports of millets and its products

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is working to promote the export of millet and millet-related products through the **agricultural export promotion body, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).**
- The move follows India's proposal, which was supported by 72 countries, and resulted in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declaring 2023 as the **International Year of Millets (IYoM) on March 5, 2021.**
- The government is currently organising IYoM-2023 at both the domestic and international levels in order to popularise Indian millets and value-added products around the world.
- The government has invited farmers, exporters, and traders to participate in 16 international trade expos and Buyer Seller Meets (BSMs).
- India is one of the world's leading millet producers, accounting for approximately 41 per cent of global production.
- According to FAO, global millet production in 2020 will be 30.464 million metric tonnes (MMT), with India accounting for 12.49 MMT or 41 per cent of total millet production.
- In 2021-22, India recorded a 27 per cent increase in millet production compared to the previous year's millet production of 15.92 MMT.
- India's top five millet-producing states are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.
- The share of export of millet is nearly 1% of the total millet production.
- India's major millet exporting countries are U.A.E, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Oman, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, U.K and U.S.A. Bajra, Ragi, Canary, Jawar, and Buckwheat are among the millets exported by India.

India's 1st National Repository for Life Science Data

- The Union Minister of State, Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the **Indian Biological Data Center' (IBDC)**

at Regional Centre of Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad, Haryana.

- It is India's first national repository for life science data which is supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology.

Note

- Life Sciences is the sciences concerned with the study of living organisms, including biology, botany, zoology, microbiology, physiology, biochemistry, and related subjects.

Bhopal Railway Station awarded a 4-star rating for 'Eat Right Station' by FSSAI

- Bhopal Junction Railway Station of West Central Railway was awarded a **4-star rating for 'Eat Right Station'** for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The certification given to Bhopal Railway Station is valid up to **1st November 2024**.

Note

- The certification is part of the 'Eat Right India' movement which is a large-scale effort by FSSAI to transform the country's food system to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians.
- Eat Right India** adopts an **integrative or 'whole of the government' approach** since the movement brings together food-related mandates of the agriculture, health, environment and other ministries.
- The **other railway stations** with this certification include
 - Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station (New Delhi)
 - Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Mumbai),
 - Mumbai Central Railway Station (Mumbai),
 - Vadodara Railway Station,
 - Chandigarh Railway Station.

Subodh": The 1st edition of NMDC's Vigilance Magazine released

- The vigilance department of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), released the first edition of its in-house vigilance magazine "Subodh" at the Head Office in Hyderabad, Telangana to reinforce the NMDC's commitment to fostering honesty and transparency among all stakeholders.

Note

- NMDC Limited, formerly National Mineral Development Corporation, is a central public sector undertaking. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Steel, Government of India.
- Rajnath Singh unveils statue of Prithviraj Chauhan in Haryana
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar unveiled the statue of Prithviraj Chauhan at Kulana village of Jhajjar district in Haryana.
- The idol is of golden colour.

Note

- Prithviraj III was a king from the Chauhan dynasty who ruled the territory of Sapadalaksha, with his capital at Ajmer in present-day Rajasthan.

No Money for Terror Conference

- The **3rd Ministerial "No Money for Terror" (NMFT) Conference** held from November 18 and 19, 2022 in **New Delhi**.
- The major topics discussed at the 2022 NMFT Conference spanning **four sessions** are
 - Global trends in terrorism and terrorist financing
 - Use of formal and informal channels for terrorism
 - Emerging technologies and terrorist financing
 - International cooperation to address challenges in combating terrorist financing.
- India has proposed a permanent secretariat for '**No Money for Terror**' (NMFT), a ministerial conference, in order to sustain the global focus on countering the financing of terrorism.

About NMFT Conference

- The Ministerial No Money for Terror (NMFT) Conference aims to create platform for international discussions on countering terror financing.
- The conference includes discussions on technical, legal, regulatory and cooperative aspects of the terrorism financing. It aims to set pace for other high-level official and political discussions focusing on terror finance.
- The **inaugural edition** of this conference was held in **Paris, France, in 2018**. The **second edition** of the NMFT took place in **Melbourne, Australia, in 2019**.
- The **third edition** was set to take place in **India in 2020 but was postponed because of COVID-19** pandemic that caused the global-level restrictions on travel.

Biggest iPhone manufacturing unit near Hosur;

- Telecom and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the biggest unit to manufacture Apple iPhone in India is coming up near **Hosur in Bengaluru**, which will employ around 60,000 people.
- Apple has outsourced the manufacturing of iPhone enclosures to Tata Electronics, which has a plant at Hosur.
- The company gets iPhones manufactured by electronics giants - **Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron in India**.

WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)

- On the sideline of G20 summit being held in **Bali, Indonesia** **World Health Organisation (WHO)** chief **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for collaborating with the world health body on hosting and building the global traditional health centre.
- Prime Minister Modi, **World Health Organisation Director-General Ghebreyesus** and **Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth** laid the foundation stone for the

WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Gujarat's Jamnagar city in April 2022.

- The centre, supported by an investment of USD 250 million from India, aims at harnessing the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet, according to the WHO.

Note

- The World Health Organization (WHO) defines traditional medicine as "the sum total of the knowledge, skills, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness"

About WHO

- Formation - **7 April 1948**
- Headquarters - **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Director-General - **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Ethiopia)**.

69th All India Cooperative Week

- Minister of Slum Clearance Board of Tamil Nadu T. M. Anbarasan distributed the welfare assistance in 69th Cooperative Week Festival at an event in Kancheepuram.

Note

- The Cooperative Week is celebrated every year from 14th to 20th November, 2022.
- It is an occasion to highlight the achievements of the cooperative movement and chalk out future strategies.
- The theme for 2022 is "India@75" Growth of Cooperatives and Future Ahead".
- The Cooperative Credit Societies Act of India was enacted in 1904

Constitutional Provisions

- The **Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011** added a new **Part IXB** regarding the **Cooperative Societies**.
- **Article 43B** was added in the **Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)** regarding the "promotion of cooperative societies".

5th Meeting of NIIF's Governing Council

- Ministry of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman presided over the 5th meeting of the Governing Council (GC) of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) which was held in New Delhi.
- NIIF is India's largest infrastructure and private equity fund manager.
- The GC has approved significant updates regarding the bilateral engagements under NIIF.
- The MoU signed between the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) suggests creating the first bilateral fund of the NIIF called the "India Japan Fund".

About the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF):

- NIIF is a collaborative investment platform for international and Indian investors, anchored by the GoI.
- Formation – 2015
- Headquarters – Mumbai.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi.
- Both regions Tamil and Sanskrit are the centers of the oldest languages, Sanskrit and Tamil.
- The Programme is introduced as a part of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
- The knowledge partners for the programme would be IIT Madras and the Banaras Hindu University.
- Uttar Pradesh government would be the host State.

About Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- The programme was launched on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- It aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing.

Personalities with link between Kashi and Tamil Nadu

- Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was born in Tamil Nadu, was the **Vice Chancellor of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.**
- The renowned Vedic scholar **Rajeshwar Shastri** lived in Kashi, even though he had his roots in Tamil Nadu.
- Kashi Kaam Koteswar Panchayatan Mandir**, which is a **Tamil temple** on the **banks of Harishchandra Ghat**, and the **200 year old Kumarswamy Matt and Markande Ashram on Kedar Ghat.**
- The 3rd Ministerial **"No Money for Terror" (NMFT) Conference** is being held in New Delhi.

Living Proof certificate available online

- The central Government has ordered that the pensioners of the central government and Pensioners of the Employee Provident Fund must provide a proof of living certificate (Jeevan Praman) from 1st November.
- However, pensioners, and senior citizens, face a huge lot of hardships in directly visiting the concerned office and furnishing Proof of Living.
- Now, the union government made provisions that pensioners have to furnish the details of their Aadhar card number, Mobile phone number, PPO Number and pension details and register the fingerprint to get the Digital Proof of Living Certificate online.

