

# VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**DECEMBER 2022**



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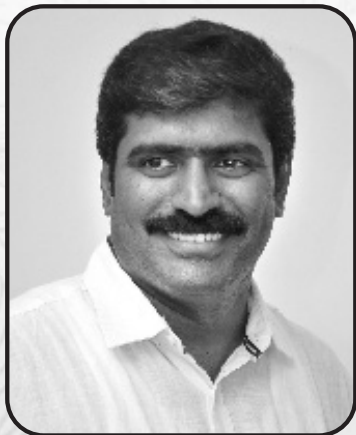
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# ***Preface***

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Director

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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 !

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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>November 30</b>	<b>Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The day is commemorated on <b>November 30</b> every year.</li><li>▪ The day aims to encourage efforts for eliminating the use of chemical weapons and remember those who have suffered because of such warfare.</li><li>▪ The <b>Chemical Weapons Convention</b> was adopted in <b>1993</b> to remember the victims of chemical warfare. It came <b>into force on April 29, 1997</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About OPCW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Formation - <b>29 April 1997</b>.</li><li>▪ Headquarters - <b>The Hague, Netherlands</b>.</li><li>▪ Director General - <b>Fernando Arias</b>.</li><li>▪ The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).</li></ul>
<b>November 27</b>	<b>National Organ Donation Day 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ National Organ Donation Day is being celebrated every year on <b>November 27</b> to commemorate the contributions made to society by deceased donors and their families.</li><li>▪ <b>India ranks third</b> in the world only <b>behind the USA and China</b> as per the data available on the <b>Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation (GODT)</b> website.</li></ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>World Organ Donation Day</b> is annually observed across the globe on <b>August 13</b>.</li></ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 1</b>	<b>World AIDS Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World AIDS Day has been observed on <b>1 December</b> every year <b>since 1988</b>.</li> <li>The International day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease.</li> <li>The acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).</li> <li>Theme for 2022 is <b>"Equalize"</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tamil Nadu stands <b>first in the National AIDS Control Organisation ranking</b> for big states for AIDS-related works.</li> <li>Tamil Nadu has bagged the <b>first rank for various programmes in AIDS control and prevention</b>.</li> <li>In Tamil Nadu, <b>0.18%</b> of the population is infected with HIV and <b>0.24% at a national level</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>December 2</b>	<b>National Pollution Control Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is observed on <b>December 2</b> every year to commemorate those who lost their lives <b>in the 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy</b> on the night of <b>December 2nd and 3rd</b>.</li> <li>A poisonous gas known as <b>Methyl Isocyanate (MIC)</b>, caused many deaths following leak from a pesticide plant.</li> <li>The individuals who did not die were exposed to cancers, blindness, loss of livelihood.</li> <li>In terms of industrial pollution disasters, the Bhopal Gas Tragedy ranks among the worst.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In India, around 7 million people die due to air pollution each year, of which 4 million are killed by indoor air pollution.</li> <li>Air pollutants are so tiny that they can pass through mucus membranes and other protective barriers to harm the lungs, heart, and brain.</li> </ul>



Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 3</b>	<b>International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)</b> is observed on <b>December 3</b> every year.</li> <li>▪ It aims to spread awareness about the rights and well-being of people with disabilities.</li> <li>▪ Theme for 2022 is ‘<b>Transformative solutions for inclusive development: The role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world.</b>’</li> <li>▪ The observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities began in <b>1992</b>.</li> <li>▪ Later in 2006, the <b>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)</b> was also adopted with an aim to work towards creating equal opportunities for persons with disabilities through the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As per statistics by the United Nations, the world population is over 7 billion people and more than one billion people, which is approximately 15 percent of the world’s population, live with some form of disability; 80 percent live in developing countries.</li> </ul>
<b>December 4</b>	<b>Navy Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is marked annually on 4th December to recognise the achievements and role of our naval forces.</li> <li>▪ The day also pays tribute to all Navy personnel who sacrificed their lives in service of the nation.</li> <li>▪ The day is observed on the anniversary of Operation Trident, which took place during the 1971 Indo-Pak War.</li> </ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 5</b>	<b>World Soil Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is celebrated every year on <b>5th December</b> and aims at highlighting the importance of soil.</li> <li>The day raises awareness about the need of managing soil resources in an eco-friendly manner.</li> <li>It encourages people to make efforts for the improvement of soil health.</li> <li>The theme for 2022 is <b>"Soils, where food begins"</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>History</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day was first recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) as an initiative in <b>2002</b>.</li> <li>In <b>December 2013</b>, the UN General Assembly responded and announced 5 December 2014 as the <b>first official World Soil Day</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Soil Health Card (SHC)</b> scheme was launched in <b>2015</b> to assess the current status of soil health, and when used over time, to determine changes in soil health.</li> <li><b>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana</b> was launched on <b>July 1, 2015</b> to prevent soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation, rainwater harvesting and recharging of the groundwater table.</li> <li>National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) launched in <b>2014-15</b> has schemes promoting traditional indigenous practices such as organic farming and natural farming.</li> </ul>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>India Armed Forces Flag Day 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>7th December</b> is observed as the <b>Armed Forces Flag Day</b> throughout the country to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought &amp; continue to fight on our borders to safeguard the country's honour.</li> <li>The nation commemorated the <b>First Armed Forces Flag Day</b> on December 7, 1949</li> <li>The Defence Minister's Committee established the <b>First Flag Day Fund in 1949</b>. The Indian Ministry of Defence combined associated welfare funds into a <b>Single Armed Forces Flag Day fund in 1993</b>.</li> </ul>



Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 8</b>	<b>55th Submarine Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Indian Navy observes Submarine Day every year on December 8.</li> <li>▪ The day marks the formation of Indian Navy's submarine arm with the commissioning of its first submarine, erstwhile INS Kalvari, on December 8, 1967 into Indian Navy.</li> <li>▪ INS Kalvari is the first Scorpene class submarine in India.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Indian Navy currently operates sixteen diesel powered submarines.</li> <li>▪ India's submarine fleet is based at two locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on the east coast</li> <li>• Mumbai, Maharashtra on the west coast.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>December 9</b>	<b>International Anti-Corruption Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day is observed globally on 9 December to raise awareness about corruption and the ways to combat this global ill.</li> <li>▪ The day seeks to highlight the role of every part of society - individuals, non-governmental organisations, law enforcement, governments and media persons – in tackling the issue of corruption.</li> <li>▪ Theme 2022 - "Uniting the World Against Corruption".</li> </ul> <p><b>History</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on 31 October 2003.</li> <li>▪ The Convention, which came into effect in 2005, is a legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument, with a majority of countries being party to the Convention.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ India's rank improved one place to 85 among 180 countries in a corruption perception index (CPI) of 2021, according to a new report by Transparency International.</li> </ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 10</b>	<b>Human Rights Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is observed every year on <b>December 10</b> to honour the day when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.</li> <li>It signifies the absolute rights to which all human beings are entitled, irrespective of any race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth or another status.</li> <li>Theme 2022-<b>"Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All"</b> and the call to action is <b>#StandUp4HumanRights</b></li> </ul>
<b>December 11</b>	<b>International Mountain Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Day is observed annually on December 11 to raise awareness of the significance of mountains.</li> <li>Conservation of the mountains is one of the major factors for sustainable development and is a part of Goal 15 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</li> <li>The United Nations adopted a document "Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development" during the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 1992.</li> <li>This led to a need for safeguarding and preserving the mountains.</li> <li>The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed December 11 as International Mountain Day in 2003.</li> </ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 12</b>	<b>Universal Health Coverage Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day is observed every year on 12 December and it marks the date to call on leaders to make smarter investments and accelerate efforts towards “Health for All”.</li> <li>▪ The Day aims at raising awareness on the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners.</li> <li>▪ Universal health coverage (UHC) lifts people out of poverty, promotes the well-being of families and communities, protects against public health crises, and moves us toward health for all.</li> <li>▪ Theme 2022 - “Build the world we want: A healthy future for all”</li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On December 12, 2012, the United Nations General Assembly had endorsed a resolution urging countries to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage (UHC).</li> </ul>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>National Energy Conservation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day is annually celebrated across India to raise awareness on limiting energy loss and showcase the achievements of India in energy efficiency and conservation.</li> <li>▪ The National Energy Conservation Day is organised by the <b>Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)</b> which operates under the Ministry of Power.</li> <li>▪ Theme 2022 : <b>Save the Planet in Style.</b></li> </ul>
<b>December 16</b>	<b>Vijay Diwas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ December 16 is a day recognised to honour the valour of soldiers who helped India emerge triumphant over Pakistan in 1971 war.</li> <li>▪ The year 2022 is the 51st anniversary of the event, which led to the creation of Bangladesh.</li> </ul>
<b>December 18</b>	<b>Minorities Rights Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Day is observed every year to create awareness among the people about the rights of minorities.</li> <li>▪ The day aims to safeguard the individual rights of the religious, ethnic, racial, or linguistic minorities in the country.</li> <li>▪ On December 18, 1992, the United Nations adopted the day as Minorities Rights Day.</li> </ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 19</b>	<b>Goa Liberation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goa Liberation Day is celebrated on <b>December 19</b> to commemorate the state's liberation from Portuguese rule in 1961.</li> <li>As part of <b>Operation Vijay</b>, the Indian armed forces used the armed forces trifecta with the help of local resistance movements to eradicate European rule from the country.</li> </ul>
<b>December 20</b>	<b>International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is observed on <b>December 20</b> to create awareness about the need to reduce poverty in independent nations and to boost the economic, social and cultural solidarity of people all over the world.</li> <li>As part of the UN's Sustainable Development agenda, 2030 IHSD is promoted by the <b>World Solidarity Fund and United Nations Development Programme</b></li> <li>On December 20, 2002, the UN General Assembly introduced a World Solidarity Fund to help counter global poverty</li> </ul>
<b>December 22</b>	<b>National Mathematics Day (NMD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is annually celebrated on <b>December 22</b> to mark the birth anniversary of renowned Indian Mathematician <b>Srinivasa Ramanujan</b></li> <li>The day is marked to recognise and celebrate the works of Srinivasa Ramanujan and highlight the importance of Mathematics.</li> <li>22nd December 2022 marks the <b>135th birth anniversary</b> of Srinivasa Ramanujan.</li> <li>It was on <b>February 26, 2012</b>, the government announced that December 22 will be observed as NMD</li> <li>The year <b>2012</b> was declared as <b>National Mathematics Year</b>.</li> </ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 23</b>	<b>National Farmers' Day, or Kisan Diwas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is celebrated on <b>December 23</b> every year to celebrate the life and achievements of the farmers and to highlight their efforts and importance to the country.</li> <li>The day also marks the birth anniversary of <b>Chaudhary Charan Singh</b>.</li> <li>He was the <b>fifth Prime Minister of India</b> (July 28, 1979 to January 14, 1980) and is known for his contributions to empowering Indian farmers.</li> <li>He was famously called as '<b>Champion of Indian Peasants</b>'</li> </ul>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>National Consumer Day or Bhartiya Grahak Diwas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Day is annually observed across India on December 24 to create awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities.</li> <li>The day also aims to commemorate the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act of 1986 (Received President's Assent on 24th December 1986)</li> <li>The day is also known as National Consumer Rights Day.</li> <li>Observed for the first time on 24th December 1986.</li> <li>Theme for 2022 - "Fair Digital Finance."</li> </ul>
<b>December 25</b>	<b>Good Governance Day or Sushasan Divas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is being celebrated on <b>December 25</b> to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee since 2014</li> <li>The day aims to create awareness amongst the citizenry, especially young people, who are the future of the country.</li> <li><b>Good Governance Day</b> acts as a reminder to the government that it should be unbiased, transparent and development-oriented.</li> </ul>
<b>December 26</b>	<b>Veer Bal Diwas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India observed the <b>first Veer Bal Diwas</b> to commemorate the martyrdom of the sons of <b>Guru Gobind Singh - Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Baba Fateh Singh</b>.</li> <li>Last week of December is observed as Shaheedi Saptah - starting with the martyrdom of <b>Guru Gobind Singh's elder sons Sahibzada Ajit Singh and Sahibzada Jujhar Singh</b>.</li> </ul>

## 1.2 PROFILE OF STATES

### 'Vanikaran' project

- The Forest department of Kerala in association with Noolpuzha grama panchayat has launched the 'Vanikaran' project.
- It is an afforestation project to root out **invasive plants**, especially **Senna spectabilis** and restore natural forests.
- It is being executed in Sulthan Bathery forest range of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Its pillars include planting saplings of Bamboo, fruit plants etc. and rainwater harvesting.
- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is an **integral part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**.

### About Kerala

- Capital - Thiruvananthapuram
- Governor - Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief Minister - Pinarayi Vijayan

### India's First and World's Second Infantry Museum

- **India's first and World's 2nd Infantry Museum and Research Centre** was inaugurated in the **Mhow cantonment in Indore district, Madhya Pradesh**.
- The museum was inaugurated on the eve of 75 years of raising of the Infantry School and to commemorate the Vijay Diwas (December 16, 2022)
- It has been set up under the aegis of **The Infantry School, Mhow**.

### Palm- leaf manuscript

- **India's first palm leaf manuscript museum** was inaugurated at the **Central Archives at a Fort in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
- Palm-leaf manuscripts are one of humanity's most ancient and widespread technologies for transmitting and preserving knowledge in written form.
- The museum will feature a rare collection of over 1 crore of palm-leaf manuscripts available with the Archives Department including administrative documents from the Venad era and political and social documents from **Travancore, Kochi and Malabar**.

- The museum will also display manuscripts featuring **ancient alphabets** including **Vattezhuthu, Kolezhuthu and Malayanma**.

### Maternity Leave to Pregnant Students

- In a first in Kerala, the Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) in Kerala has decided to grant maternity leave of 60 days to UG and PG students of 18 years and above
- The move will help the girl students continue their studies without any interruptions.
- According to the university, maternity leave can be taken before or after delivery, but will be granted only for the first or second pregnancy and only once during the duration of a course.

### Goa Liberation Day

- **Goa Liberation Day** is celebrated on **December 19** to commemorate the state's liberation from Portuguese rule in 1961.

### History

- **Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia** led the Goa liberation movement on **June 18, 1946**, with the aim of liberating Goa by gathering the people.
- **On 19 December 1961**, under the **Prime Ministership of Jawaharlal Nehru** Indian Armed Forces carried out Operation Vijay that resulted in annexation of Goa, Daman and Diu into the Indian Union
- They were constituted as a Union Territory (UT) by 12th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962.
- Later, in 1987, Goa was conferred a statehood. Consequently, Daman and Diu was made a separate UT.

### About Goa

- Capital - Panaji
- Governor - P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Chief Minister - Pramod Sawant

## 1.3 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### Yudh Abhyas 2022

- The 18th edition of Indo - US joint training exercise "Yudh Abhyas 22" was conducted in Auli, Uttarakhand.
- Exercise Yudh Abhyas is conducted annually **between India and USA** with the aim of exchanging best practices, Tactics, Techniques and Procedures between the Armies of the two nations.
- The joint exercise will also **focus on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** operations. Troops from both nations will practice launching of swift & coordinated relief efforts in the wake of any natural calamity.

### ICG commissions Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron

- The Coast Guard Region East, 840 Sqn (CG), an Indian
- Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, was commissioned by the Director General of Coast Guard VS Pathania at ICG Air Station, Chennai.
- The commissioning of 840 Sqn (CG) is indicative of the leap towards self-reliance in the field of helicopter manufacturing, in line with the government's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- It will provide a major fillip to the abilities of the Indian Coast Guard in the security sensitive waters off Tamil Nadu and Andhra region.
- The ALH Mk-III helicopters are indigenously **manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**
- The helicopters feature state-of-the-art equipment including advanced RADAR as well as Electro optical sensors, Shakti engines, full glass cockpit, high-intensity searchlight, advanced communication systems, automatic identification system as well as search-and-rescue homer.
- A total of **16 ALH Mk-III aircraft** have been **inducted into the Indian Coast Guard** in a phased manner and four of these aircraft are positioned in Chennai.

### Coastal Security Conference in Chennai

- Coastal Security Conference (CoSC) under the aegis of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) was inaugurated at Chennai.
- The heads of the Coast Guard of member countries **India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius** and observer countries- **Bangladesh and Seychelles**-participated in the conclave.
- The theme of the Coastal Security Conference 2022 is "**collaborative efforts for coastal security**".
- The **5 basic principles** to address issues of Maritime Security include
  - Legitimate maritime trade
  - Settling maritime disputes by peaceful means
  - Mitigating natural disasters & maritime threats
  - Preservation & protection of maritime environment
  - Encouraging responsible maritime connectivity for increasing maritime trade through creation of sustainable infrastructure.

### About Coastal Security Conference

- The CSC, was formed in 2011 as a **trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives**.
- The grouping is in line with **India's vision of "SAGAR: Security and Growth for all in the Region"** and now it includes Mauritius as a full-time member and Bangladesh and Seychelles as observer countries.

### B-21 Raider nuclear stealth bomber

- **Northrop Grumman Corporation (US)** has recently unveiled its new **B-21 "Raider" jet**, the first of a new class of long-range stealth nuclear bombers for the United States Air Force.
- The **B-21 Raider** will utilize cutting-edge stealth technologies for nuclear missions and long-range bombardment. The B-21 Raider aircraft will be **subsonic**. The **average speed is 563 miles per hour**.



### 39th Edition of India - Indonesia Coordinated Patrol

- The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy is being conducted from 08 - 19 December 2022.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette participated in the pre-deployment briefing at Belawan, Indonesia.
- The CORPAT will be executed along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).
- INS Karmuk, L-58 (indigenously built Landing Craft Utility vessel) and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft will be participating in the CORPAT.

#### About Indonesia

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

### Defense Logistics Industry Corridor

- To achieve the goal of self-reliant India and to achieve the goal of manufacturing in India, the Central Government has established two Defense Logistics Industrial Corridors (DICs) in the country, one in Uttar Pradesh and the other in Tamil Nadu.
- Six terminals namely Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow have been identified for development of Uttar Pradesh Defense Logistics Industrial Corridor (UPDIC).
- Similarly, five terminals namely Chennai, Coimbatore, Hosur, Salem and Tiruchirappalli have been identified for development of Tamil Nadu Defense Logistics Industrial Corridor (TNDIC).
- The government moots to create a better defense manufacturing ecosystem.
- Based on the data from the TN Government, MoUs have been signed with 53 companies for

investments of 11, 794 crore rupees in the state and have already received 3,847 crore rupees as investment.