India Launches Official Website of SCO for 2023 – "For a SECURE SCO"

- India has launched the official website of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** "For a Secure SCO," as it will hold the next SCO summit as chairman in 2023.
- India will preside over the SCO Council of Heads of State** in for the first time from September 2022, lasting for one year till September 2023.
- The official website of India's Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State is <https://indiainsco.in/home>.

- At the 22nd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State 2022 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, India took over the rotating presidency of the SCO from Uzbekistan.

- **Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired the 22nd SCO summit in Samarkand.**

Note

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the concept of 'SECURE' at the 2018 SCO Summit in China.
 - "S" represent **security for citizens**
 - "E" for **economic development**
 - "C" for **connectivity in the region**
 - "U" for **unity**
 - "R" for **respect for sovereignty and integrity**
 - "E" for **environmental protection.**

Health ministry includes coronary stents in National List of Essential Medicines, 2022

- The Union Health Ministry has notified the **inclusion of coronary stents in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2022.**
- The inclusion is based on the recommendations by an expert committee constituted to review the inclusion of stents in the list based on requirement.
- A move that will help make these life-saving medical devices more affordable.
- The **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) will fix the price of coronary stents.**
- The **Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM)** had submitted its recommendation for inclusion of coronary stents in the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022 in two categories - Bare Metal Stents (BMS) and Drug Eluting Stents (DES)** which include metallic DES and bioresorbable vascular scaffold (VBS)/ biodegradable stents.
- Several anti-cancer drugs, antibiotics and vaccines were among 34 new additions to the National List of Essential Medicines released on September 13, 2022 taking the total number of drugs under it to 384.

Note

- The **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)** is a list released by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- The **first** National List of Essential Medicines of India in 1996 consisted of 279 medicines. This list was subsequently revised in **2003, 2011, 2015 and 2022.**
- The medicines listed in the NLEM are sold below a price ceiling **fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).**
- In India, it was framed on the lines of the **Essential Medicines List (EML)** released by the WHO.

Union Health Ministry launches India's first suicide prevention policy

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** announced a **National Suicide Prevention Strategy, the first of its kind in the country,** with time bound action plans and multi sectoral collaborations to achieve reduction in suicide mortality by 10% by 2030.
- The recent **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** report stated that **1.64 lakh people died by suicide in 2021.** This is **10 per cent higher** than the COVID deaths in India 2020, and 6.8 times the maternal death (23800) in 2020.
- The **UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.4** aims to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one-third, through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being. One of the indicators for this is the suicide rate.
- In India, more than one lakh lives are lost every year to suicide, and it is the **top killer in the 15-29 years category.**
- In the past three years, the suicide rate has increased from 10.2 to 11.3 per 1,00,000 population.
- The most common reasons for suicide include family problems and illnesses, which account for 34% and 18% of all suicide-related deaths.

PM Rojgar Mela

- PM Modi will launch the second phase of the **Rojgar Mela**.
- PM Rojgar Mela 2022** was initiated by the Government of India and was announced by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on October 22, 2022 via a video conference.
- Rojgar Mela is an initiative by the Government of India wherein **10 lakh jobs** will be available for **candidates to apply in Group A and B Gazetted Posts, Group B Non-Gazetted and Group C Non-Gazetted posts**.
- Earlier in the month of October 2022, in the first phase appointment letters were handed over to 75,000 new recruits.
- In the second phase, 71000 people will be given employment orders.
- Appointments will be made for the posts of Teacher, Lecturer, Nurse, Nursing Officer, Doctor, Pharmacist, Radiologist and other technical and paramedical posts. In particular, more appointments will be made in the Central Armed Police Forces.
- PM Modi will also launch online training courses for newly appointed candidates.
- According to the Prime Minister's Office, the training includes Code of Conduct for Government Servants, Workplace Ethics-Coordination, Human Resource Policies, Benefits and Steps for Government Servants.

Zorba, India's first dog on anti-poacher duty, is dead

- Zorba, India's first dog to be deployed for tracking down poachers, has died of age-related ailments in Guwahati.
- The 12-year-old male Belgian Malinois was a member of 'K9', the nation's first dog squad to fight wildlife crime.
- Zorba was the first dog of the squad.
- Zorba retired from service in 2019 and was honored with a traditional Assamese gamosa (a scarf) and a citation on Independence Day on 2022.
- Zorba served mostly in the Kaziranga National Park from 2012 till his retirement.

Railways to simulate accident to test preparedness of relief teams

- In a first, the **Indian Railways** is assessing the **preparedness and performance of its accident relief teams** in real time by simulating a major accident, involving derailment of coaches and huge casualties in Bengaluru.
- The exercise is being organised by the **Indian Railway Institute of Disaster Management, Bengaluru**, in association with the **National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi**.
- About 40 senior railway officers, 50 officials in-charge of Accident Relief Trains from across Indian Railways and 75 disaster management experts drawn from different fields will participate in the programme.

EV Charging Station at Chennai Airport

- First of its kind, an electric vehicle charging station was installed at the **Chennai airport**.
- Airports Authority of India, Chennai Airport and Indian Oil Corporation** have jointly set up an electric vehicle charging station at Chennai Airport.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has set up an electric vehicle charging station at the airside of Chennai airport for charging ground handling vehicles and passenger shuttle buses.
- This is the first electric vehicle charging station opened by Indian Oil Corporation outside retail outlets.
- EV Charging station will not only help reduce the carbon footprint within the airport, but will also be cost-effective in terms of daily operational costs.

Note

- e-AMRIT (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation)** is a one-stop portal for creating awareness about **electric mobility through Electric Vehicles (EVs) in India**.
- The portal aims to ease the transition from fossil fuel driven vehicles to electric vehicles by providing all information about policies, incentives, charging stations, business requirements.

India's First Private Agricultural Mandi at Nashik

- The Sahyadri Farmer Producer Company (FPC) (based in Nashik) is set to launch the first ever private agricultural mandi (market) for grapes in Mohadi village in Dindori taluka, Nashik, Maharashtra.
- The world-class infrastructure will be established in the next three months at a financial outlay of Rs. 25 crores.
- FPC will develop a 100-acre dedicated market space integrated with world-class infrastructure along services from banking to storage, processing, and packaging under one roof.

Note

- Sahyadri FPC became the first farmer producer organisation in India in November 2022 to get the license to set up a private Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) market.
- So far, the traditional agricultural produce market committees (APMCs) have played a major role in regulating the market for agricultural produce and have established a monopoly.

North East's first RRIUM in Silchar, Assam

- Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), inaugurated the Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), the first of its kind institute for Unani Medicine in North East, in Silchar, Assam.
- The state-of-the-art institute will play a vital role in the promotion of Unani medicine, a traditional medicinal practice in the Ayush system.
- The complex was developed by the National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) Limited and handed over to the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), an autonomous organisation under AYUSH Ministry.

About Assam

- Capital - Dispur
- Governor - Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister - Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Pre-Launch of International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023
- Representatives from over 60 countries attended the pre-launch celebration of the IYM 2023.
- Objective was to spread awareness about millets and engage with other nations for IYM 2023.
- In 2018, India proposed to United Nations to declare 2023 as IYM.

About Millets

- They are collective group of small seeded annual grasses that are grown as grain crops.
- Grown on marginal land in dry areas of temperate, sub-tropical and tropical regions.
- India accounts for 80% of Asia's production and 20% of global production.
- Major Millets in India: Pearl Millet (Bajra) (highest share), Jowar (Sorghum), and Finger Millet (Mandua/Ragi).
- Major producer States: Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka.

Significance of millets

- Millets are considered as superfood (foods that have a very high nutritional density).
- Do not require high-quality soil and can withstand drought.
- Short growing period.
- Ability to sequester carbon and assist in climate adaptation.