It has been reported that 910 hectares of land has been acquired for the Tamil Nadu Defense Logistics Industry Corridor.

#### About Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy is the naval branch of the Indian Armed Forces led by the President of India as Commander-in-Chief.
- The Chief of the Naval Staff directs Indian Navy operations and administrative management from the Ministry of Defence's integrated.
- **Headquarters: Integrated Defence Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi.**
- The Indian Navy is the maritime arm of the Indian Armed Forces, with the President of India as commander in chief.
- The **Maratha Emperor, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** is considered the **Father of the Indian Navy**.
- The Indian Navy was established by the East India Company in 1612.
- Later it was named as **Royal India Navy and post-Independence**, it was reconstituted as the Indian Navy in 1950.
- **Interesting Facts about the Indian Navy**
- Earlier called the Royal Indian Navy, the naval wing of the armed forces of India was renamed the Indian Navy on January 26, 1950, as India became a Republic.
- Indian Naval Academy, **Ezhimala is Asia's largest naval academy**. Situated in Kerala, the campus occupies an area of 2452 acres, with a total perimeter of 22 km. The Academy also includes a beach stretch of 7 km.
- Indian Navy's **BrahMos missile is the fastest cruise missile in the world**.
- The **INS Arihant** is the **first ballistic missile submarine** to be built by a **nation other than the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC)**.

- IN completed an expedition to the **South Pole and the North Pole in 2006 and 2008** respectively. The Indian Navy became the **only organisation** in the world to conquer **all three poles viz. South Pole, North Pole and Mount Everest**.
- Sagar Pawan is the Indian Navy's aviation arm's aerobatic demonstration team. It is one of only two naval aerobatic teams in the world, the other being the US Navy's Blue Angels.
- The **new ensign of the Indian Navy** was unveiled on **September 2, 2022**, which is inspired by the seal of Indian emperor Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The move came to do away with the colonial past as the previous naval ensign consisted of the St. George's Cross.

### **Agni V ballistic missile with 5,000 km range**

- India successfully test fired nuclear capable ballistic missile **Agni V** from the **APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast**.
- It can strike targets at **ranges up to 5,000 km**, marking a significant boost to the country's strategic deterrence.
- Agni V can bring almost the entire Asia including the northernmost part of China and regions in Europe under its striking range.

#### **Note**

- Agni-V is a **nuclear capable Intercontinental ballistic missile** developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**

#### **About DRDO**

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

### **KAZIND – 2022**

- The **6th Edition of India – Kazakhstan** joint training exercise **"KAZIND-22"** is being conducted at **Umroi in Meghalaya** from 15 to 28 December 2022.
- The Joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted **in 2016**

as **Exercise Prabal Dostyk**, which was later upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as **Ex Kazind in 2018**.

#### **About Kazakhstan**

- Capital - Astana.
- Currency - Kazakhstani Tenge.
- President - Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
- Prime Minister - Älihan Smaiylov

### **INS Marmagao Commissioned**

- INS Mormugao, the second of four stealth guided missile destroyers being built under Project 15 B.
- It is built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL).
- It is the second of Project 15B.
- The ship, named after a key port in Goa, was commissioned a day before the 60 th Goa Liberation Day celebrations from the Portuguese Rule.

#### **About Project 15B**

- Under Project-15B, the contract for construction of four ships was signed in January 2011 at a project cost of about Rs.29,643.74 crore.
- The design of the ships has been developed by the Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd., Mumbai
- The other three ships under Project 15 B are
  - INS Visakhapatnam (commissioned in 2021)
  - INS Imphal and INS Surat are at various stages of outfitting and trials.

### **Surya Kiran**

- The 16th edition of Indo-Nepal joint training exercise "Surya Kiran-XVI" between India and Nepal will be conducted at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal), from December 16 to 29, 2022.
- The annual exercise is held with the goal of improving interoperability in jungle warfare and counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain, as well as **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR under the UN mandate)**.

- The first edition 'Surya Kiran I' India took place in **Vairengte (Mizoram) in 2011.**

#### About Nepal

- Capital - Kathmandu.
- President - Bidya Devi Bhandari
- Prime Minister - Sher Bahadur Deuba
- Currency - Nepalese rupee

#### INS Vagir

- INS Vagir is the **fifth Scorpene class** conventional submarine.
- It was delivered to the Navy by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) in Mumbai.**
- The ship is scheduled to be commissioned into service in **January 2023.**
- The **sixth and last** of the Scorpene class submarines is **INS Vagsheer.**

#### About Project 75

- Project 75 is a \$3.75-billion deal signed in **October 2005.**
- Under the project, **Six Scorpene class submarines** are being built by **MDL** under technology transfer from the Naval Group of France.
- The **six submarines** are
  - **INS Kalvari**, was commissioned in December 2017
  - **INS Khanderi** in September 2019
  - **INS Karanj** in March 2021
  - **INS Vela** in November 2021.
  - **INS Vagir** in January 2023
  - **INS Vagsheer** launched in April 2022
- Under **Project - 75I**, six more advanced conventional submarines will be launched.
- The Indian Navy currently has **15 conventional and one nuclear submarine in service.**

#### India's First anti-submarine warfare ship

- The Indian Navy launched the **INS Arnala.**
- It is the **first of eight indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** at shipbuilding facility of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) in **Kattupalli, Chennai.**
- It is built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), Kolkata, West Bengal.**

- The ship's name, "**Arnala**" honours the strategic maritime significance that was bestowed on the **Island of Arnala** by the **Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji.**

#### Note

- On **April 2019**, the **Ministry of Defence and GRSE, Kolkata**, signed a deal for the construction of eight ASW-SWC ships.

#### IAF test-fires extended range BrahMos cruise missile from SU-30MKI

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully fired the **Extended Range (ER) version of BrahMos** cruise missile.
- It was launched against a ship target from a **SU-30MKI fighter aircraft.**
- The test was conducted in the **Bay of Bengal region.**
- The test signifies a capability boost to carry out precision strikes from SU-30MKI aircraft against land/sea targets over very long ranges.
- The test gives the IAF a strategic reach and allows it to dominate the future battlefields.

#### About Brahmos:

- It is a **joint venture** between the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya**
- The missile derives its name from **Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.**
- The missile is capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface and sea-based targets. **Range - 450 kms.**

## 1.4 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

### India assumes monthly presidency of UNSC

- India assumed the monthly rotating presidency of the UN Security Council (UNSC) on December 1 for the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22.
- India had earlier assumed UNSC presidency in August 2021.
- Under India's December presidency of UNSC, there are two signature events at the ministerial level, scheduled for December 14 (Reformed Multilateralism) and December 15 (Counter-Terrorism).
- The other signature event planned is the high-level briefing on the theme "Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Global Approach to Counter Terrorism – Challenges and Way Forward", scheduled for December 15.

### 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.
- At Present, India is a non permanent member whose tenure ends in December 2022.

### India to assume Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)

- India will assume the chairmanship of the Wassenaar arrangement on January 1, 2023.
- Wassenaar Arrangement is a multilateral export control regime (MECR) that works to promote transparency and responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies through regular exchanges of information among its members.
- WA was established in 1996. It is a voluntary export control regime consisting of 42 members.

- India joined WA in 2017 as its 42nd participating state.

### Note

#### Multilateral Export Control Regimes

- MECR are voluntary and non-binding agreements. It prevents proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) which includes nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological or other weapons.

#### Other regimes under MECR includes

##### Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG), 1975:

- Prevents nuclear proliferation by implementing guidelines for nuclear and nuclear-related exports.
- India is not a member of NSG

##### Australia Group, 1985

- Ensures that exports do not contribute to development of chemical or biological weapons.
- 43 members including India and EU.

##### Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), 1987

- Prevent proliferation of missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technology capable of delivering WMD.
- It is not legally-binding treaty.
- 35 members including India.
- China is not a member of MTCR.

##### 17th Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of ILO

- The 17th APRM of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was held in Singapore to discuss national action to deal with the issue of dwindling wages of workers, inflation and unemployment in Asia, Pacific and Arab State.
- It focuses on actions to enhance job-rich growth that is inclusive and transformative.
- Meeting concludes with adoption of the Singapore Declaration.

#### Key highlights of Singapore Declaration

- Strengthen social dialogue and labour market institutions to a sustained inclusive growth.



- Ensure labour protection for all through effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
- Strengthen governance frameworks to protect rights of migrant workers.
- Strengthen foundation for social and employment protection and resilience.
- Revitalizing productivity growth and skills development with focus on digital transformation, digital divides and lifelong learning.

### **About International Labour Organisation (ILO)**

- A specialised agency of the United Nations (UN)
- Formation - 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Only tripartite U.N. agency which brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States.
- Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
- Key Reports Published by ILO are:
  - World Employment and Social Outlook
  - Global Wage Report

### **COP 15 of CBD**

- The 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- The framework has 4 goals and 23 targets that the world needs to achieve by 2030.
- Nature is critical to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.
- Adoption of a global biodiversity framework that addresses the key drivers of nature loss is needed to secure our own health and well-being alongside that of the planet.
- The framework's four overarching global goals are
  - GOAL A -increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050.
  - GOAL B - Supporting the achievement of sustainable development, for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

- GOAL C - The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge of the indigenous peoples and local communities are substantially increased by 2050.
- GOAL D - Progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

### **About Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

- CBD is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.
- CBD was signed in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entered into force in December 1993.
  - Members - 196 Parties
- The supplementary agreements to the CBD.
  - The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (11 September 2003; ratified by 173 parties)
  - Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing. (12 October 2014; ratified by 135 Parties.)

## 1.5 EMINENT PERSONS

### Remembering Tantya Bhil (Jan 26 1842 - December 4, 1889)

- Known as the **"Indian Robin Hood"**, Tantya Bhil symbolized the feelings of tribals and general masses with his indomitable courage and passion for uprooting British rule.
- Going by the British accounts of that time, he has been described as a criminal but was considered a heroic figure by Indians.
- He was popularly called **"Mama"** by people of all age groups. This address of Tantya became so popular that the Bhils still feel proud of being addressed as "Mama".

#### About his life:

- Tantya Bhil, who belonged to the **Bhil tribe of the indigenous Adivasi community**, was born in 1840 in **Badada village** under East Nimar, now known as Khandwa, in Madhya Pradesh.
- Tantya is hailed as one of the revolutionaries who waged an armed struggle against British rule for 12 years.
- As per reports, he used to plunder the treasuries of the British government and the wealth of their followers to distribute it among the poor and needy.

#### Note

- In 2021, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr. Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that the **Patalpani railway station in Indore to be renamed after Tantya Bhil**.

### Manohar Devadoss passes away

- **Manohar Devadoss** was 85 and had been battling an irreversible eye condition since he was in his 30s; he was known for his intricate ink drawings of Madurai and Chennai
- Devadoss has written several books and illustrated them.
- Padma Shri in 2020.

#### Notable Works

- Green Well Years, about his childhood in Madurai.
- From an Artist's Perspective
- Multiple Facets of my Madurai

- A Poem to Courage
- Dreams
- Seasons and Promises
- Mahe and Mano: Challenges, Resilience and Triumphs
- His last book, Madras Inked: Impressions of an Artist and an Architect, was co-authored by Sujatha Shankar.

### 141st Birth Anniversary of Subramania Bharati

- TN CM MK Stalin inaugurated Mahakavi Bharathi's memorial house and his bust in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to commemorate the 141st birth anniversary of Subramania Bharati.

### About Mahakavi Bharathiyar (11 December 1882 to 11 September 1921)

- Born in Ettayapuram in Tirunelveli district (present-day Thoothukudi)
- Worked as a journalist with many newspapers, including The Hindu, Bala Bharata, Vijaya, Chakravarthini, the Swadesamitran and India.
- Other names - Bharathi, Subbaiah, Sakthi Dasan, Mahakavi, Mundasu Kavignar, Veera Kavi, Selly Dasan.
- Notable Works - Kuyil paattu (Song of Nightingale; 1912) (குயில் பாட்டு), Kannan paattu (1917; Songs to Krishna), Panchali sapatham (1912; Panchali's Vow).

### Statue erected for Rajanarayanan.

- **Rajanarayanan**, fondly known as **Ki Ra** who popularised **black literature** ('Karisal') worldwide, passed away recently.
- The Tamil Nadu government renovated the **Edaiseval Panchayat Union Middle School** in Kovilpatti where the writer studied, without altering its architectural and heritage values and converted it into a museum in his memory.
- The museum will house his works and rare photographs to help the public and students learn about his literary skills.
- His first short story **"Mayamaan"** was published in 1959.

**About Ki.Ra**

- He was an eminent folklorist and acclaimed writer from Kovilpatti.
- Some of his popular works include
- Gopalla Grammam
- Gopallapurathu Makkal
- Mayamaan
- Nattupura Kadhai Kalanjiyam

**Awards and Honour**

- Tamil valarchi arachi mandram award - 1971
- Ilakkiya chinthanai award - 1979
- Santhome International Christian Society Best Writer Award - 1990
- Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel Gopallapurathu Makkal - 1991
- M.A. Chidambaram award - 2008
- Literary achievement special award from The Tamil Literary Garden - 2016

**50th memorial day of Rajagopalachari**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin visited the photography exhibition by the Information and Public Relations Department on the premises of Anna Centenary Library to mark the **50th memorial day of Rajagopalachari**, popularly known as Rajaji.

**About Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (December 10, 1878 to December 25, 1972)**

- He was the last Governor-General of India as India became a republic in 1950 and also the first Indian-born Governor-General of Independent India.
- In 1916, he formed the Tamil Scientific Terms Society, an organisation that translated scientific terms of chemistry, physics, mathematics, astronomy and biology into simple Tamil words.
- He became the chairperson of the municipality of Salem in 1917 and served there for two years.
- Chief Minister of Madras State from 1952-1954
- Bharat Ratna - 1955.

**Brazilian soccer legend Pelé dies at 82**

- Pelé, the **Brazilian soccer legend** who won **three World Cups** and became the **sport's first global icon**, has died at the age of 82.

**Achievements**

- His 1,279 goals in 1,363 games, which includes friendlies, is recognised as a Guinness World Record.
- Part of three FIFA World Cup
  - 1958 (Sweden)
  - 1962 (Chile)
  - 1970 (Mexico)
- Scored a total of 77 goals in 92 games for Brazil over 14 years at international games.
- In total, he has scored 655 goals in 700 games including league matches.

**Srinivasa Ramanujan**

- 135th Birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan was celebrated on December 22, 2022.

**About Srinivasa Ramanujan (22 December, 1887-April 26, 1920 )**

- He studied mathematics at **Cambridge University** and was chosen as a fellow at the prestigious Royal Society of London, United Kingdom (UK) in 1918.
- Second Indian to receive Royal Society Fellowship after Ardaseer Cursetjee in 1841.
- First Indian to be elected as a Fellow of Trinity College.
- His biography "The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan" was authored by Robert Kanigel and published in 1991.
- The biopic "The Man Who Knew Infinity" (2015) is based on his life.

**Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

- 98th Birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee was celebrated on December 25, 2022.

**About Atal Bihari Vajpayee (25 December 1924 – 16 August 2018)**

- He was an Indian politician and statesman who served three terms as the **10th Prime Minister of India**.
- First for a term of 13 days in 1996, then for a period of 13 months from 1998 to 1999, followed by a full term from 1999 to 2004.

**Political Career**

- He began his political career as a freedom fighter and took part in the Quit India movement of 1942.



- He, along with Advani and Bhairon Singh Shekhawat founded the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1980 and was appointed its first president.

### Achievements

- Conferred with the **Padma Vibhushan** for his contribution to the country in **1992**.
- The **Kanpur University** honoured him with an **Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy** in **1993**.
- In 1994, he was recognized as the best Parliamentarian.
- Conferred the **Lokmanya Tilak Puruskar** in **1994**.
- In 2015, Vajpayee was conferred the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award
- Guru Gobind Singh (1671 -1708) was the 10th Sikh Guru born at Patna Sahib, Bihar.
- He created the Khalsa Panth and fought the battles of Anandpur (1700) and Chamkaur (1704) against Mughals.
- He wrote Zafarnamah in **1705**.

### Note

- Guru Gobind Singh's **4 sons**:
  - Sahibzada Ajit Singh (1687 – 1705)
  - Sahibzada Jujhar Singh (1691 – 1705)
  - Sahibzada Zorawar Singh (1696-1705)
  - Sahibzada Fateh Singh (1699-1705)
- All four of them were executed by Mughal forces before the age of 19.

### Guru Gobind Singh

- 351st Birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh was celebrated.

## 1.6 SPORTS AND GAMES

### Vijay Hazare Trophy

- **Saurashtra** beat Maharashtra by 5 wickets in the final to win the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- **Player of the tournament** - Ruturaj Gaikwad.
- Bronze Ball - Luka Modrić (Croatia)
- The **Golden Boot or Golden Shoe award** is given to the top goalscorer of the FIFA World Cup.
  - Golden Boot - Kylian Mbappé (France) - 8 goals
  - Silver Boot - Lionel Messi (Argentina) - 7 goals
  - Bronze Boot - Olivier Giroud (France) - 4 goals

### FIFA World Cup

- The **22nd edition** of the FIFA World Cup was concluded in **Qatar**. The **mascot** for the FIFA World Cup 2022 is 'La'eeb'.
- **Argentina** won the 22nd FIFA World Cup
- Argentina won by defeating the defending champions **France 4-2 in a 'penalty shoot-out'**.
- Argentina has won the **World Cup for the 3rd time**. Previously it had won in **1978 and 1986**.
- Argentina is the **third team** to win the championship through penalty shootout. **The first team was Brazil (1994), the second was Italy (2006)**.
- **Golden Glove** - Emiliano Martínez (Argentina) (Best Goalkeeper Award)
- **FIFA Young Player Award** - Enzo Fernández (Argentina)
- **FIFA Fair Play Trophy** - England
- The **Player of the Match (POTM)** - **Lionel Messi** (Argentina)
- A cash prize of Rs.347 crore was given to the winners (Argentina). The runner up (France) received Rs 248 crore.

### Awards and Honour

- **Golden Ball Award** is given to the best player of the tournament
  - Golden Ball - Lionel Messi (Argentina)
  - Silver Ball - Kylian Mbappé (France)

### French football player Blaise Matuidi retired

- Former France midfielder Blaise Matuidi has announced his retirement from professional football.

- Matuidi won the World Cup with France in 2018 and has spent the last two years of his career at Inter Miami
- Mattudi has played 84 times for France and scored 9 goals.
- Ravichandran Ashwin is the only player to achieve this feat after former Indian captain Kapil Dev.
- Kapil Dev, Shaun Pollock, Shane Warne and Richard Hadlee were the only 5 players who had achieved the record of 400 wickets and 3000 runs in Test matches. Ashwin has become the 6th person to achieve this feat.

### New World Record

- Indian cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin has set a new record of scoring 1000 runs and crossing 400 wickets in Test Cricket.
- Ashwin became the second fastest, only behind New Zealand Richard Hadlee to reach 3000 runs and over 400 wickets in Test cricket.

## 1.7 BOOKS & AUTHORS

### Saurabh Kirpal's book was launched

- Saurabh Kirpal a senior: Advocate has recently launched his book, 'Fifteen Judgments: Cases that Shaped India's Financial Landscape'.
- The book maps out 15 judgments of the Supreme Court which had a far-reaching impact on the financial topography of the country.

## 1.8 AWARDS & HONOURS

### National Sports Awards 2022

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Sports Awards 2022 to the awardees at a function at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
- National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.
- 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.

### 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
- **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 (From TN)		
1.	Shri R. Pragganandhaa	Chess
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
1	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and young Talent	TransStadia Enterprises Private Limited
2	Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology
3	Sports for Development	Ladakh Ski & Snowboard Association
f. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2022 - Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar		

### Award for Best Schools

- Under the Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme, 18,000 classrooms and toilets will be constructed in five years at a cost of ₹7,500 crore. This year, ₹1,300 crore has been sanctioned. As many as 2,500 schools that are functioning without adequate classrooms will get priority.
- This year, Rs 1,400 crore has been earmarked for the development of the school education sector and to improve the infrastructural facilities of schools.
- In honour of the centenary memory of former Minister Anbazhagan, a statue of Anbazhagan will be installed at the Tamil Nadu Government Department of School Education Commissionerate (TPI) premises.

- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin has announced that the best schools that exhibit multifaceted development such as learning and teaching, teacher skill development, leadership and student development will be given an award in the name of former minister Anbazhagan.
- Tamil Nadu nationalized 42 books written by Anbazhagan** and gave the license fee to the family.

### **Idol Wing hands out 'NFT' medals to its personee**

- The **Tamil Nadu Police's Idol Wing** is the **first police unit in the world to mint Soul bound Tokens (SBTs)**, a non transferable form of NFTs, as 'digital medals' to motivate officers in the wing.
- Digital rewards will only augment the existing reward system and will not replace any of the existing rewards in the Police Department
- The **Tamil Nadu Police** is the **second police force in the world, after Dubai, to mint its own non-fungible tokens or NFTs to award their personnel as rewards.**

#### **Note**

- The Idol Wing CID is the **first police unit in the world to create a virtual museum (www.tnidols.com)** using augmented and virtual reality images of seized idols. The virtual museum was launched on February 27, 2022.

#### **About NFTs**

- NFTs are unique digital assets stored and corroborated **using blockchain technology.**
- Anything that can be converted into a digital form can be an NFT. Everything from drawings, photos, videos, GIFs, music, in-game items, selfies, and even a tweet can be turned into an NFT, which can then be traded online using cryptocurrency.
- Terra Nulius was the first NFT (started in 2015) on Ethereum Blockchain

### **Indian Startup Kheyti among the five winners of The Earthshot Prize**

- Indian startup **Kheyti**, which provides ground-breaking yet simple farming solutions, has been named as one of the five winners of this year's **prestigious Earthshot Prize, an**

**initiative of Prince William** that rewards each winner with 1 million pounds.

- Kheyti, won in the category Protect and Restore Nature which offers a pioneering solution for local smallholder farmers to reduce costs, increase yields and protect livelihoods in a country on the frontlines of climate change, according to the statement on the Earthshot website.
- The prize is Prince William's initiative towards driving an impetus to save the planet by funding projects that provide innovative solutions to the ongoing climate change crisis.

### **First Global Ambassador for Diabetes**

- Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, has been named the "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" by the International Diabetic Federation (IDF) at the opening ceremony of the World Diabetes Congress 2022 held in Lisbon, Portugal.
- She will be the first Global Ambassador for Diabetes.
- The title was conferred in recognition of her contribution to improving the lives of people living with diabetes.
- For the next 2 years, the global diabetes ambassador will be the voice of people living with diabetes all over the world.

#### **About PM Sheikh Hasina:**

- Sheikh Hasina served as Prime Minister of Bangladesh thrice
  - 1996-2001
  - 2009-2014
  - 2014-Present
- She is the longest-serving prime minister in the history of Bangladesh.
- In 2014, she received the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Peace Tree award for her commitment to women's empowerment and girls' education.

#### **Note**

- The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) is an umbrella organization of over 230 national diabetes associations in more than 160 countries and territories. The Federation has

been leading the global diabetes community since 1950.

### **National Police Equestrian Competition**

- **41st All India Police Equestrian Competition** was held at the **BSF Academy in Deccanpur, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Tamil Nadu Police officers who won medals and trophies in the event were felicitated by the TN CM MK Stalin.
- 18 teams from Central Armed Forces and State Police participated in the competition.
- In 2018, the Chennai Metropolitan Police Cavalry was formed for the first time as an Equestrian Team.
- It is the third time that the Tamil Nadu Police Equestrian Team is participating in the National Equestrian Competitions.
- Gold medal winners receive Rs 5 lakh, silver medal winners receive Rs 3 lakh and bronze medal winners receive Rs 2 lakh.

### **Tamizh Semmal Award announced**

- Tamil Orator and speaker Mr. Shanmugavadivel (86) has been selected for the Tamizh Chemmal Award by Tamil Development and Information Department of Government of Tamil Nadu.

### **Awards and Honour**

- Radhakrishnan Award of Chennai Kamban Kazhagam
- Natramil Nallasaan Award of Tamil Writers Association
- Muthamiz Murasu Award of Children Poetry Association.

### **Notable Works**

- Tamizh Vazhartha Saandrorgal (தமிழ் வளர்த்த சான்றோர்கள்)
- Elangovadigal in 21st century (21-ஆம் ஆண்டு நூற்றாண்டில் இளங்கோவடிகள்)
- Vaai Vittu Sirikkirar Valluvar (வாய்விட்டு சிரிக்கிறார் வள்ளுவர்)
- Thirukkural kathai amudham (திருக்குறள் கதை அமுதம்)
- Sevinugar suvaigal (செவிநுகர் சுவைகள்)
- Glory of the woman in the great Purana (பெரிய புராணத்தில் பெண்ணின் பெருமை)
- Kurundogai Nalam (குறுந்தொகை நலம்)

### **Mrs World 2022**

- Sargam Kaushal from India won Mrs World in Las Vegas, USA.
- India is winning the title after 21 years
- Previously, Actress Aditi Govitrikar from India won the title of Mrs World in 2001.

### **Note**

- Mrs World is the first contest for married women. The pageant was started in 1984.

### **NCRB awards**

- TN Police Woman Head Constable **Thangamalar Mathi** was awarded the **National Crime Records Bureau 2022**.

### **About NCRB**

- Formation - 11 March 1986
- Parent department - Ministry of Home Affairs
- Headquarters - New Delhi.
- An Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).

### **Digital India Awards (DIA) 2022**

- The **Smart Cities Mission of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has won the Platinum icon award in the **Digital India Awards (DIA) 2022** under the **Data Sharing and Use for Socio Economic Development category** for the initiative **"DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data"**.
- DIA honours innovative digital solutions by government entities in realising **Digital India vision**.
- 2022 marks the **7th edition of the Digital India Awards (DIA)**.

### **About Digital India Awards (DIA):**

- It is instituted under the aegis of **National Portal of India** to honour and encourage innovative digital solutions by government entities at all levels.
- The National Portal has been designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The Awards are presented under 7 categories

### **About DataSmart Cities (DSC) initiative**

- It was launched under the **National Urban Digital Mission (February 2021)** which



aims to harness the power of data for better governance in **India's 100 Smart Cities**.

- It uses a **three-pronged approach - People, Process, Platforms** - to imbibe a culture of data awareness and data usage in city functioning.

#### **About Smart Cities Mission**

- Launched on **June 25, 2015**.
- Responsible Ministry - Union Ministry of Urban Development.

#### **Tamil Chemmal Awards 2021**

- TN Chief Minister M.K.Stalin presented Tamil Nadu State Awards 2021 to the Tamil scholars who have made great contributions to the Tamil language.
- **38 scholars were given 'Tamil Chemmel' awards and 10 scholars were given 'Best Translator' awards for the year 2021.**

#### **The Tamil Chemmal awardees are**

- C. Siva Chidambaram (Ariyalur)
- M. Jothi (Ranipet)
- Puzhavar A. Mayazaku (Ramanathapuram)
- Muthurathanam (Erodu)
- A. Nagarajan (Cuddalore)
- Kadavur Manimaran (Karur)
- I. Duraimurugan (Kallakurichi)
- Puzhavar S. Kandasamy Pillai (Kanyakumari)
- A. Rathinakumar (Krishnagiri)
- Maanur Pugazhendi (Coimbatore)
- V. Thenappan (Sivagangai)
- MK Subramanian (Chengalpattu)
- V. Maanikaathaal (Chennai)
- I. Mohankumar (Salem)
- Aarumukaseetharaman (Thanjavur)
- Poet Kannimai (Dharmapuri)
- Durai Dhillan (Dindigul)
- K. Pattabhiraman (Tiruchi)
- V. Balasubramanian (Tirunelveli)
- Dheiva. Sumathi (Tirupathur)
- A. Lokanathan (Tiruppur)
- K. Paramasivan (Thiruvannamalai)
- S. K. Shanmugam (Thiruvallur)
- I.R. Shanmukha Vadivel (Thiruvarur)

- Poet. A. Ganesan (Thoothukudi)
- A. Sivarama Krishnan (Tenkasi)
- Theni Seerudayan (Theni)
- M. Chokkapan (Nagapattinam)
- C. Kailasam (Namakkal)
- N. Sokkalingam (Madurai)
- P. Manivanan (Nilgiris)
- S. Paulraj (Mayiladuthurai)
- A. Subramanian (Virudhunagar)
- V.K. Kasturinathan (Pudukottai)
- S. Vinodhini (Perambalur)
- M. Narayanan (Vellore)
- Late I. Ellappan (Kanchipuram)
- Late P. Vettavarayan (Villupuram)

#### **Best Translator Awardees are**

- S. Sukumaran
- S. Rajeswari
- M. Valarmathi
- R. Vivekananda Gopal
- A. S. Ilango
- V. Chandran
- R. Jamuna Krishnaraj
- Prof. Tamilselvi
- Late N. Das
- Late M. Sambathkumar

#### **Note**

- The Chemmal Award includes a reward of Rs.25 thousand, certificate of appreciation and gold medal.
- The Best Translator Awards includes a reward of Rs.2 lakh each, a certificate of merit and a gold medal.

#### **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022**

- Sahitya Akademi, announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in **23 languages**.
- 7 books of poetry, 6 of novels, 2 of short stories, 3 Play/Dramas, 2 Literary Criticism, one each of Autobiographical Essays, Collection of Articles and Literary History have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022.
- Award in Bengali language will be announced on a later date.

▪ SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD 2022

Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
Assamese	Bhool Satya (Short Stories)	Manoj Kumar Goswami
Bodo	Sansrini Modira (Poetry)	Rashmi Choudhury
Dogri	Chhe Roopak (Drama)	Veena Gupta
English	All The Lives We Never Lived (Novel)	Anuradha Roy
Gujarati	Gher Jatan (Autobiographical Essays).	Gulam Mohammad Shaikh
Hindi	Tumadi Ke Shabd (Poetry)	Badri Narayan
Kannada	Bahutvada Bhaarata mattu Bouddha Taatvika (Collection of Articles)	Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy
Kashmiri	Zael Dab (Literary Criticism)	Farooq Fayaz
Konkani	Amrutvel (Novel)	Maya Anil Kharangate
Maithili	Pen-Drive Me Prithvi (Poetry)	Ajit Azad
Malayalam	Ashaante Seethayanam (Literary Criticism)	M. Thomas Mathew
Manipuri	Leironnung (Poetry)	Kojam Shantibala
Marathi	Ujavya Sondechya Bahulya (Novel)	Praveen Dashrath Bandekar
Nepali	Saino (Drama)	KB Nepali
Odia	Dayanadi (Poetry)	Gayatribala Panda
Punjabi	Main Aynghosh Nahi (Short Stories)	Sukhit
Rajasthani	Alekhun Amba (Play)	Kamal Ranga
Sanskrit	Deepmanikyam (Poetry)	Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani
Santali	Sabaraka Balire Sanan' Panjay (Poetry)	Kajli Soren (Jagannath Soren)
Sindhi	Sindhi Sahit Jo Mukhtasar Itihas (Literary History)	Kanhaiyalal Lekhwani
Tamil	Kaala Paani (Novel)	M. Rajendran
Telugu	Manodharmaparagam (Novel)	Madhuranthakam Narendra
Urdu	Khwab Saraab (Novel)	Anis Ashfaq

**Sahitya Akademi Translation Awards 2022**

- It is a literary honour in India, presented by Sahitya Akademi given to outstanding translations of creative and critical works in 24 major Indian languages.

Language	Title of the Translation	Translator	Name of the original book, Genre, Language & Author
English	Poonachi or The Story of a Black Goat	N. Kalyan Raman	Poonachi (Novel), Tamil, Perumal Murugan
Tamil	Yaad Vashem	K. Nallathambi	Yaad Vashem (Novel), Kannada, Nemichandra



**About Kala Pani (Black Water)**

- It is a historical novel written by former IAS officer **M. Rajendrana**.
- he novel depicts the defeat and exile of **72 people**, including **Vengai Periya Udayanna Devar**, the ruler of **Sivaganga**, and **Duraisamy**, son of **Chinna Marudu**, after the **Kalayarkoil war June**.
- Deporting people to an unknown island was called **Kala Pani**, also referred to as **Theevanthira Thandanai**
- The novel was published by **Agani Publishers** in **2020**.
- The novel begins with the exile of the 72 people in a ship on **February 11, 1802**. They reached **Penang** after **62 days**.

**About Sahitya Akademi Awards**

- The Sahitya Akademi award is the **second-highest literary honour** by the Government of India, after the **Jnanpith award**.
- The award was established on **March 12, 1954**.
- Akademi gives **24 awards** annually to literary works in the languages it has recognized
- It has recognised **24 languages (22 languages enumerated in the Constitution of India, English and Rajasthani)**
- Also known as **India's National Academy of Letters**
- Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar** is given to an author based on his/her total contribution to **children literature**.
- Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar** relates to books published by an author of the age of **35 and below**.

**GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022.**

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Headquarter in New Delhi** has won the prestigious **GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022**, a top national level Green Building Award.
- UIDAI** believes and promotes the idea of recycling and reuse to reduce carbon footprint. It has been harnessing solar power to meet a portion of its energy consumption.

It is recycling and reusing water and has been adhering to sustainable waste management practices.

**About GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment)**

- GRIHA was developed by **TERI (The Energy and Research Institute)** and was adopted as a national rating system for green buildings by the Government of India in **2007**.
- It evaluates environmental performance of a building holistically over its entire life cycle, thereby providing a definitive standard for what constitutes a 'green building'.
- GRIHA is also recognized as **India's own green building rating system in India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)** submitted to **UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)**

**Breed Conservation Award 2022**

- Every year **Breed Conservation Award** is presented by the **ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research - National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resource, Karnal (Haryana))** for conserving and maintaining the registered Breeds of livestock and poultry.
- Annually four breed conservation awards will be conferred on **23rd December (Kisan Diwas)**.
- A.Sathish from Tamil Nadu** won the '**Breed Conservation Award 2022**' under the **individual category** for the conservation of over 100 indigenous dogs in his dog farm - "**Dolly's Kennel**".
- He was recognised for his efforts in conserving '**Chippiparai**', a hound variety native breed of **TN**.
- Dolly's Kennel** is situated in **K.Pothampatti village** covering the foothills of **Puthur Malai in Usilampatti in Madurai**.
- Other indigenous dogs in is farm includes
  - Rajapalayam**
  - Kanni**
  - Kombai**
  - Ramanathapuram Mandai**

## 1.9 CULTURAL PANORAMA

### Elephant-themed exhibition 'Aa Aana' in Fort Kochi

- **Aa Aana** is a month-long exhibition that will begin on **December 1 at Fort Kochi in Kerala.**
- The exhibition is a **part of 'Gajotsavam'**, a programme to raise awareness on the conservation of the elephant.
- The exhibition is organised jointly by the **Wildlife Trust of India and Whitley Fund for Nature and Cochin Collective.**
- The event is being organised as part of the **Cochin Carnival** and will showcase how elephants are celebrated in art and culture and also presented in temple rituals.

### About Indian Elephant

- IUCN Status - **Endangered**
- Indian Elephant is the **State animal of Jharkhand, Karnataka and Kerala.**
- **Karnataka has the largest number of elephants in India.**

### Silchar-Sylhet Festival 2022

- The **first ever festival** celebrating **cultural ties** between the neighbouring regions of **India and Bangladesh, Silchar-Sylhet festival 2022**, was held in Barak Valley, Silchar, Assam from **2 to December 4.**
- The festival celebrated the linguistic and cultural ties between the **Barak Valley region of Assam, India and the Sylhet segment of Bangladesh.**
- The event was organised by the **India Foundation under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture** in association with the **Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies.**
- The Silchar-Sylhet festival coincides with the **75th year of India's Independence** and the **50th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan.**

### Note

- India and Bangladesh share **4096.7 km. of border**, which is the **longest land boundary**

that India shares with any of its neighbours.

- India helped Bangladesh in its independence from Pakistan **in 1971.**
- **Rabindranath Tagore**, created the **National Anthems of both India and Bangladesh.**
- India and Bangladesh share **54 common rivers.** The Ganga Waters Treaty signed in 1996

### About Bangladesh

- Capital - Dhaka
- Currency - Taka
- President - Abdul Hamid
- Prime Minister - Sheikh Hasina

### 16th century Vijayanagara inscription near Tirupattur

- Vijayanagara inscription belonging to 16th century AD has been found near **Tirupattur.**
- The inscription has been found at Annandapatti near Tirupattur in the field study conducted by K. Mohan Gandhi, professor of Tamil Department of Sacred Heart College, and 'Kani Nilam' M. Munisamy.
- The inscription is engraved in 22 lines on the front side and 13 lines on the back side on a 3 feet high slab stone.
- This inscription was written during the reign of Vijayanagara king Venkatapati Deva Raya who ruled in the 16th century.
- This inscription is written in a mix of both Tamil and Grantha script.
- This inscription glorifies **Venkatapati Raya as Maha Mandaleshwaran and Rajathi Raja Raja Parameswaran.**
- This inscription mentions Tiruppettroor (Tirupathur) in Ail Nadu. Here Thiru means wealth.
- Currently Tirupattur is a separate district. Tirupattur has been a prosperous town for the last 500 years.
- There were **79 countries in Thondai Nadu.** Ail Nadu is one of them.