Initiatives for promotion of Millet

- **National Year of Millets** was celebrated in 2018.
- Millets notified as nutri-cereals and included under **POSHAN Mission Abhiyan**.

Himalayan yak gets food animal tag

- The Himalayan yak, a multi-purpose bovine found in high-altitude areas of the Himalayan region, has been designated as a food animal by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) based on the recommendation

from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD).

- National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) based in Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh, said his institution had submitted a proposal to the FSSAI in 2021 for considering the yak as a food animal.
- The FSSAI's recognition will help farmers rear the yak economically and open up several vistas of economic benefits for both farmers and food processors.

About FSSAI

- It is a **statutory body** established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.
- Formation - September 5, 2008
- Chairperson - Rajesh Bhushan.

Chief guest for Indian Republic Day 2023

- **Egyptian President Abdel Fateh el-Sisi** will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in January 2023.
- Both countries, **India and Egypt** are celebrating the **75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations in the year 2022**.
- Egypt and India were founding members of the movement for **non-alignment** in international affairs during the 1950s.

About Egypt

- Capital - Cairo
- President - Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- Prime Minister - Moustafa Madbouly
- Currency - Egyptian pound

Bihar launches Har Ghar Gangajal Scheme

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the Har Ghar Gangajal scheme, under which piped Ganga water will be supplied to every household, at Rajgir in Nalanda district.
- Har Ghar Gangajal scheme is a part of the Bihar government's Jal, Jivan aur Hariyali mission.
 - In the first phase, two districts of Nalanda and Gaya will be covered.
 - In the second phase, Nawada district will be covered.

About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

- JJM is envisioned to provide **safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India**.
- JJM was launched **on August 15, 2019**.
- 100 % tap connectivity are accomplished in Goa, Telangana and Haryana among the states and Puducherry, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu among the UTs (Union Territories)
- **Tamil Nadu has 39.28 % tap connectivity.**

Mahatma Gandhi's bust to be inaugurated at UNHQ

- A **bust of Mahatma Gandhi** will be inaugurated as a gift from India to the United Nations during India's presidency of the Security Council.
- It will be installed at the **headquarters in New York**.
- The bust was made by renowned Indian sculptor and Padma Shri awardee Ram Sutar, who also designed the Statue of Unity in Gujarat.

Note

- Another gift from India which is on display at the UN Headquarters is an **11th century black-stone statue of 'Surya', the Sun God**, dating from the late **Pala period**, was **donated on July 26, 1982**, by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

About UNSC

- One of the six organs of the UN.
- Formation - 24 October 1945
- Membership - 15 countries (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members)
- The permanent members are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- 10 non-permanent members are elected for a term of two years.
- India is a non-permanent member whose tenure ends in December 2022.

India's first Buddhist varsity

- The foundation stone will be laid for the **International Buddhist University at Manu Bankul in Sabroom** of South Tripura district, near **Agartala in Tripura**.
- The Dhamma Dipa International Buddhist University (DDIBU) is expected to become the first Buddhist-run university in India to offer Buddhist education.

About Tripura

- Capital - Agartala
- Chief Minister - Manik Saha
- Governor - Satyadev Narayan Arya

IIT Madras racing team develops electric racing car

- The student formula racing team of the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has developed its first electric racing car.
- The new electric car, RF23, is expected to offer a significant upgrade in terms of speed and lap time as compared to the internal combustion (IC) engine-based previous model.
- The e-racing car is expected to take off in January 2023 at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- The IIT Madras team is planning to develop a driverless race car by 2025 and participate in the 'driverless category' of Formula Student racing events.

International Gita Mahotsav

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the International Gita Mahotsav (IGM)-2022 at Kurukshetra in Haryana and launched 'Nirogi Haryana', a health checkup scheme, and an e-ticketing system of public road transport facilities.
- Nepal is the partner country, while Madhya Pradesh is the partner State for this year's edition of IGM.
- Families, with an annual income less than Rs.1.8 lakh, can avail free health check-up and treatment under the Nirogi Haryana scheme.

About the Constitution of India

- The framing of the Constitution took over 2 years, 11 months and 17 days.
- There were 299 members in the Constituent Assembly and 15 were women and when the constitution was adopted in 1949, 284 members finally signed it.
- During this period, it held 11 sessions covering 165 days, and its members submitted around 7,600 amendments to the draft Constitution.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the chairman of the Constituent Assembly.
- Dr BR Ambedkar was the chairman of the Drafting Committee of India's Constitution. He is known as the "Father of the constitution".
- Originally, the Indian Constitution had a total of 395 articles (divided into 22 parts) and 8 schedules.

Women in drafting of Constitution

- 15 women were the members of the Constituent Assembly that contributed in the making of the constitution.
- One of them is Dakshayini Velayudhan, who belonged to a marginalised community and made important interventions to protect the rights of the oppressed classes.
- Durgabai Deshmukh, Hansa Mehta, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sarojini Naidu, Vijay Lakshmi Pandit and the other women members had contributed significantly on topics related to women.

Vetrii IAS Study Circle



Vetrii IAS Study Circle



7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

SCO Heads of Government Meeting

- The **21st meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of Government** was hosted by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang virtually.
- India was represented by the External Affairs Minister Jaishankar at the meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government.
- India underlined that India need better connectivity in the SCO region built on centrality of interests of Central Asian states.

About SCO

- Formation - **June 15, 2001**
- Headquarters - **Beijing, China**
- SCO General - **Zhang Ming**
- An **eight-member** economic and security alliance comprising **China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.**
- **India and Pakistan joined SCO on June 9, 2017.**
- Iran will become the **9th member of SCO.**

Benjamin Netanyahu Becomes New Israeli PM

- The former Israeli Prime Minister (PM) Benjamin Netanyahu (Binyamin Netanyahu) (73 years old), head of the right-wing Likud party won the **25th elections of Israel's parliament (Knesset)** defeating the interim PM Yair Lapid of Yesh Atid, a centre-left political party and was elected as the New PM of Israel.

About Israel

- Capital - **Jerusalem**
- President - **Isaac Herzog**
- Currency - **New shekel**

About Benjamin Netanyahu

- He is Israel's longest-serving leader.
- Has won a record five elections to hold office (as expected) six times - more than any other prime minister in the country's 74-year history.
- He was appointed Israel's permanent representative at the UN in New York in 1984.
- In 1996, he became Israel's first directly elected prime minister.
- He was Israel's youngest leader and the first to be born after the state was founded in 1948.

Natasa Pirc Musar elected as Slovenia's first female President

- Lawyer Natasa Pirc Musar won the second round of Slovenia's presidential election and is set to become the first female President of Slovenia.
- Pirc Musar won 54% of the votes, while her rival, right-wing politician and former Foreign Minister Anže Logar, won 46%.
- Pirc Musar will succeed President Borut Pahor, a centrist politician who has served as the President for two terms.

About Slovenia :

- Currency - **Euro**
- Capital - **Ljubljana**
- President - **Borut Pahor**

World's 'Longest' Gas Supply Deal

- **Qatar and China signed the 27-year natural gas supply deal** which will be the longest gas supply deal any country ever made.
- The **China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec)** will get 4 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually from the state energy company's new North Field East project.

- The deal marks the **longest gas supply agreement in the history of the LNG industry.**
- Since Russia invaded Ukraine, European nations have become more interested in Qatar's gas, which is primarily sold to Asian nations led by China, Japan, and South Korea.