## 1.10 INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

### About 1971 Indo-Pak War

- The struggle for independence in East Pakistan started on December 3, 1971, and ended later on December 16, 1971 with the surrender of the Pakistan army.
- On December 16, 1971 the then Major-General in the Pakistan Army, **Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi**, surrendered to the joint forces of Indian Army and Bangladesh's Mukti Bahini.
- Niazi signed the '**Instrument of Surrender**' at **Ramna Race Course in Dacca** (now Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh).
- The '**Instrument of Surrender**' was signed and accepted by Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh

Aurora, the then General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of India's Eastern Command.

- As a result, Bangladesh was brought on the world map, which was until then East Pakistan.
- Bangladesh celebrates the day as '**Bijoy Dibos**' to mark the country's formal independence from Pakistan.

### About Bangladesh

- Capital - Dhaka
- Currency - Taka
- President - Abdul Hamid
- Prime Minister - Sheikh Hasina

## 1.11 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

### New Principal Accountant General for T.N.

- Senior Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS) officer **C.Nedunchezian** was appointed as the **Principal Accountant General of Tamil Nadu**.
- Mr. Nedunchezian was involved in the auditing of the Central and State government departments and also various agencies of the United Nations.
- He is a 1996 batch IAAS officer.

### New Chief Minister of Himachal Chief Minister

- **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** took oath as the 15th Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh in Shimla.

### About Himachal Pradesh

- Capital - Shimla
- Governor - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

### 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

### About IOA

- Formation - 1927
- Headquarters - New Delhi

### New Chief Minister of Gujarat

- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader **Bhupendra Patel** was sworn in by **Governor Acharya Devvrat** as the **18th Chief Minister of Gujarat** during a ceremony held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- He was sworn in as CM for the first time on September 13, 2021.

### Note

- **The Article 164** contains the following:
  - **Article 164 (1):** The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor of the state.
  - **Article 164 (2):** The Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the state.
  - **Article 164 (3):** The Governor administers the oaths of the minister.

### New chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

- Senior nuclear scientist **Dinesh Kumar Shukla** has been appointed as the **chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** for a period of three years.
- Shukla, who has been the executive director of the AERB, succeeds G Nageswara Rao.

#### Note

- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was formed to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions envisaged under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

### New Commander of Air Force Station Tambaram

- Air Commodore **Ratish Kumar** took over the **command of Air Force Station Tambaram**.

#### Note

- Air Commodore Ratish Kumar is an alumnus of National Defence Academy with vast flying experience of over 5000 hours on Sukhoi-30, Mig-21, Kiran and HPT aircrafts.
- He is a Category 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor.
- He had earlier commanded a premier Su-30MK\Squadron.

- The officer was serving as Commanding Officer of Flying Instructors School, Tambaram before assuming the current appointment.

### New Vigilance Commissioners

- **Praveen Kumar Srivastava** and **Arvinda Kumar** took oath as Vigilance Commissioners.
- They were sworn in by the **Central Vigilance Commissioner, Suresh N Patel** at the office of the Central Vigilance Commission, Satarkata Bhawan, New Delhi

### About Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

- Formation - February, 1964 based on the recommendations of the **Santhanam Committee**.
- It was given statutory status in 2003 by **Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003**
- The **CVC Act, 2003** provides for the appointment of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners.
- The tenure of the Vigilance Commissioner is **of four years** or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.



## 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

### 2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

#### Exhibition at Israel Museum

- A cultural event was organised at the **Israel Museum** where a new exhibition titled 'Body of Faith: **Sculpture from the National Museum of India**' was inaugurated.
- Recently, **India and Israel** celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic relations.
- Body of Faith draws from **three major epochs** in the history of Indian sovereignties, namely, the **Gupta dynasty (4th – 8th century CE)**, the **mid-Chola dynasty (10th –12th century CE)**, and the **Pala dynasty (8th – 12th century CE)**.
- Among the 14 sculptures of Hindu deities in bronze and stone, eight have been loaned from the National Museum and other six are taken from the Israel Museum's own collection.
- The **loaned artefacts** from the Indian National Museum include
  - Nataraja (12th Century, Chola period, in bronze)
  - Ganesha (13th century, Pala period, in stone)
  - Vishnu (11-12th century, Pala Period, in stone)
  - Ganga (8-9th century, Pala Period, in stone)
  - Brahmani (12th century, Chola period, in stone)
  - Vishnu (12th century, Chola Period, in stone)
  - Saptamatrikas (9th century, Northern India, in stone)
  - Surya (8-9th century, Chola period, in stone).
- The **display from the Israel Museum's own collection** include
  - Child Saint Sambandar (9th century, Chola period, in bronze, Shivling (Gupta period in stone)

- Agni (10th century, northern India, in stone)
- Parvati (11th century, Chola period, in stone)
- Celestial Dancer (10th century, Rajasthan, in stone)
- Chamunda (10th century, Northern India, in stone)

#### About Israel

- Capital - Jerusalem
- President - Isaac Herzog
- Prime Minister - Yair Lapid

#### India to help Sri Lanka to boost dairy production

- Sri Lanka to scale up its dairy production to become self-sufficient has sought technical assistance from **India's National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** and market leader **Amul**.
- The assistance will revive a collaboration that Sri Lanka attempted in the late 1990s, but failed to take forward.
- The former president of Sri Lanka **Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga** invited **India's "milk man" Verghese Kurien** to set up the '**Kiriya**' dairy project, named after the Sinhala word for milk.
- A \$20 million joint venture between the NDDB and Sri Lanka's MILCO was announced, but the project did not take off, in the wake of resistance from nationalist worker unions and powerful business lobbies in Sri Lanka.
- The **UN World Food Programme (WFP)** said that at least 56,000 children in Sri Lanka currently suffer from severe acute malnutrition.
- The severe acute malnutrition among children had increased to 1.4 per cent this year up from 1.1 per cent.



### First India-Central Asia meeting of NSAs

- The **first India-Central Asia Meeting** of the National Security Advisers was held in New Delhi.
- The National Security Advisor (NSA) of India **Ajit Doval presided over the meeting.**
- This is the first time India is hosting a conclave of top security officials including the National Security Advisors (NSAs) from Central Asian countries including **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** focussing on the evolving security situation in Afghanistan and ways to deal with the threat of terrorism emanating from that country.

### India - Australia ECTA comes into force

- **Economic and Cooperation Trade Agreement (ECTA)** provides an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between India and Australia and covers almost all tariff lines dealt by the two countries.
- After the **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement**, ECTA will be the second trade agreement for India that will be operationalised in 2022.

### Benefits of signing ECTA.

- Raise bilateral trade to **USD 45-50 billion** in next five years.
- Create an additional employment of at least **10 lakhs jobs in India.**
- Create opportunities for investment, promotion of start-ups.

### Key features of ECTA

- India will benefit from preferential market access provided by Australia on 100% of its tariff lines, including all labour-intensive sectors of export interest to India, such as **Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, leather, footwear etc.**
- Australia has offered wide ranging commitments in several services sub-sectors like IT, ITES, Health, **Education.**
- A separate Annex on Pharmaceutical products which will enable fast-track approval for patented, generic and biosimilar medicines.
- Covers areas like **Rules of Origin, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons etc.**

## 2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### Parliament passes Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill

- Parliament passed the Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill. The Bill would provide an effective legal instrument to combat maritime piracy.

### Key highlights of the bill

- Presently, India does not have a separate domestic legislation on piracy. Once enacted, the Bill will bring into law the **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, (ratified by India)
- The Bill provides for stringent punishment to those convicted of such crimes.
- It will apply to **all parts of the sea** adjacent to and beyond Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India, i.e., **beyond 200 nautical miles from the coastline.**

- Defines piracy in accordance with UNCLOS.

- Empowers the Central government to make Rules on subjects such as powers of arrest, investigation and prosecution, designated court and its jurisdiction, and trial of the offenses by designated court.

### Note

- UNCLOS is an **international agreement** that establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities. It was signed on **10 December 1982.**

### Winter Session 2022

- The **Winter Session of Parliament** adjourned four working days ahead of its schedule, making it the **8th consecutive session** to be adjourned ahead of schedule in the current Lok Sabha.

- According to the statistics published by the voluntary organization **PRS Legislative**, the number of parliamentary session days has decreased by half since the 1950s and 1960s.
- The winter session 2022 has been held for **13 days only**.

### Highlights:

- Lok Sabha functioned for **88% of scheduled time (of actual sitting days)**, while Rajya Sabha functioned for **94%**.
- **Seven Bills** were passed in the Session.
- Two of these were introduced in the same session. So far, in the 17th Lok Sabha, 72% of the Bills (94 of 130) have been introduced and passed in the same session.

### Note

- Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period, that is, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for re-assembly.
- The power lies with the presiding officer of the House

### EC to begin delimitation exercise in Assam

- The **Election Commission of India ECI** has initiated the delimitation process for assembly and parliamentary constituencies **in Assam**, as per **Section 8A of Representation of People Act (RPA), 1950**.
- Last delimitation of constituencies in Assam was done on the basis of 1971 census figures.
- The process will be based on Census data from 2001
- As per Section 8A of the Representation of People's Act RPA 1950, the President can order a delimitation exercise to be carried out in four North East States (NES)-Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland.

### Note

- Delimitation is the process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a state with a legislative body.
- The job of delimitation is assigned to the Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission.
- It has been constituted 4 times – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in

1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.

- Its orders cannot be questioned before any court.

- **Members :** A retired Judge of SC, Chief Election Commissioner of India, State Election Commissioner (of respective state).

### Lokayukta Bill passed by Maharashtra Assembly

- Maharashtra became the first state to pass a Lokayukta Bill that brings the Chief Minister of the state and the council of ministers under the ambit of the anti-corruption watchdog.

### Key Highlights

- Under the new bill, the Lokayukta will have the power to recommend action based on its investigation and also be able to direct the state agencies to conduct further investigations.
- It will have all the powers of a civil court i.e. the power to summon government officials.
- The Lokayukta can initiate the investigation against the Chief Minister with the prior approval of the Assembly.

### History

- The Lokayukta is the apex anti-corruption ombudsman that holds the power to investigate complaints and corruption allegations against government officials and lawmakers.
- Maharashtra is known as the first state to establish Lokayukta in 1971.

### Note

- The **National Commission for Minorities** was set up under the National Commission for Minorities Act **1992**.
- In India, **six religious communities** have been notified as minority communities - **Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Zoroastrians and Jains**.

### Minorities Rights Day

- The Day is observed on December 18 every year to create awareness among the people about the rights of minorities.

### Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 30(1)** – Right of all religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice



- **Article 30(2)** – Freedom of minority-managed educational institutions from discrimination in the matter of receiving aid from the State.

### **National Consumer Day or Bhartiya Grahak Diwas**

- The Day is annually observed across India on December 24 to create awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities.

#### **About the Consumer Protection Act, 2019**

- The Consumer Protection Bill of 2019, was passed by Parliament in 2019.
- It replaced the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
- Rights of the consumers recognised under the Act are
  - Right to information
  - Right to protection against goods and services that can be dangerous to life and property.
  - Right to be protected from unfair or restrictive trade practices.
  - Right to access a variety of goods and

services at competitive prices.

- Right to redressal.

#### **Remote EVM**

- The Election Commission (EC) made an announcement regarding the development of a prototype of a multi constituency remote electronic voting machine (RVM) to enable remote voting by migrant voters.
- The machines can handle multiple constituencies from one remote booth.

#### **About ECI**

- It is a constitutional body **under Article 324**.
- The body administers **elections** to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, State Legislative Councils and the offices of the President and Vice President of the country.
- Chief Election Commissioner of India - Rajiv Kumar
- Election Commissioners of India
  - Anup Chandra Pandey
  - Arun Goel

## **2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY**

### **Medicine kit under Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme**

- A total of 99,717 medicine kits in 15 zones under the Greater Chennai Corporation were distributed under the **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam** scheme.

#### **About Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme**

- Launched by CM MK Stalin on 5th August 2022 in Samanapalli village in Krishnagiri district and 7 other districts (**Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Chennai, Salem and Madurai**)
- 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**.
- The scheme will hinge on women public health workers, women health volunteers (WHVs),

physiotherapists and nurses, who will provide healthcare at the doorstep.

### **Innuir Kappom - Nammai Kaakkum 48' Scheme**

- 1.31 lakh people benefited under the Innuir Kappom - Nammai Kaakkum 48' Scheme.
- 500 accident prone places in Tamil Nadu have been identified under the scheme.
- The scheme is implemented through 679 hospitals (232 government hospitals, 447 private hospitals) located near those places.
- The government spends up to Rs 1 lakh through the insurance scheme for treatment provided immediately within 48 hours of the accident.
- So far 1,31,164 people have benefited under this scheme and Rs.116 crore has been spent.

### About 'Innuir Kappom - Nammai Kaakkum 48' Scheme

- The scheme was launched on **December 18, 2021 in Melmaruvathur.**
- The scheme aims to reduce the loss of life in road accidents by providing free treatment up to 48 hours after the accident in government and private hospitals
- The government will bear the cost of emergency medical treatment for two days for those injured in road accidents.

### PM SVANidhi extended

- The Centre has extended the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme beyond **till December 2024.**

### About PM SVANidhi

- PM SVANidhi is a **Central Sector Scheme.**
- It was launched with an objective to provide affordable working **capital loan up to ₹10,000 to Street Vendors** for facilitating resumption of their livelihoods adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Targets to benefit over 50 lakh Street Vendors.
- Implementing partner **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).**

### Sanitation Workers' Development Schemes

- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin inaugurated the **Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme** to protect the **welfare of conservancy workers in the State.**
- A mobile application was launched to help identify and collect census data of sanitation workers as part of the scheme.
- The scheme will be implemented on a pilot basis in select local bodies.
- Under the scheme, steps will be taken to
  - Ensure that the workers benefit from various government welfare schemes
  - Provide them the necessary training to gain skills essential in mechanised cleanliness drives Ensure that they get pension and insurance
  - Ensure that their children have access to proper education, among other measures

- The sanitation workers will also be encouraged to start alternative businesses and be supported in their endeavor through loans.

### Cancer Cases on the rise in India

- Based on the data from the **National Cancer Registry Program**, the central government has announced in the Lok Sabha that the number of people suffering from cancer in the country **will increase by 12.8 percent this year.**
- The **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)** offers financial aid to low-income patients from families that are below the poverty line who have serious life-threatening illnesses and need medical care at one of the super specialty hospitals or institutes or other public hospitals.
- Under the **Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (a component of RAN)**, Rs.216. 98 lakh was utilised for 40 beneficiaries as on December 5, 2022, in the 2022-23 fiscal.
- During the previous fiscal year, 64 beneficiaries received Rs.585.05 lakh, while 196 patients received Rs.1,573 lakh in 2020-21 and 470 patients received Rs.2,677.08 lakh in 2019-20.

### Government schemes for cancer patients

- Cancer treatment under the **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.**
- High-quality generic drugs at affordable price under **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**
- **Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT)** pharmacy stores
- Free or subsidized treatment in government hospitals
- Funding for poor patients through **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)**

### Infrastructural Development for Cancer Treatment

- Cancer Treatment Facilities in all 22 AIIMS Hospitals.
- Development of cancer treatment facilities in 13 State Government Medical Colleges-Hospitals.
- 20 Tertiary Cancer Care Centers (TCCCs)
- 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCIs)

- The establishment of the **National Cancer Institute in Jhajjar (Haryana)** and the second campus of the **Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata**

### **TB Elimination in India by 2025**

- The **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**, previously known as **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)**, aims to strategically reduce TB burden in India by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- In 2022, from January to October 20.16 lakh people were infected with TB (Tuberculosis) and 73,551 people died from the disease.
- According to the **Global TB Report 2022**, the incidence of TB in the country has decreased by 18 percent.
- In 2015, 256 out of 100,000 people in India were affected by the disease, while last year it was 210 out of 100,000.
- The central government plans to eliminate tuberculosis in the country by 2025 through measures such as state-district level program in areas where the incidence of tuberculosis is high. The screening for tuberculosis is done among weak and those suffering from other diseases.
- According to the statistics of the states, 1,864 primary health centers and 8,327 sub-health centers are functioning as **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers in the country**.
- States and Union Territories have been directed to convert 1.50 lakh rural and urban primary health centers in the country into Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.

#### **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.

### **PARAVAI Programme launched**

- Greater Chennai City Police launched the **PARAVAI (Personality and Attitude Reformation Assistance Venture for Affirming Identity)** programme.
- The programme focuses on the **reformation of first time petty offenders in the 18–24 age group** and their reintegration into society, thereby preventing them from turning to a life of crime.
- PARAVAI programme is a six stage process flow, wherein the young offenders are followed up on from the time they are arrested and lodged in the Saidapet sub jail and subsequently released on bail.
- The programme was officially launched in April, 2022.
- The Neighbourhood Police Officers (NPOs) nominated for each Assistant Commissioner range are tasked with ensuring that the youth undergo the six-stage process.

### **Sanitary Napkin Scheme**

- Under **Nirbhaya Fund**, Chennai corporation is to supply free sanitary napkins for corporation school students of classes VI-XII at a cost of Rs 4.67 crore
- Under the initiative 'Kanniyam' the sanitary napkins are distributed to promote menstrual hygiene management in corporation schools.
- Under the **Nirbhaya Niti, Girl Child Safety Scheme** in Chennai schools, a scheme to provide sanitary napkins to girl students from classes 6 to 12 was launched.
- Under this scheme, sanitary napkins will be provided to 25,474 girl students studying in Chennai Corporation schools.
- 20 sanitary napkins will be provided to the girl students every 2 months at the rate of 10 sanitary napkins per month.
- Under the scheme, 26.59 lakh sanitary napkins will be provided to schools in Chennai every year.

#### **Note**

- Nirbhaya Fund was an Indian rupee 10 billion corpus announced by the Government of India in its **2013 Union Budget**.

- 'Nirbhaya Fund' for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country.