About China

- Capital - Beijing
- President - Xi Jinping
- Currency - Renminbi

About Qatar

- Capital - Doha
- Prime Minister - Khalid bin Khalifa
- Currency - Qatari riyal





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

IIT Madras, Farmers NGO Develops Cost-Effective Agricultural Transportation System to Aid Farmers

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has developed an efficient and cost-effective agricultural transportation system in collaboration with Pothu Vivasayeegal Sangam, a non-government organisation (NGO) for farmers.
- The agricultural transportation system developed by IIT Madras is a lightweight monorail type, that can economically carry agricultural produce from the fields to collection points near the farmlands.
- The cost-effective agricultural transportation research project was developed by Professor Shankar Krishnapillai, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras, in a joint effort with the farmers' NGO.
- The transport system is of a simple indigenous design, consisting of steel poles mounted on concrete footings placed at the edge of the field. High-strength, but light rails connect these posts with a span of six meters, and a traction unit powered by a petrol engine propels several trolleys carrying agricultural loads back and forth. Each of these trolleys can carry a load of about 40 kg.

Vulture rescued during Cyclone Ockhi was sent off in flight to Jodhpur

- A Cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*), which was found stranded near Asaripallam in Nagercoil town of **Kanniyakumari district** during **Cyclone Ockhi** in December 2017, is set to be released in **Keru, Rajasthan**, after nearly five years of rehabilitation and care.
- The vulture was kept in **Udhayagiri biodiversity park** in **Udhayagiri Fort** of **Kanniyakumari district** will be released into the wild from **Keru site in Machia Biological Park** with a **GPS-GSM tag** with the assistance of **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**.

Note

- Out of **nine vulture species** found in India, **four**, namely the **White-backed vulture**, **Long-billed vulture**, **Egyptian vulture** and **Red-headed vulture** are residents in places like the **Moyar valley** in the **Nilgiris** in **Tamil Nadu**. Vultures are also found in **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve**.
- IUCN Status of Cinereous vulture - **Near Threatened**.

TN launches app to ease inspection in ration shops

- State Minister for Food and Civil Supplies **R.Chakkarapani** launched an app named "TN FPS (Fair Price Shops) Inspection" for officials of the Civil Supplies department to ease the **process of inspection and to update the information about inspection to higher officials**.
- The officials who are inspecting the ration shops after completing their inspection need not ask for the records available with the ration shop workers on the stocks, but can see and update them in the app.
- The data from the app will be helpful for the higher officials and the essential food supplies that are not present in the ration shops will be sent to the particular shop immediately.
- The app was launched with the purpose of reducing the inspection time for officials.
- According to the recent order, a **Collector** has to inspect a **minimum of 10 shops per month** and the maximum number of inspections is for **Joint Registrar (PDS) and Taluk Supply Officers (SO)** is to inspect **50 ration shops in a month**.

Amaraesh Pujari posted as DGP, Prisons

- **Director-General of Police Amaraesh Pujari** has been shifted from the **Cyber Crime Wing** and posted as **DGP, Prisons and Correctional Services**, since the incumbent, **Sunil Kumar**

Singh, retires from service.

45 TN govt. school children get admission into IIT course

- Under an initiative called 'Anaivarukkum IITM' (IIT Madras for everyone), a total of 87 students from more than 20 districts in Tamil Nadu have received admissions for the **BS Degree in Data Science and Applications in IIT Madras**.
- BS Degree in Data Science and Applications, a fouryear course** that was **first introduced by IIT Madras in 2021** with the aim of making the Institute's **quality education accessible to all**.
- Anaivarukkum IITM' initiative aims to increase the number of government school students who are enrolled in our BS program.
- IIT Madras provides incomebased scholarships of up to 75% for students pursuing the BS Degree.
- Students who qualified through a collaborative effort with **Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation (TAHDCO)** will receive **full financial support from the State Government**.
- Over 15,000 students are enrolled in the programme, with the maximum number of students from Tamil Nadu, followed by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

First International Book Fair in Chennai

- School Education Minister **Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi** unveiled the logo of the **Chennai International Book Fair (CIBF)** which is planned to be held in Chennai from January 16 to 18 at Anna Library in Chennai.
- The three day event is likely to witness participation of 30 to 40 authors from at least 20 countries.
- It will be jointly organised by the **Directorate of Public Libraries, Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation**, and the **Booksellers and Publishers Association of South India (BAPASI)**.

Fair price shops in State get a makeover

- Fair price shops across Tamil Nadu will be revamped with improved facilities.

- As on October 31, of the **2,950 shops** chosen for the renovation project, **2,252** have been covered. Likewise, **3,662** shops received the **ISO 9001:2015 certification** and **930** shops got the **ISO 280002007 certification** as on **November 1**.
- There are **33,445** shops in total in the State, of which **23,973** function full time and the remaining function parttime.
- As per the renovation plan, **75 shops each have been selected in 37 out of 39 civil supplies** districts.
- The ISO certification in public distribution system means that the shops have established mechanisms to prevent adulteration or safety hazards to food items they handle and supply.

Note

- The State of Tamil Nadu follows Universal Public Distribution System where classifications such as BPL, APL, do not exist.
- Even through, the State has implemented **National Food Security Act from November 2016**, by following the pattern of supply of Rice as mandated under NFSA with protection of erstwhile scale of supply for all Rice cardholders retaining the Universal character of Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu.
- Presently** five types of smart family cards are in circulation.

Tamil Nadu to keep watch on border as Kerala begins digital resurvey of its land

- The Kerala Government has launched the **digital resurvey of its land on November 1** the Tamil Nadu government has asked its officials in the Departments of Revenue and Forest to monitor the developments in areas along the inter State borders.
- The digital resurvey assumes significance since a few claims over land remain unsettled both ways over the years and some areas in **Neyyar and Shenbagavalli** and structures like the Mullaperiyar dam in **Kerala** are under the control of the Tamil Nadu government.
- Nine districts of Tamil Nadu** — the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Theni,

Virudhunagar, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari – **share borders with Kerala**, which was part of the Madras Presidency under the British rule.

Increase in number of cases of tuberculosis

- In 2002, **77,000 new cases of tuberculosis** have been reported so far in Tamil Nadu. It is significant because there has been a **13 percent increase in the number of cases** compared to the previous year.
- Central and state governments are implementing various programs with the goal of completely eradicating tuberculosis by 2025.
- In Tamil Nadu, the **TB cure rate is increasing significantly**.
- Health department officials state that 84 percent of affected patients are cured in the first treatment, and the rest are completely cured by continuous treatments.
- Financial assistance is also being provided to provide nutrition to patients during treatment.
- 10.28 lakh people were affected by the disease across the country. 77,019 people were affected by the disease in Tamil Nadu.
- According to the official data, 60,048 people received primary treatment in government hospitals.

TB Treatment in TN

- The **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)** was started in the year 1997 and implemented in Tamil Nadu since 2002.
- Tamil Nadu is the **first state to implement nutritional support through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** under Nikshay Poshan Yojana in the country from April 2018.

Note

- TB is caused by a bacterium called **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.
- Currently, two vaccines **VPM (Vakzine Projekt Management) 1002** and **MIP (Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii)** have been developed and identified for TB which are under clinical trials.
- The World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is observed

on **24th March** every year.

- The **Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG)** vaccine is presently the **sole vaccine available for the prevention of TB**.

Crop loan disbursement to farmers

- For the first time the crop loan disbursement **has crossed Rs.10 thousand crores**. In the last financial year, 14.84 lakh farmers have been given crop loans of Rs.10,292.02 crores. So far this year, 8,44,082 farmers have been granted loans of Rs.6,341.89 crore.
- In 2022, 1,40,722 new people were added and 1,12,000 were given loans of Rs.741.78 crore.
- 1,54,847 farmers have been given loans of Rs.1022.57 crore through 697 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies in Delta districts.
- **Google Pay and Paytm** facilities have been introduced in Tamil Nadu State Chief Cooperative Bank.
- Out of 34,790 fair price shops across Tamil Nadu, 33,487 shops are under the control of Cooperative Department.