### **'Namma School' scheme was launched**

- TN Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the **Namma School Foundation**, an initiative of the school education department.
- The scheme aims to **improve infrastructure facilities at government schools** in the state by attracting investments via CSR (Corporate social responsibility) Funds.
- The initiative aims at creating a web page for each school in which they could update details about teacher-student ratio, number of buildings, classrooms and lab facilities among others.
- This will help corporations and individuals (alumni) to identify the schools that need funds.
- In the first phase, details of 100 schools that are randomly selected will be uploaded on the page.

### **TN launches mental health helpline and support forum for students**

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the **MaNaM Initiative (Mananala Nallaadharavu Mandram - Mind Health Support Forum)**.
- The forums will be created in all the **government medical colleges** to offer **counseling programmes** to improve students' mental health.
- The programme will be extended to all colleges and schools.
- The helpline 14416 was also introduced to reach out to psychiatrists at government medical colleges.

### **Cabinet approves distribution of free food grain till December 2023**

- The Cabinet approved the decision to make distribution of ration free for 81.3 crore poor for one year under **National Food Security Act, 2013**.

### **About NFSA, 2013**

- The **National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013** was passed on July 5, 2013

- Upto **75% of the rural population**, as well as **50% of the urban population**, are legally entitled to receive subsidised food grains through the Targeted Public Distribution System

- Schemes such as the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)**, the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**, and the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** are included under the Act.

- The Act covers two-thirds of the entire population under two categories of beneficiaries:

- Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households
- Priority Households (PHH)

- The Act entitles 35 kg of food grains per AAY Household per month, whereas 5 Kg of foodgrain per PHH Person per month.

### **Note**

- Meanwhile, the government decided not to extend the free ration scheme **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**.
- **PMGKAY** was launched during the lockdown in **April 2020**, and was scheduled to end on December 31, 2022.
- Under **PMGKAY**, five kg of foodgrains were distributed for free for the poor were distributed for **28 months**.

### **Mental health helpline receives 20k calls in two months**

- The **International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB)** reported that **Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (MANAS) toll free 24/7 number (14416)** received over 20,000 calls since its launch.
- The **Top five States/UTs** from where maximum number of calls were received are

- Tamil Nadu - 3,631
- Maharashtra - 2,125
- Madhya Pradesh - 1,892
- Jammu and Kashmir - 1,338
- Telangana - 1,056

### **About Tele - MANAS**

- An initiative of the **Health Ministry**.
- Launched on October 10 on World Mental Health Day.



- The initiative aims to open at least one Tele-MANAS cell in each State/U.T.
- National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) was appointed as the nodal center for the helpline
- IITB has been providing technical support for the initiative.
- It is based on the Karnataka government's e-Manas service, which was launched during the first wave of COVID-19.
- Capturing of attendance through **NMMS is compulsory at worksites where 20 or more workers** are employed under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGREGS).

#### About NMMS

- It is a mobile application which was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2021.
- It aims to bring more transparency, and ensure proper monitoring of schemes.
- It permits taking real time attendance of workers at MGREGS worksites along with geo-tagged photographs.

### e-HRMS (Electronic- Human Resource Management System)

- **Revamped e-HRMS 2.0 Portal** was launched by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**.
- **e-HRMS** was introduced by **DoPT** to facilitate a digital working environment, and streamline Human Resource services for Government employees.
- Revamped portal was launched because the e-HRMS launched earlier was limited in scope, where employees could avail limited services and it was not connected with other HR applications.
- **Revamped e-HRMS 2.0 is the first digital system in Government of India** to provide end-to-end HR Services.
- It will also save several thousand man-hours and tonnes of printing paper.

### Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSC)

- Indian Railways is planning to **modernise 1,000** small yet important stations under ABSC.
- It aims to identify developing cities with potential and envisage railway stations as city centres that would link not just various parts of the city but also between different cities in future.
- Modernisation of stations will be done in a cost-effective manner and a special fund will also be armarked with divisional railway managers (DRMs).
- Redevelopment will be done under **"Khurda (Station in Odisha) model of redevelopment"**.

### National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS)

- Centre has made digital capturing of MGNREGA attendance universal from January 1, 2023 through NMMS.

### 2 key initiatives to upgrade Urban Rejuvenation

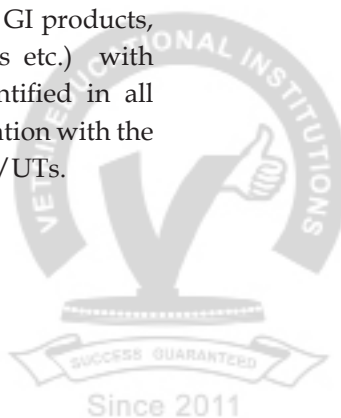
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches 2 key initiatives - 'City Finance Rankings, 2022' and 'City Beauty Competition' to upgrade India's Urban Rejuvenation journey to next level.
- **City Finance Rankings**
  - Launched to evaluate, recognize and reward ULBs on the basis of their strength across key financial parameters.
  - The rankings aim to motivate city/state officials and decision makers to implement municipal finance reforms.
  - The participating ULBs will be evaluated on 15 indicators across three key municipal finance assessment parameters, namely:
    - Resource Mobilization
    - Expenditure Performance
    - Fiscal Governance.
- **City Beauty Competition**
  - Aims to encourage and recognize the transformational efforts made by cities and wards in India to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces.
  - Wards and public places of cities would be judged against the five broad pillars
    - accessibility
    - amenities
    - activities
    - aesthetics and
    - ecology

### One District One Product Scheme

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry informed that ODOP initiative is operationally merged with 'Districts as Exports Hub (DEH)' initiative.
- ODOP initiative is aimed at fostering balanced regional development across all districts of the country.
- It focuses on the district as a unit for converting into a manufacturing and export hub by identifying products with export potential in the district.
- ODOP was launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- Under the 'Districts as Export Hubs Initiative', products and services (including GI products, agricultural clusters, toy clusters etc.) with export potential have been identified in all districts of the country in consultation with the stakeholders including the States/UTs.

### Government to turn 36,428 villages as 'model tribal villages'

- The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs planning to develop 36,428 villages with at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs across the country into 'model tribal' villages.
- The efforts were part of the existing Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Scheme (SCA to TSS), which has now been renamed to the Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY), for implementation from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The project will cover as many as 4.22 crore tribal people in the country, which comprises around 40% of the total ST population in India.







# 3. GEOGRAPHY

## 3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

### Himalayan medicinal plant species

- Three Himalayan medicinal plant species have been added to the IUCN Red List.
- *Meizotropis pellita* (Critically Endangered): Endemic to Uttarakhand. Oil extracted from leaves possesses strong antioxidants and can be a natural substitute for synthetic antioxidants in pharmaceutical industries.
- *Fritillaria cirrhosa* (Vulnerable): Used in treatment of bronchial disorders and pneumonia.
- *Dactylorhiza hatagirea* (Endangered): Used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and other alternative systems of medicine to cure fever, cough etc.

### About IUCN

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Formation - October 5, 1948
- Headquarters - Gland, Switzerland

### Single window system for Green Initiative

- A single window system will be used to approve green initiatives through '**Guidance TN**' in the State.
- It will play a major role in making Tamil Nadu a **trillion dollar economy by 2030**.
- Tamil Nadu is focusing on climate literacy to create awareness on climate change among school and college students.
- The government planned to raise Rs.1,000 crore towards a Green Climate Fund, and the State government had contributed Rs.100 crore to it.

- A Climate Change Mission was also launched.

### About Guidance TN

- **Guidance Tamil Nadu (formerly Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau) is the investment promotion agency** of the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- It is constituted to reach out to prospective investors and make them invest in the state of Tamil Nadu.

### About Climate Change Mission

- The Mission aims to protect the natural resources in the state besides restoring them on a long-term basis.
- The mission will ensure that the state shall achieve carbon neutrality much ahead of the 2070 target set by India.
- The state is first to launch its own Climate Change Mission to make Tamil Nadu a climate smart state.

### Since 2019, TN allows quarrying near reserve forest

- TN government has rescinded the prohibition of quarrying and mining activities within one kilometre radius of reserve forests.
- As per a government order issued by Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department in 2021, prohibition of mining, quarrying and crushing activities within one kilometre radial distance from the boundaries of Reserve Forests were prohibited
- Based on this, an amendment has been made in **Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959** which removed 'reserve forests' from the line "national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves, elephant corridors and reserve forests".

### **Invasive mussel in Ennore and Pulicat**

- **Mytella strigata** or **Charru mussels** is an invasive mussel species **native to South America**.
- The species is spreading in the coastal waters of Tamil Nadu and Kerala due to the discharge of ballast waters from ships visiting the ports of **Kattupalli and Ennore**.
- The South American Mussel is locally known as kakka aazhi.
- Its spread is threatening the existence of the locally prevalent yellow clams (manja matti) and green mussels (pachai aazhi).

### **Nilgiri Tahr conservation project launched**

- The Tamil Nadu government launched an initiative for the **conservation of the Nilgiri Tahr** at a cost of Rs.25.14 crore.
- Nilgiri Tahr is designated as the **State animal of Tamil Nadu** in recognition of its ecological and cultural significance.
- Under the Nilgiri Tahr project, the government plans to
  - Develop a better understanding of the Nilgiri Tahr population through surveys and radio telemetry studies
  - Reintroduce the Tahrs to their historical habitat
  - Address proximate threats
  - Increase public awareness of the species.
- The project is to be implemented from **2022 to 2027**.
- The funds for the project are to be provided by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
- The Government announced that October 7 will be celebrated as 'Nilgiri Tahr Day' in honour of E.R.C. Davidar, who was responsible for pioneering one of the first studies of the species in 1975.

### **Challenges in the conservation of the Nilgiri Tahrs**

- Potential local extinction due to highly fragmented populations
- Invasion of exotic species into the habitat
- Forest fires

- Overexploitation of forest resources
- Lack of ecological data and understanding.

### **Historical References**

- References are found in Tamil Sangam literature dating back to 2,000 years with reference to Nilgiri Tahr.
- The late Mesolithic (10,000-4,000 BC) paintings highlight the significance of the Tahr in folklore, culture and life.

### **About Nilgiri Tahr**

- It is an **endangered species** and the **sole Caprinae species** found in the tropical mountains of southern India.
- The animal inhabits meadows with steep cliffs at elevations between 300 metres and 2,600 metre above sea level.
- It is estimated that there are **3,122 Nilgiri Tahrs** in the wild.
- Found mostly in **Western Ghats (around Kerala and Tamil Nadu)**
- It has become **locally extinct in around 14%** of its traditional shola forest grassland habitat.

### **U.N. recognises Ganga project among 10 initiatives restoring natural world**

- The **10 global environmental initiatives** which aim to restore more than 68 million hectares including **Ganges River Rejuvenation project from India** were declared as World Restoration Flagships, under the banner of the **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**.
- United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a global movement coordinated by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the **UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)**.
- was launched in 2014 as Namami Ganga Initiative.

### **About The Ganges River Rejuvenation project**

- **Namami Gange Programme**, is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in **June 2014** with budget outlay of Rs.20,000 Crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation

and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

▪ Main pillars of the Namami Gange Programme are:-

- Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure
- River-Front Development
- River-Surface Cleaning
- Biodiversity
- Afforestation
- Public Awareness
- Industrial Effluent Monitoring
- Ganga Gram

**First ever butterfly survey conducted in Mudumalai reserve**

- The **first Butterfly Survey** was conducted at the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)** (688.5-sq.km)
- The survey was conducted by the TN Forest Department with the assistance of the Nature and **Butterfly Society (TNBS), Coimbatore** and the **Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF-India)**.
- The survey revealed that MTR is home to 175 species of butterflies.





## 4. ECONOMICS

### 4.1 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT SECTOR

#### **GST Council keeps tax rate same, but defers key reforms**

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council met over video conference under the chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- Important decisions taken at the council
  - Decision to scrap the 5% GST levy on a cattle feed ingredient – husk of pulses
  - Reduction of the levy on ethyl alcohol used by refineries to blend with petrol to 5% from 18%
  - Extending the 5% tax levy for ethyl alcohol, allowed for oil marketing companies to blend with petrol, to refineries will further reduce our dependence on imported crude and save the foreign exchange.
  - Decriminalisation of petty GST offenses.
  - Doubling of threshold limits of tax amounts for initiating prosecution from Rs.1 crore to Rs.2 crore for all offences other than those involving fake invoices.
  - The compounding amount under certain offenses has been reduced from 50% to 150% of the amount, to 25% to 100% of the amount involved
- However, the decisions would take time to implement as States would have to amend their respective GST legislations, while the Centre would include these changes in the Finance Bill of 2023-24.

#### **About GST:**

- GST was launched on July 1, 2017 through 101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016 by amending the Article 279A

- 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%.

#### **About GST Council**

- It is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
- It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

## 4.2 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

### GDP growth dips to 6.3% as manufacturing slides

- **Manufacturing and mining output contracted** year on year in the July - September quarter, dragging Gross Value Added growth to a slower than expected 5.6%, which together with high inflation and weak exports combined to slow overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to a 6.3% pace, as per **estimates released by the National Statistical Once**.
- The April to June quarter of 2022 fiscal had witnessed **GDP growth of 13.5%**, with **GVA expanding 12.7%**.
- 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%.

### November GST revenues rise 11%

- India's gross GST revenues were ₹1,45,867 crore in November 2022, **11% higher than** a year ago, but nearly 4% below October's collection.
- Revenues from import of goods were 20% higher while domestic transactions, including import of services, yielded 8% higher taxes than November 2021.
- State GST collections in November accounted for ₹32,651 crore of revenues, while the Integrated GST was ₹77,103 crore, including 38,635 crore collected on import of goods.
- GST Compensation Cess collections were at ₹10,433 crore, factoring in ₹817 crore collected on import of goods — marginally lower than the ₹10,505 crore collected in October 2022.
- **Six States recorded a contraction** in revenues in November, **including Gujarat, Rajasthan and Kerala (-2%), Punjab (-10%), Himachal Pradesh (-12%) and Goa (-14%).**
- The World Bank has released the **India Development Report titled 'Navigating the Storm'**.
- The World Bank raised its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India during the current financial year (FY23) **to 6.9 per cent from 6.5 percent**, citing the economy's relative resilience to external headwinds, and a strong out-turn in the second quarter of the current financial year.
- After three downgrades in its 2022-23 GDP growth estimates, Bank reverses course, citing strong Q2 growth and strong demand at start of Q3; report lauds strong macroeconomic fundamentals.
- Previously, the World Bank had cut India's FY23 GDP forecast to 6.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent in October 2022, which came in the wake of a series of growth downgrades by rating agencies, investment banks and other multilateral institutions.

### World Bank raises India's growth projection to 6.9%

#### About GST:

- GST was launched on July 1, 2017.
- GST has 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.

#### About World Bank

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

### RBI increase repo rate 35 bps

- India (RBI) raised the **policy repo rate by 35 basis points (bps) to 6.25%**, downshifting



gears from consecutive increases of 50 bps, and scaled down GDP growth hopes for the year to 6.8% from 7%.

- A 100 basis points equals one percentage point.
- The central bank retained its inflation projection for 2022-23 at 6.7%, noting that inflation will ease but stay well above the 6% upper tolerance limit set for the RBI.

### **First Payment Gateway to support Credit cards on UPI**

- Razorpay becomes India's First Payment Gateway to support credit cards on Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- Razorpay in partnership with Axis Bank announced its readiness to support Credit Card Transactions on UPI.
- Earlier, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the linking of RuPay credit cards to BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) UPI app.
- BHIM is a payment app that allows simple, easy and quick transactions through UPI.
- Benefits: No need to carry credit cards for payments, strengthen digital payments and boost India's credit penetration.
- Currently, only 6% Indians have access to credit cards.
- In a similar development, RBI will introduce 'single-block-and-multiple debits' feature on UPI platform.
- Under this, customers will create payment mandates against a merchant by blocking funds in their bank account for specific purposes which can be debited, whenever needed.
- Benefits: Improve ease of making payments for online shopping, build trust among consumers etc.
- RBI also announced an expansion of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to include all payments and collections.
- BBPS is a one-stop ecosystem for all recurring bills with multiple features (see image).

### **About UPI**

- UPI is a real-time payment system, launched in 2016 by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It links multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application
- NPCI is an initiative of RBI and Indian Banks Association under Payment and Settlement Systems Act (2007). It is an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

### **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme**

- The RoDTEP scheme has been extended to chemicals, pharma, iron & steel. The RoDTEP scheme is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It refunds exporters the embedded duties/taxes that are not rebated under other schemes. This includes VAT on fuel used in transportation, mandi tax, duty and electricity used during manufacturing.
- The RoDTEP scheme replaces the earlier Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) which violated provisions of WTO by giving export subsidies for a wide range of goods.

### **Wholesale price inflation fell to 5.85% in November**

- According to the data released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, India's wholesale inflation measured by the wholesale price index (WPI) eased to a 21-month low of 5.85 per cent in November from 8.39 per cent in September.
- The decline in rate of inflation in November, 2022 is **primarily contributed by fall in prices of food articles, basic metals, textiles, chemicals & chemical products and paper & paper products** as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.

### **Note**

- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) represents the price of goods at a **wholesale stage** i.e. goods



that are sold in bulk and traded between organizations instead of consumers. WPI is used as a measure of inflation in some economies.

- India uses **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** to measure inflation.

### India's direct tax collection grows 26% to ₹13.63 lakh cr for FY23

- According to the Income Tax Department of India, India's gross direct tax collections for the financial year 2022-23 have registered a growth of 25.90%.
- The gross collection stands at ₹13,63,649 crore as of 17 December 2022. Last year, in the corresponding period it was at ₹10,83,150 crore.
- The Budget had estimated a direct tax collection of ₹14.20 lakh crore this financial year, higher than the ₹14.10 lakh crore collected last fiscal (2021-22).
- The largest share in Net Direct Tax collection is of Corporation Tax then Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Security Transaction Tax (STT) constitutes the rest.

### Note

- A direct tax is a tax that a person or organization pays directly to the entity that imposed it. Example: income tax, real property tax, personal property tax, or taxes on assets.

### \$13 bn FDI in non-conventional energy sector

- India's Domestic non-conventional energy sector has received over **USD 13 billion** through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) route in the **last 22 years**.
- **100 percent FDI through automatic route** is allowed for the promotion of solar power generation in the country.
- Non-conventional sources of energy include solar, wind and other renewable sources.
- As per the country-wise details of FDI/equity inflow during the period April, 2000 to September, 2022, India received USD 13.034 billion as offshore investment.
- The **top contributor is Mauritius**, followed by the **United Kingdom, Singapore, Netherland and UAE**.