Screening programs to detect diseases

- The state health department has launched **special screening programmes for nearly nine different ailments like heart health, blood diseases, diabetes, rheumatism, cancer, infertility etc.** at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital.
- This is the first time that a separate screening programs have been introduced according to the nature of the diseases.
- There are **three standard tests** under the **master health programme**. The gold test is offered at 1,000, the **diamond scheme** is offered at 2,000 and the **platinum at 3,000**. They offer tests such as **mammograms, Dexa scan (bone density test), thyroid profiles, ECHO and HbA1c(diabetes)**.
- **Comprehensive master health check-up** was introduced in 2016 at **Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai**.
- Infrastructure and medical equipment were installed at a cost of Rs.4 crore. Disease related

special tests are available at Rajiv Gandhi Hospital.

Stalin unveils T.N. aerospace policy

- The Tamil Nadu Aerospace and Defence Industrial Policy, 2022, was released by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in a Conclave on Industry 4.0 'Future is Now Towering Tamil Nadu', held at TIDEL Park Chennai.
- It is aimed at attracting over Rs.5,000 crore investments and providing employment to over 1 lakh people over the next 10 years.
- Two centres of excellence were inaugurated in the event
 - Tamil Nadu Smart and Advanced Manufacturing Centre (TANSAM)
 - Tamil Nadu Advanced Manufacturing Centre of Excellence (TAMCOE)
- While TANSAM is a collaboration between the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) and Siemens, established at a cost of Rs.51.54 crore, TAMCOE is TIDCO's collaboration with GE Aviation, established at a cost of Rs.141 crore.
- Two remote pilot training organisations were inaugurated in Madurai and Coimbatore that are the result of TID CO's collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) and DE Drone.

The 7th World One Health Congress

- The 7th World One Health Congress (WOHC) is the world's premier event which aims to advance the One Health agenda was held at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre in Singapore with more than 1400 in-person and 1000 virtual attendees from academic institutions, civil society, government bodies, private sector and multilateral organisations around the world.
- Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore, inaugurated the Event as its Guest-of-Honour and delivered a speech.
- The five-day Congress is hosted by Singapore's SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute (SDGHI) under the auspices of the SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre.

▪ The theme of the congress is 'Integrating Science, Policy and Clinical Practice: A One Health Imperative Post-COVID-19'.

▪ It seeks to advance the global One Health movement to improve health and well-being by preventing and mitigating crises that originate at the animal-human-environment interface.

▪ Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma. Subramanian participated in the event and delivered a speech under the title, "Antimicrobial Resistance (Infectious Diseases Threats in Southeast Asia)".

'Muthu and 30 thieves', a book on Cyber Crime Awareness Released

- Chennai City Police Commissioner Shankar Jiwal released a cyber crime awareness book titled 'Muthu and 30 Thieves' (Muthuvum Muppathu Thirudargalum) at the Chennai Police Commissioner's office.
- Maheshwari, Additional Commissioner, Central Crime Branch, received the first copy.
- The book was published to create awareness about cyber crimes.

Mobile health vehicles tracked real time in T.N

- All 805 vehicles of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) and 460 Mobile Medical Units (MMU) are now being tracked in real time in Tamil Nadu.
- The Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine has put in place a GPSbased tracking system to monitor the functioning of these mobile health units from the headquarters in Chennai.
- RBSK teams need to cover all government and governmentaided schools at least once in a year, MMUs should hold 40 medical camps per month in villages.

About Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)

- It is a new initiative aiming at early identification and early intervention for children from birth to 18 years to cover 4 'D's viz. Defects at birth, Deficiencies, Diseases, Development delays including disability.

- It is important to note that the **0 - 6 years age group** will be specifically managed at **District Early Intervention Center (DEIC)** level while for **6 -18 years age group**, management of conditions will be done through existing public health facilities.

Manjappai vending machines inaugurated on HC campus

- In a first step towards making the Madras High Court campus free of the harmful single-use plastic products five Manjappai dispensing machines and two reverse vending machines for disposing plastic bottles were inaugurated in the HC Campus.

Note

- 'Meendum Manjappai' scheme was launched in **December, 2021** to promote the use of cloth bags by the public and **discourage the use of plastic bags**.
- The Tamil Nadu government banned **14 types of one-time use and throw away plastic items on January 1, 2019** and reinforced the action under the 'People's Campaign Against Throw Away Plastics' on **September 3, 2021**.
- The Union government banned the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, all across the country from **July 1, 2022**.

StartupTN launches hackathon to find solutions to issues in agri sector

- The **Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (Startup TN)** has launched a unique hackathon – '**Tamil Nadu Agri Hackathon 2022**' – to find solutions for issues in the agriculture sector.
- Agritech start-ups with commercially viable ideas will be funded with a grant of up to Rs.10 lakh.
- Through this hackathon, the government is looking for scaleable solutions in four areas.
 - The first one is about a mechanical palmyra tree climbing device.
 - The second challenge pertains to an integrated or stand-alone tapioca harvester

and cleaner.

- The remaining two challenges lie in looking for efficient point of transaction testing for agricultural commodities, and developing innovative solutions to extend the shelf life of food and other agricultural products.

Free power connections to 50,000 farmers across

- TN CM Stalin was Launching the provision of **free power connections to 50,000 farmers** across the State at a function held in **Aravakurichi**.
- Tamil Nadu is aiming to become self sufficient in power generation by 2030, with the help of various measures taken by the **Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco)**.
- TN secured the **fourth place in solar power generation, with 1,528 MW**.

New laboratory to fight leptospirosis cases

- In an effort to strengthen diagnostic facilities for **Leptospirosis**, a **Regional Leptospirosis Diagnostics Laboratory (RLDL)** has been established at the State Public Health Laboratory of the **Directorate of Public Health (DPH)** and Preventive Medicine in Chennai.
- The **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** approved the establishment of RLDL under the Programme for Prevention and Control of Leptospirosis in 2021-22.
- Leptospirosis is an acute bacterial infection, that could lead to multiple organ involvement and fatal complications due to renal and pulmonary involvement.
- The onset of the disease has been increasing in India for the past three decades.

Note

- The institute was established to function as a national centre of excellence for control of communicable diseases. The function of the institute also included various areas of training and research using multi-disciplinary integrated approach.

- The erstwhile Malarial Institute of India (MII) was renamed as NICD in 1963.

36th Convocation Ceremony of Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul

- PM Modi, TN Governor R.N.Ravi and TN CM M.K.Stalin participated in the 36th Convocation Ceremony of Gandhigram Rural Institute in Dindigul district.
- PM Modi presented honorary doctorates to music composer and maestro Ilaiyaraaja and instrumentalist Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman.
- MK Stalin gifted the PM a shawl and the English translation version of the Tamil novel "Ponniyin Selvan".

Police to use Smart Kavalar app for new beat system

- The Tamil Nadu State Crime Records Bureau is set to implement a new electronic beat system for police personnel using Smart Kavalar App across Tamil Nadu soon.
- The field policing application was developed for use by Tamil Nadu police with an objective to manage the beat activities digitally and make patrolling and field policing more efficient.
- The mobile app will record and track details of beat and other field policing and enables the officers to monitor real time the work of the constables in the allotted beat or area.
- The history sheet for the station's jurisdiction is maintained by the SHO on the app.
- Till now, police officers were required to sign patta books with date and time to confirm patrolling in their allocated beat.
- And it was the duty of senior police officials to audit the patta books at regular intervals.
- Now, the e-beat system would replace the old method. The e-beat system is expected to facilitate better policing.

New IIT-Madras tech forecasts exactly which parts of a city are set to receive showers

- IIT Madras has developed and operationalised a new regional climate model for Tamil Nadu that promises localised and accurate rainfall

forecasts for an area as specific as Chennai corporation ward.

- IIT Madras has validated the new model and is running it on the supercomputers of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAV) in Pune, which is implementing the National Supercomputing Mission. The model is run daily and the output (seven-day forecast) is shared with Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority.
- Popular global numerical models like European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts or Global Forecasting System, which are used by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), have coarser resolutions (grid size of 25 km and above).
- IMD runs the models on a larger-scale for the entire country and inherently these models are more inclined or focused on the southwest monsoon, which is the primary Indian monsoon, leaving few grey areas in the forecasting of northeast monsoon that has become more erratic in last few years and the South Peninsula Region is experiencing extreme weather events.