## 4.3 REPORTS AND INDICES

### Climate Investment Opportunities in India's Cooling Sector

- The report titled, "**Climate investment opportunities in India's cooling sector**" was released by the **World Bank**.

#### Key Highlights of the Report

- **From 2030, 160 million to 200 million people** will be exposed to lethal heat waves in India every year, and nearly **34 million Indians** will face **job losses due to heat stress** related productivity decline.
- **By 2037**, the demand for cooling is likely to be **eight times more than the current level**.
- India should deploy alternative and innovative energy efficient technologies for keeping spaces cool which could open an **investment opportunity of \$1.6 trillion by 2040**, besides reducing greenhouse gas emissions significantly and **creating 3.7 million jobs**.

- There will be a demand for a **new air conditioner every 15 seconds** in the coming years.

- The report proposes a road map to support **New Delhi's India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), 2019**, through new investments in **three major sectors: building construction, cold chains and refrigerants**.

- It proposed enacting a **policy for "district cooling"**. District cooling technologies generate chilled water in a central plant which is then distributed to buildings via underground insulated pipes. This brings down the cost for providing cooling to individual buildings.

#### About World Bank

- Formation - December 1945
- President - David Malpass
- Headquarters - Washington DC

## Global Wage Report 2022-23

- Report, by **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, presents an analysis of how concurrent crises - COVID-19 pandemic followed by cost-of-living crisis - have impacted wages and purchasing power across countries and regions.

### Key highlights of the Report

- Rising inflation is causing real wage growth to dip into negative figures in many countries thereby reducing purchasing power.
- On average, Wage employees **lost six weeks of wages due to COVID-19 crisis**.
- Low wage earners, workers in the informal economy and women wage earners group suffered most.

## India Inequality Report 2022 : Digital Divide released by OXFAM India

- It is an annual report to highlight ongoing inequality crises in the country.
- The 2022 report highlights the extent of digital divide in India and its impact on essential services such as education, health and financial inclusion.
- Oxfam India is a non-profit organization working to support child education, empowering women & fighting against inequality in India.

### Key highlights of report

- 61% of men owned mobile phones in 2021**, compared to just **31% women**.
- Only **31% of the rural population** uses the Internet compared to **67% of their urban counterparts**.
- Use of computer devices has decreased (post-COVID) in rural areas. Likelihood of a digital payment by the richest 60% is four times more than the poorest 40% individuals, households, businesses
- Maharashtra** has the **highest internet penetration**, while **Bihar** has the lowest.

### Recommendations to bridge digital divide

- Improve internet availability in rural and hard-to-reach areas through community networks and public Wi-Fi/ internet access points.

- Government needs to improve affordability by investing in digital infrastructure, bringing a strong regulatory framework and lowering taxes on computers and phones.
- Conduct digital literacy camps, especially in rural India, and digitize panchayats and schools.
- Grievance redressal mechanism to handle EdTech and Healthtech related complaints.

### Note

- Digital divide refers to "the gap between and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels with regard to both their opportunities to access information and communication technologies (ICTS) and to their use of the internet for a wide variety of activities.
- This is different from the State of Inequality in India Report released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

## Renewable Energy (RE) Report 2022

- Report was released by **International Energy Association (IEA)**.

### Key findings of the report

- RE will comprise 90 percent of global electricity capacity expansion in next five years and much of it will be in India.
- RE's installed power capacity addition will grow to 2,400 gigawatts (GW) between 2022 and 2027.
- With addition of 145 GW, India is forecast to almost double its renewable power capacity over 2022-2027.
- Solar photovoltaic accounts for three-quarters of this growth, followed by onshore wind (15 percent) and hydropower providing rest of it.

### About IEA

- Formation - 1974
- Members - 31 (India not a member)
- Headquarters - Paris, France

## World Bank's Report released

- The World Bank's flagship "Toolkit on Enabling Gender Responsive Urban Mobility and Public Spaces in India" was released.

- This toolkit will bridge knowledge gaps between policy making and program implementation for gender-responsive urban mobility and public space in India.
- It details **four-pillar implementation framework** for urban bodies
  - Assess the Ground Situation
  - Strengthen planning and policies
  - Build Capacity and Raise Awareness
  - Improve Infrastructure and Services
- Need for gender-responsive urban mobility
  - Women are amongst the biggest users of public transport across Indian cities.
  - On average, 45.4% women walked to work compared to 27.4% men.
  - Lower income groups have higher usage of public transport.
  - Urban mobility systems are often not designed to account for gender-based differences in mobility patterns. Lack of safe public transport deters women from accessing promising opportunities.
  - It also deters women from stepping out, creating a vicious cycle that lowers their presence in public spaces.
- **Initiatives** taken to gender-responsive urban mobility
  - **Integrated Sustainable Urban Transport Systems for Smart Cities (SMART-SUT)** focus on improving transportation systems and integrating social and gender equity solutions.
  - Delhi Government has made public transport free for women in the national capital.
  - Kerala's all women cab service '**She taxi**'.
- Recommendations
  - Introduce digital ticketing systems and common mobility cards.
  - Introduce a text-based SOS system to indicate distress and awareness campaigns for popularising helpline numbers.
- According to the report, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted attempts to control malaria, resulting in 63,000 more deaths and 13 million more infections globally over the last two years.
- The report offers in-depth information on the latest trends in malaria control and elimination at global, regional and country levels.
- The report highlights progress towards global targets and describes opportunities and challenges for curbing and eliminating the disease.

### **Key highlights of the Report**

- **Malarial Deaths** : High-burden malaria countries maintained a strong fight against the disease in 2021 despite the Covid-19 pandemic, with cases and deaths stabilising.
- While deaths came down to 619,000 in 2021 from 625,000 in the first year of the pandemic, it remained higher than the pre-pandemic level of 568,000 deaths in 2019.

### **Trend of Malaria Cases**

- As for Malaria cases, the **upward trend** continued but at a slower rate – 247 million cases in 2021, compared to 245 million cases in 2020 and 232 million in 2019.
- Among the 11 high-burden countries, **five – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, India, Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania** – recorded a decline in deaths.

### **Report by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and KPMG.**

- The report titled '**Metaverse and web 3.0 opportunities in India - Nurturing Tamil Nadu's growth ambitions through nextgen technologies**' was released by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and KPMG.
- According to the report, a thriving and a vibrant culture has been noticed across the broad spectrum of new age technologies, including **Metaverse, Web 3.0, Blockchain and others in Tamil Nadu.**

### **World Malaria Report 2022**

- The report was published by the **World Health Organization (WHO).**

- The report pointed out that all major Information Technology (IT) companies in Tamil Nadu are **focusing on Metaverse and Web 3.0 technologies via metaverse design, development, testing and support services.**
- Metaverse, Web 3.0 and related technologies will help propel the overall GSDP of the state and help Tamil Nadu achieve its target to become a \$1 trillion economy by 2030.
- Public feedback will help the Corporation to know where it is lagging and improve its management and it will play an important role in helping Chennai in the 2022 national rankings.
- It has been informed that Rs.5,000,000 prize money will be given to the person who shares the most posts related to Chennai Corporation and Chennai Smart City.

### Global Wage 2022-2023 Report

- Note**
- The **i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) hub, India's first Emerging and DeepTech Innovation Network**, is expected to be launched in early 2023.
  - **Metaverse is a hypothetical iteration of the Internet** as a single, universal and immersive virtual world that is facilitated by the use of virtual reality and augmented reality headsets.
  - **Web 3.0 Technology** is an idea for a **new iteration of the World Wide Web** which incorporates concepts such as decentralization, blockchain technologies, and token-based economics.
  - The report "**Global Wage Report 2022-23: The impact of COVID-19 and inflation on wages and purchasing power**" was released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO)
  - According to the report, it is estimated that the global monthly wages fell in real terms to minus 0.9 percent (-0.9%) in the first half of 2022.
  - This is the first time in a century that the real global wage growth has been negative.
  - In Asia and the Pacific, real wage growth increased to 3.5% in 2021 and slowed down in the first half of 2022 to 1.3%.

### Key Findings:

- Among advanced G20 countries, real wages in the first half of 2022 are estimated to have declined to minus 2.2% and the real wages in emerging G20 countries grew by 0.8%, 2.6% less than in 2019.
  - The rising inflation has a greater impact on the cost of living on low income earners because they spend most of their disposable income on essential goods and services.
  - Inflation also affects the purchasing power of minimum wages.
  - The reports highlight the need to apply well-designed policy measures to maintain the purchasing power and living standards of wage workers and their families.
- About ILO**
- Formation - April 11, 1919.
  - Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
  - Director General - Gilbert Houngbo (Togo)
  - Awards - Nobel Peace Prize (1969)
  - Indices
- Ease of Living Index 2022**
- **Ease of Living Index of Indian cities** is published every year by the **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Governance.**
  - The EoL is an assessment by the ministry based on the quality of life, economic ability of a city and its sustainability and resilience and the municipal performance index (MPI) to assess the performance of various cities.
  - The assessment also incorporates residents' views on the services provided by the administration through a Citizen Perception Survey. The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) urged people to take part in the Ease of Living 2022 (EoL), a citizen perception survey and ensure that Chennai emerges on top of other Indian cities.
  - Citizens can provide feedback on the cities they live in at <https://eol2022.org/CitizenFeedback%2c>.



## India Skills Report 2023

- It was released by **Wheebox in partnership with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** and others.
- It examines the strategic overview of India's Skills and Talent Economy by 2030.
- **Key Highlights of the report**
  - India's employable workforce has increased **from 46.2 % to 50.3 %**.
  - **52.8 %** of the **women workforce** are **employable**, higher than the 47.2 % of employable men.
  - Although, little over 33% of women were working, **the ratio of men to women** indicates that more **men are employed** than women.
  - Significant **skills gap** exist in the fields of **data science, cloud computing, healthcare, and finance**.
  - Soft- skills such as adaptability and flexibility, problem-solving, stress management, etc. will become non-negotiable for every job position.
  - The report has recommended to instill the required vocational and skill development programs in our secondary, high secondary, and undergraduate education.
- Government Initiatives for Skill Development
  - National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015.
  - Skill India Mission 2015.
  - PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (2015) for recognition and standardisation of Skills.
  - Initiatives to boost Skill India Mission.
  - Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP - January 19, 2018)
  - Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)

## Coal 2022: Analysis and forecast to 2025

- It is an **annual report of International Energy Agency (IEA)** which offers a thorough analysis of recent trends in coal demand, supply, trade, costs and prices.

## Key highlights

- Global coal use is set to rise by 1.2% in 2022, surpassing 8 billion tonnes in a single year for the first time.
- India, along with China, is world's largest coal producer, consumer and importer. India's coal production will **surpass a billion tonnes by 2025 and will surpass China**.
- Its coal consumption has doubled since 2007 at an **annual growth rate of 6%**.

## About IEA

- Formation - 1974
- Members - **31 (India not a member)**
- Headquarters - Paris, France

## GLASS Report 2022

- Global antimicrobial resistance and use surveillance system (**GLASS) report, 2022** was released by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**
- WHO launched the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) in 2015. It is the first global collaborative effort to standardize AMR surveillance.
- In 2015 WHO launched the Global Action Plan to tackle **AMR (GAP-AMR)**. The goal of **GAP-AMR** is to foster Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) surveillance and inform strategies to contain AMR.
- The report summarises global AMR and Antimicrobial Consumption (AMC) data to date.
- The report shows high levels (above 50%) of resistance were reported in bacteria frequently.

## Note

- AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat.
- Government of India has taken following initiatives to increase awareness about antibiotics misuse:
  - ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) has initiated antibiotic stewardship program (AMSP) on a pilot project basis in 20 tertiary care hospitals across India to control misuse

and overuse of antibiotics in hospital wards and ICUs.

- ICMR worked in collaboration with Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries and the DCGI to ban use of Colistin as growth promoter in animal feed in poultry.
- **National action plan on containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR)** focusing on One Health approach was launched in **April 2017**.
- **AMR Surveillance Network:** ICMR AMR surveillance and research network (AMRSN) comprising 30 tertiary care hospitals, both private and government, to generate evidence and capture trends and patterns of drug resistant infections in the country.
- **AMR Research & International Collaboration:** ICMR develops new drugs/medicines through international collaborations in order to strengthen medical research in AMR.

### Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts

- Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts is prepared by the **Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative**.
- SPI measures a country's social progress at the **national and sub-national levels** (district and local level)
- The index assesses states and districts based on **12 components across three critical dimensions** of social progress - Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity.
- The index uses **89 indicators at the state level and 49 at the district level**.
- Based on the SPI scores, states and districts have been ranked under six tiers of social progress
- The tiers are
  - Tier 1: Very High Social Progress
  - Tier 2: High Social Progress

- Tier 3: Upper Middle Social Progress
- Tier 4: Lower Middle Social Progress
- Tier 5: Low Social Progress
- Tier 6: Very Low Social Progress.

▪ Tamil Nadu ranked **highest in Opportunity dimension** with the score of **72.00**

▪ Puducherry topped in two Components, Personal Freedom and Choice and Access to Advanced Education

▪ Overall SPI score

State	SPI	Rank
Puducherry	65.99	1
Lakshadweep	65.89	2
Goa	65.53	3
Sikkim	65.10	4
Mizoram	64.19	5
Tamil Nadu	63.33	6

### IGX launches India's First Gas Price Index

- The **Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)** launched **GIXI** which is the first ever, nationwide price index to reflect benchmark natural gas prices for India.
- The index has been developed with the purpose to derive a single price for the country in line with international benchmarks.
- The Price Index was introduced in line with the Central Government's vision of achieving 15% share of natural gas in India's energy mix.
- Established in 2020, the **IGX is India's first automated national-level gas exchange** for the physical delivery of natural gas.
- The gas trade takes place at multiple delivery points, such as - **Dahej, Hazira, Ankot, Mhaskal, Bhadhbhut, Dabhol, KG Basin, and Gadimoga**. It covers **six regional gas hubs**, namely, the western hub, southern hub, eastern hub, central hub, northern hub, and northeastern hub across India.



## Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by RBI

- FSR is a **bi-annual report** that reflects risks to **financial stability** and the **resilience of the Indian financial system**.
- Based on the inputs from all financial sector regulators, it reflects the overall evaluation of the Sub Committee of Financial Stability and Development Council.

### Key highlights of the Report

- Gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) fell to a seven-year low of 5.0%
- **Net NPA (Non Performing Assets)** have dropped to ten-year low of 1.3% in September 2022.
- Buoyant demand for bank credit and early signs of a revival in the investment cycle.

### Note

- **Global Financial Stability Report** is released by the **International Monetary Fund**.

## RBI releases Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2021-22

- The report is a statutory publication in compliance with **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The report presents the performance of the banking sector, including co-operative banks and non-banking financial institutions.

### Key Highlights of report

- Consolidated balance sheet of **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** registered double digit growth in 2021-22, after a gap of seven years.
- **Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of SCBs** has declined from 9 percent in 2017-18 to 5.8 percent at end-March 2022.
- Financial performance of urban co-operative banks showed **improvement**.

- **Non-banking financial company (NBFC) sector** improved in 2021-22. With strong capital buffers, adequate provisions, and sufficient liquidity,
- The reasons for declining NPA include Loan write-off by PSBs (public sector banks) Upgradation of loans in PVBs (private banks), reduced Share of large borrowings

## Road accidents in India 2021 report

- It is an annual report based on parameters of road accidents like the **number of accidents, fatalities, fatal accidents, injuries**, etc. by the ministry of road transport and highways

### Key Highlights

- **Road accidents decreased by 8.1 % and injuries decreased by 14.8 %** in 2021 compared to 2019.
- **Fatalities, however, on accounts of road accidents increased by 1.9 percent** in 2021 corresponding to the same period in 2019.
- **In 2020**, there is an **unprecedented decrease in accidents, fatalities**, and injuries due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Uttar Pradesh** accounted for the **largest share of fatalities** at 13.8% followed by Tamil Nadu (10%).

### Initiatives for road safety

- **The Road Safety Programme** funded by the **World Bank** for capacity building of states.
- **Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD)** system for analysis of road accidents data to enhance road safety.
- **National Road Safety Board** under Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- **Scheme for District Driving Training Centres**.
- **Awards for outstanding work in the field of Road Safety**.
- India is a signatory to **Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety (2015)**.

## 4.4 MONEY & BANKING

### Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched Retail Digital Rupee

- RBI released the central bank digital currency (CBDC)- digital rupee or e-rupee - for retail customers and merchants.
- Earlier, RBI launched digital rupee in the wholesale segment to settle secondary market transactions in government securities.
- Initially, **four banks** will be involved in controlled launch of digital currency namely, **SBI, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, and IDFC First Bank in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar.**
- These banks will issue digital tokens in the same denominations as paper currency, which can be used to make and receive payments.
- This is an **Indirect model of CBDC.**

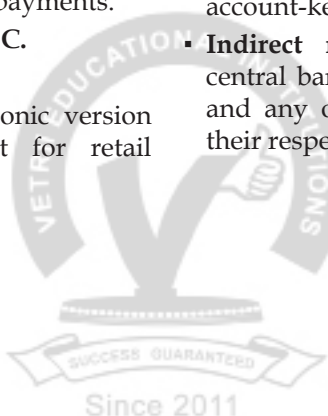
### About Retail e-rupee

- Retail e-rupee will be an electronic version of cash and primarily meant for retail transactions.

- It will be potentially available for use by all i.e., private sector, non-financial consumers and businesses.
- It will provide access to safe money for payment and settlement, as it will be a direct liability of the central bank.
- CBDC or Digital rupee is a **legal tender issued by RBI in digital form.**
- It is the same as fiat currency and exchangeable one-to-one with fiat currency.

### Model for Issuance and Management of CBDC

- **Direct model (Single Tier model)** where the central bank is responsible for managing all aspects of the CBDC system viz. issuance, account-keeping and transaction verification.
- **Indirect model (Two-Tier model)** where central bank and other intermediaries (banks and any other service providers), each play their respective role.





## 5. SCIENCE

### 5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### **Bharat Biotech's nasal COVID vaccine as booster**

- Health Minister Mansukh Mandavkar announced that **nasal vaccine iNCOVACC** would henceforth be available for public use as **booster dose**.
- The vaccine is co-developed by **Hyderabad Bharat Biotech** and the U.S. based **Washington University**, was approved in November 2022, for '**restricted emergency use**' for those aged 18 or older.
- The appointments for the nasal vaccine would be available via the **CoWIN website**.