Screening and Detection of Diabetes

- The outpatient department for Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam organised diabetes screening and health education activities in Government Kilpauk Medical College in Chennai.
- Ma.Subramanian, the state minister of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare distributed glucometer to the beneficiaries during the event.

About Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme

- The scheme was launched by Chief Minister M.K.Stalin in Samanapalli village in Krishnagiri on August 5, 2021. The scheme was simultaneously launched in Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Chennai, Salem and Madurai with a cumulative allocation of Rs.258 crore and a targeted coverage of 30 lakh families and 1 crore population.
- The scheme will screen those above 45 years of age and others with infirmities through routine door-to-door check-ups and detect

non-communicable diseases that cause sudden mortalities and impact the quality of life.

- The scheme will hinge on women public health workers, women health volunteers (WHVs), physiotherapists and nurses, who will provide healthcare at the doorstep.

Raja Raja Chola's birth anniversary to be celebrated as state event

- The Tamil Nadu government announced that the birth anniversary of Raja Raja Chola would be celebrated as a **government event** every year on **November 3**.
- Raja Raja Cholan's birth anniversary is celebrated as '**Sadhaya Vizha**' by several organisations every year in Thanjavur district.
- The **Kalakattur Kadan Mainthan inscription** stands as evidence of the **good governance of Raja Raja Cholan**.

Note

- **Rajaraja I (A.D. (CE) 985 - 1014)** was the most powerful ruler of Chola empire and also grew popular beyond his times.
- He established Chola authority over large parts of South India. His much-acclaimed naval expeditions led to the expansion of Cholas **into the West Coast and Sri Lanka**.
- He built the famous **Rajarajeswaram (Brihadeshwara) Temple in Thanjavur**.

CM launches housing scheme for construction workers

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched a housing scheme for construction workers, who are registered members of the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers' Welfare Board.
- In the first phase, over 100 beneficiaries are to be covered under the scheme, which aims at benefiting over 10,000 construction workers annually at a cost of Rs.400 crore.
- The **Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board** was constituted to extend all possible assistance for the education of the children of the members, marriage and other welfare schemes, including the construction of houses.
- Between May 2021 and October 22, welfare assistance to the tune of Rs 322 crores was

provided to over 4 lakh beneficiaries.

- Besides, more than 771 lakh workers enrolled during this period.

Healthcare Conference 2022

- TN CM MK Stalin inaugurated the **Healthcare Conference 2022 in Omandurar Multi-Speciality Hospital in Chennai**. He stated that the reasons for institutes' and districts' poor performance will be ascertained and steps will be taken to improve the situation.
- The government plans to provide quality medical care in rural areas, and urged deans of medical college hospitals, deputy directors of health services, joint directors of health services, and other health officials to improve healthcare services.
- TN aims to reduce communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases, and improve mental health and accident and trauma care in line with Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Tamil Nadu Health and Family Welfare Department has ranked State-run healthcare institutions, and rated districts based on **17 criteria including Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), and out-patient treatment**.
- This is the first time the State has ranked primary healthcare centres (PHCs), healthcare sub-centers, district headquarters hospitals, and medical college hospitals. Tenkasi, Tirupathur, and Dindigul are at the bottom of the list, and Kancheepuram, Namakkal, and Thoothukudi districts have performed the best.

Note

- Schemes like **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam, Nammai Kakkum 48** and **Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme** have been launched in Tamil Nadu to improve the healthcare infrastructure of the State.

Tamil Chair in Houston

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handed over a cheque of Rs.2.50 crore for the setting up of a **Chair for Tamil at the Houston University in the USA**, on behalf of the **Tamil Development Department**.

- Houston Tamil Studies Chair Inc. president, Sockalingam (Sam) Kannappan and its secretary Perumal Annamalai received the cheque from the Chief Minister at the Secretariat in Chennai.

Elephant death audit framework was introduced

- Tamil Nadu's Forest Department has introduced an **elephant death audit framework** to establish a more detailed and transparent process for recording and monitoring deaths.
- It is a **first of its kind initiative in India**.
- It prescribes a systematic standard protocol for conducting post mortem to determine the reasons for death.
- It will help study the circumstances of preventable and unnatural deaths and formulate measures to avoid them.
- The baseline data will help the officials to determine whether the mortality rates of the elephant are a cause for serious concern or within acceptable limits.

Note

- There remains a lack of clarity on the natural vs. unnatural deaths of elephants and how this is affecting the population in the long term, all over Tamil Nadu for the death of elephants in the wild. The framework will help to solve this issue.

Chennai's only 'white' police station was ISO certified

- **Flower Bazaar police station** was awarded **ISO 9001:2015** and **WASH (Workplace Assessment for Safety and Hygiene)** standard certificates after independent assessment of the standards by an autonomous body.
- At 146 years old, **Flower Bazaar police station** is one of the oldest in the city. It is also the only police station, painted white, a deviation from the red colour, which has now become synonymous with stations across the State.
- It is the **fifth police station in Tamil Nadu** and the **10th in India** to get both standard certificates.

Tamil Nadu Sustainable Energy Transformation Dialogues

- In the inaugural event Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Forests and Climate Change stated that Tamil Nadu is developing its own greenhouse gas emission inventory.
- The event is organised by WRI India, Auroville Consulting and Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG).
- The steps Tamil Nadu had taken in its fight against climate change includes
- The declaration of 13 wetlands as Ramsar sites in six months, up from one
- Green Tamil Nadu Mission
- Climate Change Mission.
- Challenges discussed regarding Sustainable Energy Transformation
- The higher peak demand usually occurs during summer, especially at night when the availability of renewable energy will be lower. So the reliance on coal based power plants will be higher at such times. So the fossil fuel based power plants would continue operating to meet the peak demand in summer.
- According to a study, though the installed capacity of renewable energy was higher, the unit consumption thereof had not crossed 21%, as mandated by regulation, at the national and State levels.

- According to WRI's working paper on 'Low Emissions Analysis Platform for Tamil Nadu', which was released at the event, the State could cut its emissions by 25% - 32% if it integrated 60% of its renewable capacity.

Tamil Nadu Day event

- **Minister for Information and Publicity M. P. Saminathan** inaugurated the **Tamil Nadu Day celebrations** at the **41st India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi**.
- About 41st India International Trade Fair
- Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal inaugurated the fair.
- The fair will be held from **November 15 to 27 November**.

- The theme of the trade fair for 2022 is **"Vocal for Local, Local to Global"**.

8th State Conference of Construction Workers' Union of the All Indian Trade Union Congress

- The **Construction Workers' Union of the All Indian Trade Union Congress' 8th State Conference** took place in **Ranipet**.
- In order to improve the academic performance of children of construction workers studying 6th to 9th standard will receive a grant of Rs. 1,000 from the current year.
- In case of death of construction workers in accidents, Rs. 2 lakh will be given and Rs.5 lakh in case of death of the worker at the construction site.
- For construction workers Rs.4 lakh subsidy, Rs.400 crore has been allocated for the scheme of building houses. 103 houses have been provided in the first phase.

5,035 children children get cochlear implants under CMCHIS'

- As many as 5,035 children have undergone cochlear implant surgeries at a cost of Rs.358.44 crore under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS).
- Golden Jubilee of upgraded Ear, Nose and Throat Department at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai.
- The Department of Otorhinolaryngology was started in 1927 under the leadership of Dr. Cherian.
- In 1972, the department was elevated to the status of a Treatment Facility and the golden jubilee is being celebrated to mark 50 years.
- In 2010, the cochlear implant program was launched by the then Chief Minister Karunanidhi. It is now linked to the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.
- Various advanced treatments include all advanced tests for hearing, speech lab for computerized voice analysis, treatment center for vertigo, sleep lab, polysomnography for snoring, endoscopy test for swallowing

disorders, narrow band imaging for early detection of laryngeal cancer.

Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

- MoUs were signed with **6 industrial companies** to provide training to engineering and polytechnic students while studying under the 'Naan Mudhalvan' project.
- 1,560 students will benefit from this agreement through **6 institutions namely Mando India (Sriperumbudur), VVDN Technologies (Pollachi), Sri Kannapiran Mills Limited (Coimbatore, Madurai, Perundurai), KG Group of Mills, Lakshmi Machine Works (Coimbatore), Gabriel India (Villupuram, Hosur).**

About Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

- Launched on **March 1, 2022**.
- The scheme was launched as a skill development program for the students of Government Schools and Colleges.
- TN Government also launched the **'Kalloori Kanavu' programme** under the **'Naan Mudhalvan' initiative** which aims to guide and counsel students who have **completed Class XII**.
- Naan Mudhalvan portal was launched by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on August 29, 2022 which is aimed to get over 12.5 lakh students registered on the portal by the end of the year.

Tamil Nadu: Web page on VOC launched

- Chief minister M K Stalin launched an **internet page on freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaram Pillai** at the Tamil digital library and released the 150th birthday souvenir magazine, on the occasion of his **86th death anniversary**.
- The internet page in the Tamil digital library consists of 11 books written by him including seven editions and four translations.
- The web page also has **e-books; 20 biographic books on VOC, six centenary year souvenirs**, a compilation of essays written on him, five research books and six other books on VOC.
- Besides, the web page has 17 documentaries, seven handwritten copies and 38 other documents on the life of VOC.

- Tamil virtual academy is involved in turning **all the books on VOC into e-books.**
- In view of **150th birthday of VOC on September 3, 2021**, Stalin had announced that Tamil virtual academy will take up the task of converting all the literature on VOC into e-books.

Online Processing of Government Documents

- A project is being implemented to process all files in government departments only via online.
- More than 2.5 lakh e-files have been generated so far.
- This would result in better utilisation of manpower, thereby, avoiding delays, leading to better governance.
- It would help improve efficiency, consistency and effectiveness of Government responses; reduce turnaround times and meet the demands of the citizen charter. It will also help in providing effective resource management to improve the quality of administration; transparency and accountability; and cost-effective e-storage facilities.
- As per the e-Governance scheme, all the files will be generated in a computerized manner.
- The Tamil Nadu government is implementing e-Office applications developed by NIC (National Informatics Centre) to process all the files electronically in all government departments/ PSUs/ boards/ agencies.

TN CM reviews implementation of five major government schemes

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin chaired a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) to review the implementation of five major schemes in the State.
- The five schemes include implementation of the MPs Local Area Development Scheme, the National Health Mission, the Integrated Child Development Scheme, the National Food Security Act and the Prime Minister's Model Village Scheme.
- Procuring equipment designed by IIT Madras to avoid the death of workers while cleaning

sewers, increasing the unit cost of houses constructed under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme, renaming villages and streets with caste surnames, installing more electric crematoriums in local bodies, ensuring crematoriums for all sections of society and increasing the income slab for availing the Post Matric Scholarship were among the issues that had been raised at the meeting.

T.N. mahouts and cavadies set to train in Thailand

- **Thirteen mahouts/cavadies from the Anamalai and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves are set to visit the Thai Elephant Conservation Centre in Thailand** for training and capacity building to learn how to manage camps and look after elephants better.
- The programme will involve an expenditure of Rs.50 lakh, and tiger foundation funds will be used for the purpose.
- Tamil Nadu is already a pioneer in the rehabilitation and maintenance of captive elephants. The camps at Theppakadu in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Kozhikamuthy in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve. are some of the oldest elephant camps in the country. There are a total of 63 elephants, cared for by 37 mahouts and 28 cavadies, at these camps.
- On the occasion of World Elephant Day 2022 (12 August) Tamil Nadu notified Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve as its 5th Elephant Reserve with a total area of 1,197.48 sq.km at Agasthyamalai in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari district. This is India's 32nd Elephant Reserve. There are 5 elephant reserves in Tamil Nadu in total.
- **Other Elephant reserves are**
 - Nilgiris-Eastern Ghats - 4,663 km²
 - Nilambur Silent Valley in Coimbatore - 566 km²
 - Srivilliputhur - 1,249 km²
 - Anamalai - 1,457 km²
 - Project Elephant was introduced in 1992.

About Indian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)

- It is included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

of Flora and Fauna (CITES) and Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.

- IUCN Status - Endangered
- The Project is primarily carried out in 16 States/ Union Territories (UTs): Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal.

Revenue from stamp duty and registration goes up in the State

- Tamil Nadu accounted for 9% of India's overall revenue collection from stamp duty and registration charges in the first half of 2022~23 (H1FY2023).
- The State came third after Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, respectively, as per a study by **Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited**.
- As per the report, the overall collections grew by 35% from Rs.70,120 crore in the first half of 2021~22 to about Rs.94,847 crore in the first half of 2022~23.
- The study examined 27 States and one Union Territory (Jammu and Kashmir).
- Tamil Nadu's revenue from stamp duty and registration charges grew by 39% from Rs.6,200 crore in the first half of 2021-22 to Rs.8,662 crore in the first half of 2022-23.
- As per the provisional figures of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), Tamil Nadu has achieved 53.07% of the budgeted revenue from stamp duty and registration charges for 2022-23.
- Karnataka and Telangana have been placed fourth and fifth.

Egg export soars to 4 crores

- The number of eggs exported **from Namakkal district to Qatar** have been increased to 2.5 crore from 1.50 crore due to an increase in demand owing to the FIFA World Cup in 2023 and a cheaper price compared with Turkish eggs.
- In Namakkal district, approximately 1,100 poultry farms are functioning, and these farms produce 5.5 crore to 6 crore eggs per day. Out

of these, 1.50 to 1.75 crore eggs are sent to Kerala, 45 lakh eggs to the noon meal scheme, 40 lakh eggs to Bengaluru, and the remaining to various parts of the State and to various countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Maldives etc.

- Earlier, 1.5 crore eggs were exported to Qatar, and now it has increased to 2 crore to 2.5 crore.
- The World Cup in Qatar has tripled the demand for eggs in Qatar.

Note

- According to the **Economic Survey 2021-22, India ranks third in production of eggs** and eight in meat production in the world.
- **Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra** are the top egg producers in the country.

Tamil Nadu gets its first biodiversity heritage site

- Based on the recommendation of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board the Tamil Nadu government issued a notification declaring Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district as the first biodiversity heritage site in the State.
- The declaration had been made under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- The site comprises 139.63 hectares in Arittapatti village (in Melur taluk) and 53.58 hectares in Meenakshipuram village (Madurai East taluk).
- Arittapatti, known for its ecological and historical significance. It houses around 250 species of birds, including three important raptors – the Laggar Falcon, the Shaheen Falcon and Bonelli's Eagle. It is also home to wildlife such as the Indian pangolin, slender loris and pythons.
- The area is surrounded by a chain of seven hillocks, or inselbergs, that serve as a watershed, charging 72 lakes, 200 natural springs and three check-dams.
- The Anaikondan tank, built during the reign of the Pandiyan kings in the 16th Century, situated in the site.
- Arittapatti has been declared as a biodiversity heritage site to prevent the loss of biodiversity and preserve the cultural and architectural heritage of the bygone times.