#### **Vainu Bappu Observatory (VBO)**

- The **Vainu Bappu Observatory** celebrated

its **50 years anniversary** since its inception in 1972.

- It is an **astronomical observatory** owned and operated by Indian Institute of Astrophysics.
- Located at Kavalur in the **Javadi Hills**, near **Vaniyambadi in Tirupathur district**
- Stellar discoveries of the 40-inch telescope at VBO were highlighted at its 50-year celebration.
- Telescope was set up in **1972 by Professor Vainu Bappu**.
- It is credit with discoveries like presence of rings around planet Uranus, new satellite of Uranus, presence of an atmosphere around Ganymede which is a satellite of Jupiter.

### 5.2 NEW SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES

#### **M Centre for Responsible AI at IIT-M**

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** has received a grant of \$1 million to set up a new multidisciplinary centre for research and development on responsible artificial intelligence.
- The Centre for Responsible AI is under the aegis of the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBC-DSAI).
- The center will be established in partnership with **Google**.

#### **Sindhuja-I or 'Ocean Wave Energy Converter' by IIT Madras**

- The researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (**IIT Madras**) have

developed a device called **Sindhuja-I** or '**Ocean Wave Energy Converter**', that can generate electricity from sea waves.

- **Sindhuja** means "created from the ocean" in Sanskrit.
- The device was deployed approximately **6 kilometres (km) off the coast of Tuticorin** at a location with a **depth of 20 metres**.
- The Ocean Wave Energy Converter targets generating 1 megawatt (MW) of power from ocean waves in the next 3 years.
- The device trials were completed during the second week of November 2022.
- It could assist India in meeting its **climate change-related goals** of generating **500 GW of electricity from renewable energy by 2030**.

### **Drone Yatra, " Operation 777" by Garuda Aerospace**

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated a drone yatra organised by the Chennai headquartered startup Garuda Aerospace.
- India will become a hub of drone technology and would require at least one lakh drone pilots by next year.
- Garuda Aerospace made an announcement about **India's first Drone Skilling and Training Virtual E-Learning Platform at its Chennai manufacturing facility.**
- **Garuda Aerospace's drone yatra, 'Operation 777'** will educate and demonstrate the efficacy of drones for agricultural purposes across 777 districts in India.

#### **Note**

- SWAMITVA scheme (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology), the survey of the land and houses were being prepared through drones in the villages.
- Drones are increasingly being used to sprinkle pesticides and nano fertilizers in the field

### **Asia's first Drone delivery hub**

- The facility was unveiled by **Meghalaya government** in partnership with startup TechEagle.

- It aims to deliver vital supplies like drugs, diagnostic samples, vaccines quickly and safely to different regions of state using a dedicated drone delivery network.
- Benefits: Universal access to healthcare to 2.7 million people, overcome problem of lack of visibility, high delivery costs, etc.

#### **About Meghalaya**

- Capital - Shillong
- Chief Minister - Conrad Kongkal Sangma
- Governor - B. D. Mishra.

### **RFID technology to monitor the blood**

- The Tamil Nadu Health Department introduced the **Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID) at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai** and the Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai, to monitor the supply chain management of blood and blood products on **World AIDS Day 2022.**
- It also launched a computerised registry and mobile application with details of voluntary blood donors.
- The registry and the **Tamil Nadu Blood Donors app**, developed at a cost of ₹10 lakh, will have details of repeated voluntary blood donors and their blood groups.



# 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

## DigiYatra facility at Delhi, Varanasi, Bengaluru airports

- Under the **DigiYatra** initiative, passengers can use their face as a boarding pass from December 1 in the airports of **Delhi, Varanasi and Bengaluru**.
- The facial recognition can be used to access the security check area and pass the boarding gate.
- Providing Aadhaar details is mandatory for travelers to avail themselves of this service.

### About DigiYatra

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has launched the '**DigiYatra**' initiative to provide a digital experience for Air Travellers through DigiYatra Platform.
- The 'DigiYatra' is an industry-led initiative coordinated by the Ministry in line with the country's Digital India's vision to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society.
- Digi Yatra platform will be built on **4 key pillars, like Connected Passengers, Connected Airports, Connected Flying and Connected Systems**.

## India took over G-20 Presidency

- India formally took over the G20 presidency for one year from **December 2022 to November 30, 2023**.
- Hundred centrally-protected monuments, including UNESCO world heritage sites spread across the country, will be lit up for a week from December 1 to December 7.
- All illuminated heritage structures shall "highlight the G-20 logo over the monument".
- In Tamil Nadu, **Brihadeeswara Temple was lit with the G-20 logo**. It is officially called **Rajarajeshwaram** and known locally as **Thanjai Periya Kovil and Peruvudaiyar Kovil**, is a Shaivite Hindu temple built in a **Chola architectural style** located on the **south bank of the Cauvery river in Thanjavur**.

### About G-20 Logo

- The logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of **India's national flag - saffron, white and green, and blue**.
- It juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges.
- The Earth reflects India's pro-planet approach to life, one in perfect harmony with nature.
- Below the G20 logo is **Bharat, written in the Devanagari script**.

### G - 20 Theme

- **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or One Earth One Family One Future**.
- The theme affirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe.
- During the course of its Presidency, India will be holding about 200 meetings in 32 different sectors in multiple locations across the country.
- The first **G20 Sherpa meeting** under India's presidency was inaugurated in Rajasthan's Udaipur, Rajasthan.

### 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 - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**
- 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.



## G-20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting

- The **first G-20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting** and the first Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting was held in **Bengaluru**.
- The meeting has marked the beginning of discussions on the finance track agenda under the Indian G-20 presidency.
- There will be 40 such meetings on Finance across the country.
- **Brand Karnataka** is promoted on the sidelines of the international event.
- **Karnataka will host 14 G20 meetings**. Among them 11 will be held in **Bengaluru**, **two in Hampi**, the world heritage site and one will be held in **Mysuru** the heritage city.
- The consultative meeting will examine India's G20 priorities and activities on 8 key tasks: Financial Mechanism, International Financial Framework, Global Economy, Infrastructure Investments, Sustainable Finance, International Taxation, Health and Finance, Financial Sector Regulatory Issues and Financial Inclusion.
- A coordinated approach to regulating crypto assets, managing debt vulnerabilities and reorienting global financial institutions have been identified as critical focus areas of the Finance Track agenda for India's G-20 Presidency.

## HIV Infection rate declines by 46% between 2010 and 2021: NACO

- The **National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)** has revealed that the country's annual rate of HIV infection has declined by 46% between 2010 and 2021 against a global average of 32%.
- Also, AIDS-related mortalities have declined by 76%.
- NACO, under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW)**, acts as nodal agency for activities of **National AIDS Control Program (NACP)**.
- MoH&FW also released several initiatives at the event. It includes

- **National Digital Repository**, a **Digital** hub where all resource materials related to HIV and AIDS will be available for the common public.
- **National Data Hub of NACO**, central digital repository for key reports, documents and all approved data of NACO for internal use.
- **#AbNahiChalega campaign** to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

### Note

- Tamil Nadu State AIDS project cell was formed in **1993 and in 1994**, it has been registered as a **Society under the Societies act**, as **Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS)**, the first of its kind for the nation.
- TANSACS is **fully funded by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)**.

### About HIV

- HIV is a virus that weakens a person's immune system by destroying important cells that fight disease and infection.
- Currently, **there is no effective cure for HIV**. But with proper medical care, HIV can be controlled.
- If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS.
- In 2021, 52% of children living with HIV were accessing antiretroviral treatment (ART) globally.

## India scores highest ever ranking in aviation safety

- India has been **ranked 48** in terms of comprehensive safety audits conducted by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** which is among the top 50 countries of the world.
- India's ranking places it ahead of China (49).
- The ICAO undertakes the **Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP)**, **Continuous Monitoring Approach**, an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) which was undertaken from November 9 to 16, 2022.

- Amitabh Kant, the G20 Sherpa of India, welcomed G20 guests to Udaipur. He stressed that Rajasthan is known for warm hospitality and historical splendor and it is a "symbolic" beginning for G20 to demonstrate the tradition of 'Atithi Devo Bhava.' (Meaning - A guest is akin to God)
- The Sherpa meetings will work to establish consensus on key issues, which will be discussed in the various G20 workstreams, for inclusion in the Leaders' Declaration, which will be tabled at the G20 Summit in New Delhi in 2023.
- The double-decker viaduct of **3.14 km on Wardha Road has three metro stations - Chhatrapati Nagar, Jai Prakash Nagar and Ujjwal Nagar.**
- Double decker viaduct carries highway flyover at the first level and Metro Rail at second level making it a three-tier transportation system with the existing highway at ground level. This helped in avoiding additional land acquisition thus saving land cost and reducing construction time and project cost.
- The project has already bagged records from Asia Book and India Book.

#### Note

- India assumed 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.

#### First Ministry for Divyang in India

- On the occasion of **International Day of Disabled Persons, a Ministry for Divyang (differently-abled)** was inaugurated in Mumbai to help the physically and mentally-disabled people in Maharashtra, educationally and professionally.
- Maharashtra is the first State in the country to have a separate Ministry for the disabled that aims to ensure the welfare of the disabled and effective implementation of various government schemes for them.
- The Ministry is expected to hire 2000 special trainers for different disabilities, however only 300 special trainers have been hired so far.

#### About Maharashtra

- Capitals - Mumbai, Nagpur (Winter capital)
- Governor - Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
- Chief Minister - Eknath Shinde
- Deputy Chief Minister - Devendra Fadnavis

#### World's Longest double-decker viaduct (metro)

- **Nagpur Metro and NHAI (National Highways Authority of India)** has successfully created a Guinness World Record by constructing the **longest double-decker viaduct (metro)** is **3,140 meters** located in the **Wardha Road in Nagpur, Maharashtra**

#### India unveils plan to install Renewable Energy

- The committee constituted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) prepares a detailed Transmission Plan titled "Transmission System for Integration of over 500 GW RE Capacity by 2030"
- According to the plan, the installation of 500 GW (gigawatt) of renewable energy capacity by 2030 will involve an investment of at least `2.44 lakh crore or `2.44 trillion.
- The committee was headed by the Chairman of the Central Electricity Authority.
- The committee was tasked with setting out a plan for the transmission system required for having 500 GW of non-fossil fuel based installed capacity by 2030.
- The transmission plan also includes systems required for transporting 10 GW of off shore wind based energy located in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of `28,000 crore.
- The plan has identified upcoming non fossil fuel generation centers in the country, including at Fatehgarh, Bhadla and Bikaner in Rajasthan, Khavda in Gujarat, and Anantapur and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.

#### Agriculture Investment Portal

- The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare inaugurated the integrated Agriculture Investment Portal.
- It will be a centralized one stop portal for agri-investors to avail benefits of various government schemes implemented by various departments related to agriculture and allied sectors.

- Aim is to boost investments, ease the handholding process for investors, tap potential of all sub-sectors in Agriculture etc.
- Focus sectors for investment promotion include Agriculture machinery, Seeds, Fertilisers, agrochemicals, Precision agriculture, Logistics, warehousing and cold chain etc.

### **Supreme Court mobile app 2.0 launched**

- The Supreme Court launched android version 2.0 of its mobile application.
- Android version 2.0 is available while iOS will be available in a week's time. Besides lawyers and advocates on-record, the application will give exclusive real-time access to all law officers and nodal officers of various Ministries of the Central Government. They can watch the court proceedings by logging in through this application

### **About Supreme Court**

- Established - 28 January 1950
- Authorized by Article 124 of the Constitution of India
- Number of Judges - 34 (33+1)

### **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022**

- The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed in the parliament.

### **Highlights of the Bill**

- The Bill amends the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 to empower the central government to **specify a carbon credit trading scheme**.
- Designated consumers may be required to meet a proportion of their energy needs from non-fossil sources.
- The Energy Conservation Code for buildings will also apply to office and residential buildings with a connected load of 100 kilowatt or above.
- Energy consumption standards may be specified for vehicles and ships.
- The Bill seeks to mandate use of non-fossil sources, including Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Biomass and ethanol for energy and feedstock and establish Carbon Markets.
- The Bill seeks to bring large residential buildings within the fold of the Energy

Conservation regime, enhance the scope of the Energy Conservation Building Code and amend penalty provisions.

### **India's First Carbon Neutral Farm**

▪ **Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala, declared Kerala Seed Farm in Aluva, Ernakulam district as India's First Carbon Neutral Farm in India.**

- The total amount of carbon emission from the farm, located at Thuruthu in Aluva, in the last one year was 43 tons but its overall procurement was 213 tonnes.
- Compared to the emission rate, as many as 170 tons of more carbon have been procured at the farm, which helped it to be declared as the first carbon neutral seed farm in the country.
- Kerala Government aims to achieve **40%** of its energy needs from **renewable energy sources by 2025**.
- Kerala aims to establish Carbon-neutral farms in all 140 Assembly constituencies.

### **About Kerala**

- Capital - Thiruvananthapuram
- Governor - Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief Minister - Pinarayi Vijayan

### **India Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**

- India IGF is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum, a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.
- The second edition of IGF was held in New Delhi from December 9 to 12.
- Theme for 2022: **'Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat'**.
- Internet Governance is development and application by Governments, private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape evolution and use of the Internet.
- Internet Governance involves Internet Protocol Addressing (IP Addressing), Domain Name System (DNS), Routing, Technical Innovations, Standardization, Security, Public Policy, Privacy, Legal Issues, Cyber Norms, Intellectual Property and taxation.

- India supports a multi-stakeholder approach in matters on Internet Governance.

#### Challenges to Internet governance:

- Continuously evolving nature of the internet.
- Concentration of digital power in a few companies and countries.
- Decision making skewed to the supply side rather than to the demand side etc.

#### Note

- India is the largest 'connected' nation in the world with **800 million Indian users**.
- BharatNet** is a flagship mission implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL) with an aim to **connect all the 2,50,000 Gram panchayats** in the country and provide **100 Mbps connectivity to all gram panchayats**.
- National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)** was launched in **October 2011** and was renamed as **Bharat Net Project in 2015**.

#### India International Science Festival (IISF)-2022

- The **IISF-2022** will be held in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in January 2023**.
- The IISF 2022 is the **eighth edition** since its inception in **2015**.
- IISF is the initiative of the Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Science in association with **Vijnana Bharati**.

- Vijnana Bharati is a science movement with a swadeshi spirit led by eminent scientists of the country.

- IISF aims to engage creative and imaginative minds in India and across the globe to celebrate science through various programs and activities connected to Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- The **first and second IISF** were held in **New Delhi**, the **third in Chennai**, the **fourth one in Lucknow**, **fifth in Kolkata**, **sixth through virtual mode** and the **seventh IISF** was held in **Goa**.

#### Nine products from across country get GI tag

- The Union government has granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to **9 products** from across the country.
- With this, the total number of registered GI products in India stands at **432**.

- The **top five states** with the most GI tags are
  - Karnataka (48)
  - Tamil Nadu (42)
  - Kerala (35)
  - Uttar Pradesh (34)
  - Maharashtra (31)

- The 9 GI tags were given for:

Sl.No.	Product	State
1.	Assamese Gamocha	Assam
2.	Alibag White Onion	Maharashtra
3.	Tandur Redgram	Telangana
4.	Raktsey Karpo Apricot	Ladakh
5.	Attappady Thuvvara (Attappady red gram)	Kerala
6.	Kanthalloor Vattavada Garlic (Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthulli)	Kerala
7.	Kodungallur Snap Melon (Kodungallur Pottuvellari)	Kerala
8.	At pady Aattukombu Dolichos Bean [Attappady Aattukombu Avara]	Kerala
9.	Onattukara Sesame (Onattukara Ellu)	Kerala



**Note**

- A GI is a label that is applied to products that have a specific geographical origin and have characteristics that are related to that particular location.
- Administered under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004-05.
- Head Office for GI Tag is situated at Chennai.

**Launch of 'EV-YATRA PORTAL' Mobile App**

- The **Mobile application "EV Yatra"** has been designed and developed to facilitate in-vehicle navigation to the nearest public EV charger.
- The App was developed by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency**.
- A website to disseminate information on various central and state-level initiatives to promote e-mobility in the country, and a web-portal to enable CPOs to register their charging details securely into the National Online Database was also launched.

**About BEE**

- An agency of the Government of India under the Ministry of Power created in **March 2002** under the provisions of the **Energy Conservation Act 2001**.

**Swar Dharohar Festival**

- **Ministry of Culture and Swar Dharohar Foundation** organised the "**Swar Dharohar Festival**" under Kalanjali at Central Vista, New Delhi.
- Under **Kalanjali**, cultural programmes are being organised at Central Vista every week.
- It is a Music, Art and Literature Festival to showcase the iconic art and culture of India and the rich literary Art and Heritage of Indian States.

**ICMR-NARFBR at Hyderabad**

- **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurates ICMR-NARFBR (**National Animal Resource Facility**

for Biomedical Research) at Genome Valley, Hyderabad.

- ICMR-NARFBR has potential to make India a key global player in Biomedical research in 21st-century and play a crucial role in improving health and welfare of the nation.
- NARFBR is an **apex facility** which will provide **ethical care and use** and welfare of **laboratory animals** during research

**New office complex Vaigai at Custom House in Chennai.**

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman laid the foundation for a nine-story new office complex **Vaigai** to be built at a cost of Rs. 92 Crore **at the Custom House in Chennai**.
- The building will facilitate India's commitment to improving trade, export and import, the office complex will be housing all the necessary offices required for customs clearances in one place.
- A creche is included in the complex for the benefit of the women employees and the building will be energy efficient

**Golden Jubilee of North Eastern Council**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah attended the **Golden Jubilee celebrations of the North Eastern Council (NEC) in Shillong in Meghalaya**.

**About NEC**

- **North Eastern Council (NEC)** was constituted as a **statutory advisory body** under the **NEC Act 1971** and came into being on **the 7th November, 1972 at Shillong**.
- The **eight States of Northeast India viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim**, are members of the council, with their respective Chief Ministers and Governors representing them.
- The headquarters of the council is situated in Shillong and functions under the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER)**.



## Good Governance Week 2022

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh to inaugurate **Good Governance Week 2022, “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore”** a Nationwide Campaign.
- 3,120 New Services identified by District Collectors across the country will be added for Online Service Delivery during the 5-day “Prashasan Gaon ki Ore campaign.”
- During the good governance week, or Sushasan Saptah grievances received on **Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)** will be redressed along with grievances received on state portals.
- Tamil Nadu districts have identified 1,38,621 grievances for redressal, it added.