Dream House' scheme (Kanavu illam thittam) for 10 Tamil scholars and writers

- The State government has issued orders to provide a house under the '**Dream House' scheme (Kanavu illam thittam) for 10 Tamil scholars and writers**, who have received the **Sahitya Akademi awards or Kalaiggar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award** or from the Central Institute of Classical Tamil.
- Houses would be provided either in their district of residence or in a place of their choice.
- The selected persons are:
 - G.Thilakavathi (Sahitya Akademi (SA) award, 2005)
 - Pon.Kothandaraman (Kalaiggar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil (KMKCT) Award, 2011)
 - Su. Venkatesan (SA award, 2011)
 - P.Marudhanayagam (KMKCT award, 2013)
 - Maraimalai Ilakkuvanar (KMKCT award, 2015)
 - R.Kalaikovan (Tholkappiyar award, 2015-16)
 - S. Ramakrishnan (SA award, 2018)
 - K. Rajan (KMKCT award, 2016)
 - R.N. Joe D'Cruz (SA award, 2013)
 - S. Kalyana Sun daram (SA award, 2016).

Director -General of Audit for T.N.

- Tamil Nadu is the first State to create the role of Director -General of Audit, and has hired an officer from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service for the purpose.
- The officer's responsibility would be to strengthen and streamline the functioning of internal audit departments so that they perform their functions professionally.
- The State government recognised the importance of internal audits, and had proper control mechanisms so that it could improve the efficiency of expenditure.
- The internal audit departments had been operating under the same department they were supposed to audit and there was no independence. The new post would ensure independence.

T.N. notifies police law providing for Complaints Division

- The State government has notified the Tamil Nadu Police (Reforms) Rules, 2022, which provide for a Police Complaints Division under the administrative control of the ADGP of the Crime Branch CID and under the overall control of the DGP.
- The complaints received will be referred to the division for inquiry under Sections 13 and 16 of the Act by the State Police Complaints Authority and the District Police Complaints Authority.
- The Police Complaints Division is to complete its inquiry within six months from the date of receipt of a complaint and send the report to the State Police Complaints Authority or the District Police Complaints Authority, as the case may be.
- The rules also provide for the State Security Commission, which is to meet at least once in a year.

Safe Surgery - Protocols and Checklists

- Health Minister Ma. Subramanian releasing the '**Safe Surgery - Protocols and Checklists**', a manual on safe surgery protocols and checklists which will be issued to nearly 5,000 surgical specialists in Tamil Nadu.
- It was announced that every surgery would be audited in the State. To facilitate it, four regional death audit committees will be constituted in **Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Chennai**.
- Four higher speciality doctors from surgery, medicine, anesthesia and orthopedics would be members of each committee.
- The State government had reduced the fee for foreign medical graduates to take up internship in the State from Rs.3.54 lakh to Rs.25,000 in February, 2022.

Incentives to sportspersons who won in national, global events

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handed over incentives worth ₹4.85 crore to 190 sportspersons who won medals in various national and international events.

- Athlete T. Selva Prabhu, who bagged men's triple jump silver in the World Under-20 Athletics Championships in Cali, Colombia, and Barath Sridhar, part of the Indian mixed 4×400 relay team which won silver in the same event, received cheques for ₹4 lakh each.
- S. Marees waran and S. Karthi, who was part of the Indian team that secured **bronze medal in the Asia Cup Hockey Championship 2022**, received cheques for ₹10 lakh each.
- Winners in the **International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation World Games in Sharjah in 2019**.
 - R. Balasubramanian, who secured two gold medals in the 200 metre and 100 metre athletics, received a cheque for ₹10 lakh. A. Selvaraj, who won a gold medal in javelin event received a cheque for ₹5 lakh.
 - G.Vijayarathay, who got two bronze medals in shot put and discus throw events, received a cheque for ₹4 lakh.
- TN CM also handed over incentives to **180 sportspersons** who took part in the **36th National Games 2022 in Gujarat**.

T.N. to implement scheme for persons with disabilities

- The Tamil Nadu government is planning to implement a scheme for persons with disabilities' rights, with a **financial assistance of ₹763.19 crore from the World Bank**.
- The scheme would be implemented in all districts over the next six years.
- Industrial training would be imparted to persons with disabilities by coordinating with different government agencies.
- Under the scheme, **arrangements for sign language interpreters** during important public meetings organised in Collectorates will be made.

About World Bank

- Formation - December 1945
- President - David Malpass
- Headquarters - Washington, D.C.

Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin inaugurated first of govt's five literary festivals in Nellai

- A two-day '**Porunai Literary Festival**' is being held in **Palayamkottai in Tirunelveli district**. TN CM Stalin virtually inaugurated the ceremony.
- Porunai is the first of **five literary festivals** conducted by the government of Tamil Nadu.
- The other literary festivals are **Vaigai, Cauvery, Siruvani and Chennai**.
- Porunai which is conducted on the **banks of Thamirabarani is a significant one**.
- The two-day event will see special lectures delivered by authors and literary figures.
- Archaeology is being established scientifically through various excavations and various initiatives, following Keezhadi, Sivagalai and Korkai.
- The Literary festivals are being held with the aim of taking this pride to the next generation and bringing the intellectual community to the fore.

Initiative to promote STEM education in T.N. government schools

- In a bid to encourage scientific thinking and to increase interest in science and mathematics among students, government schools across the State will form '**Vanavil Mandrams**' with a focus on STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) education.
- The School Education Department said that all 13,210-government middle, high, and higher secondary schools would initiate the forming of these STEM clubs from 2 p.m. for students of classes 6 to 8.
- To mark the beginning of this initiative, the teachers are asked to demonstrate some simple experiments in class.
- Every school has been allocated Rs.1,200 initially to buy materials for these experiments.

Permanent Walkway for the differently abled

- The country's first Permanent Walkway for Differently Aabled was inaugurated at a cost of Rs 1 crore 14 lakhs under Singara Chennai 2.0 project at Chennai Marina beach.
- Paved with eco-friendly wooden planks. The track is 263 m long and 3 m wide.
- 11 meters long and 6 meters wide ramps have been set up for the disabled to stand in between.

Small Grain Scheme Policy

- NABARD Bank has finalized the report for Tamil Nadu regarding Small Grain Scheme Policy.
- Till the last 25 years in Tamil Nadu, small grains such as millet, varaku, samaai, sorghum and sorghum and small grain crops like corn, rye and ragi were grown extensively. These were the traditional food items of Tamils.
- In recent years, the lack of acceptance of these food items among the people has decreased and the nutritional deficiencies have started to increase in the people and diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure have started to increase.
- Thus, the general public is reverting back to small grain foods.
- The Department of Agriculture has taken forward a scheme to implement the Small Grains Scheme with the financial support of Central and State Governments at Rs.12.44 crores.
- The Central Government entrusted NABARD Bank with the task of preparing the thesis for implementation of Tamil Nadu Small Grains Movement.

State's net market borrowings go down by 30.3%

- Tamil Nadu's net market borrowings (after adjusting for repayments) **have been down by about 30.3%** (₹24,403 crore) till September in FY 2022-23, from ₹35,000 crore in the same period last year, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Tamil Nadu borrows from the market through the issue of bonds known as State Development

Loans (SDLs).

- The State's gross borrowings were ₹33,000 crore till September compared with ₹39,000 crore last year. The lower borrowings reflect the improved financial performance of Tamil Nadu in the first half of 2022-23.
- As on September 30, 2022, Tamil Nadu's fiscal deficit stood at ₹18,726.32 crore and the revenue deficit at ₹4,184.10 crore.

Railways, India Post join hands to offer parcel service in Coimbatore

- **Indian Railways and India Post** have come together to offer '**Joint Parcel Product**', an **initiative to collect parcels at the doorstep of customers**.
- The service would be rolled out in Coimbatore soon.
- The programme was announced in the Union budget and it was **first launched between Surat and Varanasi on March 8, 2022**.
- Under the initiative, India Post will provide the first-mile and last-mile connectivity and station-to-station connectivity will be provided by Railways.
- The service will benefit MSMEs and various industries like spare parts manufacturers. Apart from Coimbatore, it will also benefit the textile industry in Tiruppur, Erode and Salem.

Vetrii IAS Study Circle



Vetrii IAS Study Circle