### Note

- CPGRAMS was created in **June 2007** by the **Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances**. It is a Public Grievances Redressal Mechanism.

## 25th Eastern Zonal Council Meeting in Kolkata

- Minister highlighted the near-end of Left-Wing Extremism in India’s Eastern region, and the need to accelerate the campaign against drugs with the help of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- India is highly vulnerable to drug trafficking as it is wedged between two largest sources of illicit drugs in South Asia, i.e., Golden Crescent (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran) and Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Thailand and Laos).

### About Zonal Councils

- Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies established by the States Reorganisation Act of 1956.
- Five Zonal Councils set up under States Reorganisation Act, 1956 are
- Northern: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan, NCT of Delhi and UT of Chandigarh.
- Central: Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- Eastern: Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal.
- **Western:** Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

- Southern: Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
- Composition
- Chairman - Union Home Minister is the Chairman.
- Vice Chairman: The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act on a rotational basis for one year

## India Water Impact (IWI) Summit, 2022

- 7th edition of IWI Summit was concluded at New Delhi.
- Theme of Summit is ‘Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin’.
- Its emphasis is on the select aspects of ‘Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps’ – People, Policy, Plan, Programme, and Project.

### Key highlights

- Consensus over need to form a National River Framework among all stakeholders
- Framework would determine the parameters for monitoring river health, process and responsibility.
- Establish a system for exchange of official information in water-related issues.
- Discussion on the Impact of Land use on Rejuvenation of Small Rivers.

## Project Vanni

- The project was launched by **Google India** in partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
- It aims to build an artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML) model to collect language samples from 773 districts across India.
- It will be an AI-based language model that can understand diverse Indian languages and dialects.
- Potential use of such datasets is in building apps in areas such as health, agriculture, and financial inclusion.

### Note

- Google has granted a fund of \$1 million to **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** to build **India’s first Responsible AI center**.

- The center aims to research on various aspects of bias in artificial intelligence (AI) in Indian perspective.

### Three more sites added to tentative list of UNESCO

- Three more sites have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO taking the total number to 52 sites on UNESCO Tentative List.
- The three new sites are
- Gujarat's Vadnagar town :
  - Situated in **Mehsana district, Gujarat**.
  - Ancient name was **Anartapura**
  - A Buddhist location visited by **Xuanzang in 640 C.E.**
  - Birthplace of Narendra Modi
- Sun Temple at Modhera :
  - Hindu temple dedicated to the solar deity Surya.
  - Located at Modhera village of Mehsana district, Gujarat
  - Situated on the bank of the river Pushpavati.
  - Built during the reign of Bhima I of the Chaulukya dynasty and dates back to 8th century BC.
  - Recently, Modhera was declared as the **first solar-powered village**.
- Rock cut sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura:
  - It is a 'Shaiba' (Saivite) pilgrimage site and dates back to 7th – 9th centuries
  - It has the largest rock-cut images and stone idols of Lord Shiva in India.
  - The word 'Unakoti' means "one less than a Crore".

#### Note

- UNESCO tentative list is an "inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination"

#### About UNESCO

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

### India's First Green Steel Brand

- Union Minister of Steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia launched **India's first Green Steel Brand, "Kalyani Ferresta"** in New Delhi.

- The brand is manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment.
- The Government of India is promoting **green steel manufacturing** and has framed the **National Steel Policy to achieve zero carbon emissions** by the steel industry to achieve its goal of **carbon neutrality by 2070**.
- The policy makes it mandatory for steelmakers to dedicate a certain percentage of their production lines for making green steel and also encourages its usage in government projects, as a promotion towards the use of the product.

#### Note

- The steel industry produces 7 percent of Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions globally, while the Indian steel industry accounts for 12 percent of such emissions. It is a fossil free steel.
- **Green steel** is manufactured using low-carbon energy sources such as hydrogen, coal gasification and electricity rather than using coking coal.
- India is the **world's second-largest producer of crude steel** after China.

### Govt projects record wheat production in 2022

- The government projected record wheat production in the ongoing 2022-23 crop year (July-June) as total area sown to the winter crop has increased by 3.18 per cent to 312.26 lakh hectares so far in the ongoing rabi (winter) season.
- Sowing of wheat, the main rabi (winter) crop, begins in October while harvesting starts in April.
- Mustard seed and gram are other major crops sown in the rabi season.
- The country's wheat production had declined to 106.84 million tonnes during 2021-22 crop year due to a heatwave in some key growing states, as against 109.59 million tonne in the previous year, as per official data.
- According to the ministry's latest data, wheat has been sown in 312.26 lakh hectares (ha) in

the ongoing rabi season as of December 23, as against 302.61 lakh ha in the year-ago period.

- Higher area is reported from Rajasthan (1.99 lakh ha), followed by Gujarat (1.74 lakh ha), Uttar Pradesh (1.57 lakh ha), Bihar (1.51 lakh ha), Maharashtra (1.43 lakh ha), Madhya Pradesh (0.83 lakh ha), Chhattisgarh (0.64 lakh ha), West Bengal (0.24 lakh ha), Jammu and Kashmir (0.23 lakh ha), Karnataka (0.15 lakh ha) and Assam (0.01 lakh ha).

### World's tallest Krishna statue

- The Gujarat government announced that the **tallest statue of Lord Krishna** in the world will come up in Dwarka town as part of the 'Devbhumi Dwarka Corridor'
- The work on the first phase of which is expected to start in September, 2023.
- According to mythology, Krishna lived and ruled Dwarka.
- The world famous Dwarkatheesar temple is located in Dwaraka.
- The statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Iron Man of India) 'Statue of Unity' which is the world's tallest (182 meters) has been installed in Narmada district, Gujarat.

### 'Right to Repair' Portal

- Consumer affairs minister Piyush Goyal unveiled the "right to repair" portal.
- The Right to Repair Portal allows manufacturers to share repair manuals with customers, allowing them to repair products themselves or through a third party rather than relying on the original manufacturer.

### NTH mobile app

- It is a new initiative launched by the **Ministry Food and Consumer Affairs**
- The app is designed to provide consumers with information and assistance related to their rights and to help them resolve any disputes or issues they may have with products or services.
- The app is intended to make it easier for consumers to access information and resources and to hold businesses accountable for providing high-quality products and services.

### Note

- The **Right to Repair portal** and the **NTH mobile app** were launched to mark National Consumer Day. (December 24).

### PAN – Aadhaar linking mandatory by March 2023

- As per the I-T Act, it is mandatory for all PAN-holders, who do not fall under the exempt category, to link their permanent account numbers (PAN) with Aadhaar before March 31, 2023.
- From April 1, 2023, the unlinked PAN shall become inoperative.
- The last date to link PAN with Aadhaar was extended by the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** from **31st March 2022 to 31st March 2023**.

### About Aadhaar

- A 12-digit unique identity number.
- Published by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
- Under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- It is the world's largest biometric ID system.
- Launched on **28 January 2009**.
- **First chairman of UIDAI** - Nandan Nilekani
- Present **CEO (Chief Executive Officer)** - Dr. Saurabh Garg.

### About PAN

- A ten-character alphanumeric
- Issued by Income Tax Department under Indian Income Tax Act, 1961.

### Cabinet approves MSP for copra for 2023 season

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for copra for 2023 season**.
- The approval is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and views of major coconut growing states.
- The MSP for Fair Average Quality of milling copra has been fixed at Rs. 10860/- per quintal and for ball copra at Rs. 11750/- per quintal for 2023 season.

- This is an increase of Rs. 270/- per quintal for milling copra and Rs. 750/- per quintal for ball copra over the previous season.
- The announced MSP of copra for 2023 season is in line with the principle of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all India weighted average cost of production as announced by the Government in the Budget 2018-19.
- **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF)** will continue to act as **Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs)** for procurement of copra and de-husked coconut under Price Support Scheme (PSS).

### **MEITY : Nodal Ministry for Online Gaming**

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has appointed MeitY as the central regulatory authority that will provide clarity and certainty to investors, industry and consumers.
- Online games refer to games that are played over some form of computer network, most often the Internet.
- As per All India Gaming Federation, India's online gaming industry is expected to be worth Rs.15,500 crore by 2023.

### **Types of online gaming**

- **Game of skill**
  - It requires a player's skill and mental or physical strength to win. It does not depend on sheer luck.
- **Games of chance**
  - It is considered as gambling as it depends on factors like luck and unpredictability.
  - The winnings from games of skill attract 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST). On the other hand, winnings from games of chance attract 28 per cent GST.

### **138th Anniversary of Indian National Congress**

- The first session of the Indian National Congress in Bombay in December 1885.
- It was attended by 72 delegates from all the Indian provinces.

- There were 54 Hindus, 2 Muslims and the rest were Jain and Parsi members.
- President (1st Session) - **Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee**.

### **PRASHAD Project launched in Telangana**

- The President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the **PRASHAD** project in two temples in Telangana
- **PRASHAD or Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive** was launched in 2014-15.
- It aims to provide integrated infrastructure development to pilgrimage and heritage tourism destinations in the country.'
- **Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamivari Devasthanam, Bhadrachalam**
  - The temple, dedicated to Lord Rama, is situated on the left bank of the River Godavari.
  - Built in the 17th century, the significance of the place goes back to the Ramayana Era.
  - It is documented to be constructed or reconstructed by Kancherla Gopanna, also known as Bhadrachala Ramadasu revenue officer (Tehsildar) under the reign of Abul Hasan Qutub Shah, the sultan of the Golconda.
- **Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Mulugu**
  - Popularly known as **Thousand Pillar Temple** and Ramappa temple, is a Shiva Temple (dedicated to Ramalingeswara Swamy).
  - It was built by Ramappa (sculptor) during the Kakatiya period (1123-1323 CE) under rulers Rudradeva and Recherla Rudra.
- In **2021** it was included in the **UNESCO World heritage List (Cultural)**.

### **Stay Safe Online Campaign and G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA) launched**

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched the **Stay Safe Online Campaign and G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA)**



- **MeitY is the Nodal agency for the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG).**
- During India's G20 presidency, the MeitY will focus on three priority areas, namely Digital public infrastructure (DPI), cyber security, and digital skill development.
- Digital Public infrastructure comprises the physical resources necessary for the use of data, computerised devices, methods, systems, and processes – more resilient, agile, and futuristic for providing the public services.

#### **About Stay Safe Online Campaign**

- Its objective is to **raise awareness** among citizens to **stay safe in the online world** due to the widespread use of social media platforms and the rapid adoption of digital payments.
- It involves the dissemination of multilingual awareness content in the form of infographics etc.

#### **About G20-DIA**

- Its objective is to identify, recognize, and enable the adoption of innovative and impactful digital technologies developed by start-ups, from G20 nations as well as the invited non-member nations.
- It seeks digital solutions in the **six themes viz. Agri-tech, Health-tech, Ed-tech, Fin-tech, Secured Digital Infrastructure, and Circular Economy.**

#### **Youth Co:Lab**

- Atal Innovation Mission (set up by NITI Aayog in 2016) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India launched the 5th edition of Youth Co:Lab for Young Entrepreneurs.
- Youth Co:Lab was co-created in 2017 by UNDP Asia and the Citi Foundation
- It aims to support young social entrepreneurs who can be a powerful force in leading social change and furthering the implementation of SDGs target actions.
- It is Asia Pacific's largest youth innovation movement.

#### **About UNDP**

- Formation - November 22, 1965
- Headquarters - New York City

- Head - Achim Steiner.
- Parent organization - ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council)

#### **About NITI Aayog (National Institution For Transforming India)**

- Formation - January 1, 2015 (replaced Planning Commission)
- Aims to foster cooperative federalism
  - Composition of NITI Aayog
  - Chairperson: Prime Minister
  - Vice-Chairperson: Suman Berry (Appointed by PM)
  - NITI Aayog CEO - Parameswaran Iyer.
  - Governing Council - Chief Ministers of all states and Union Territories with state Legislature and Lt. Governors of other Union Territories.

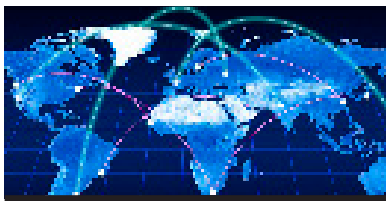
#### **9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC)**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the valedictory function of the **9th World Ayurveda Congress** which was held in **Goa**.
- The three National Ayush Institutes were also inaugurated at the event
  - **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa**
  - **National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad**
  - **National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Delhi**
- The 9th edition of the World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) and Arogya Expo witnessed the active participation of more than 400 overseas delegates representing over 50 countries, international students and various other stakeholders of Ayurveda.
- The theme of the 9th edition of WAC is "Ayurveda for One Health".

#### **Initiatives to promote Ayurveda**

- Ministry of AYUSH led to increased enthusiasm and trust towards Ayurveda.
- WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Gujarat and All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi.
- Creation of Ayush Research Portal for Evidence-Based Research Data etc.





# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## New President of Peru

- **Dina Boluarte** was elected as the **first female president of Peru**.
- She became the president after ex-president Pedro Castillo was impeached.

### About Peru

- Capital - Lima
- Currency - Peruvian sol

## G7 Nations Establish an International Climate Club to Fight Global Warming

- The **Group of Seven (G7)** major economies have established an open, international '**Climate Club**' for countries that want to work together to combat global warming.
- The concept of a climate club was developed by **Yale economist William Nordhaus** in **2015** and has since gained popularity in policy circles. **Mr. Nordhaus also won the 2018 Nobel Prize in economics** for his work on climate change.
- Germany has held the G-7 presidency since January 1, 2022, when it took over from the United Kingdom (UK), and it will be passed on to Japan in 2023.

### Key Points:

- The new International Climate Club will be a global endeavour rather than a **G-7 initiative**.
- The **Paris Agreement (2015)**, which aims to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), will be swiftly and intensely implemented with assistance from the climate club.
- The club will aim to expedite the industrial shift to cleaner energy sources and to create more emission-reduction initiatives.
- The club will provide assistance to committed developing and emerging countries so they

may move forward with the transformation of their industries.

### About Germany:

- President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Chancellor – Olaf Scholz
- Capital – Berlin
- Currency – Euro

### About Group of Seven (G7):

- The G7 consists of **Germany, France, the United Kingdom (UK), Italy, Japan, Canada and the United States (US)**.
- The European Union (EU) is also represented at all G7 meetings.
- In June 2022, **Germany hosted the "G7 Summit 2022,"** the annual summit of the G7 heads of state and government, at Schloss Elmau in the Bavarian Alps.
- The Presidency is rotated between members on an annual basis.
- Formation - March 25, 1973

## New PM of Nepal

- **Pushpa Kamal Dahal**, Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal was appointed as the **new Prime Minister of Nepal**.
- He was sworn in for the 3rd time as the PM of Nepal succeeding Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress party.
- Bishnu Paudel, Narayankaji Shrestha and Rabi Lamichhane were appointed as the deputy Prime Ministers of Nepal

### About Nepal:

- President– Bidhya Devi Bhandari
- Currency– Nepalese Rupee
- Capital– Kathmandu



## 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

### SIRPI scheme

- Tamil Nadu Government launched the 'Students in Responsible Police Initiatives' (SIRPI) for students of 100 State-run schools which would benefit around 5,000 students.
- SIRPI aims to inculcate discipline and social awareness among students.
- Under SIRPI, over 2,700 boys and 2,200 girls (on a voluntary basis) from 100 government schools in Chennai would report to the two nodal officers appointed in each of these schools every Wednesday.
- The students would be offered classes in physical fitness, sports and parades, among others, by police officers and experts.
- The students would be provided a booklet and food during the classes. They would be taken on camping trips to eight tourist spots.

### TN inaugurates medical centers at five temples

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai virtually inaugurated medical centres at five temples under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR and CE) Department.
- Medical centres have been set up at
  - Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple in Madurai
  - Arulmigu Mariamman temple at Irukkankudi
  - Arulmigu Bannariamman temple at Bannari
  - Arulmigu Kallazhagar temple at Alagarkoil, Madurai
  - Arulmigu Sankaranarayanawamy temple at Sankarankoil.

### T.N. Increases monthly aid for persons with disabilities

- TN Government announced an increase in the monthly financial assistance to various

categories of persons with disabilities from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500.

- The Government is planning to create an environment in which they could work from home.
- The Government is providing training in computer software and laptops so that they could get employment.

### Mudhalavarin Mugavari

- The Chief Minister's grievance departments (முதலமைச்சரின் குறைதீர்ப்பு துறைகள்) have been consolidated to form a new department. It is called as Mudhalavarin Mugavari (முதல்வரின் முகவரி).
- Mudhalavarin Mugavari Department plays an important role in addressing the grievances of the common people. This department is under the direct control of Chief Minister Office.
- Mudhalavarin Mugavari Department has launched a new quality assessment initiative to expedite action on petitions submitted by the public.
- Accordingly, three grades 'A', 'B' and 'C' will be awarded.
  - If a petition fully filed and solved then it is graded as 'A'.
  - If the petition submitted by the general public is under consideration of another department or under the consideration of the address department of the Chief Minister, it is subjected to 'B' grade queue.
  - In case the petitions are not processed, they are classified as 'C'. Through this, all the petitions received in the Mudhalavarin Mugavari department of the Chief can be analyzed according to the nature of the requests and actions can be taken quickly and systematically.

## Tangedco launches 'Go Electric' awareness campaign

- The Chennai Central distribution circle of Tangedco has launched "Go Electric" awareness campaign to help people to switch over from combustion engines to electric vehicles.
- The campaign has been launched throughout the country by the Union government.
- Tangedco has been appointed as the nodal agency for creating charging infrastructure for electric vehicles by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

### Note

- The Ministry of Power launched the "Go Electric" Campaign on 19th February 2021.
- The objective of this campaign is to create awareness among masses about benefits of switching over to Electric Vehicles (EVs), including various initiatives taken by Centre & State Governments to enhance acceptability of Electric Vehicles, and Electrical Cooking.
- This campaign is being implemented through State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) designated by States for coordinating activities related to rolling out Public Charging Infrastructure in States.

## San Antonio - Chennai Corporation signs a Pact

- A consultation meeting was held under the leadership of the mayors of San Antonio, Ron Nirenberg and Chennai, Priya Rajan.
- The meeting was held at Ripon House under the Sister City Agreement.
- The two mayors said that as a merger of sister cities, they will work together to improve the creative relations of the people of the two cities and to improve education, health and basic structures, and to further enrich the character, intelligence and economy of the people of the two cities.

### Note

- The Chennai-San Antonio Sister City agreement was signed on February 27, 2008, and laid the foundation for significant economic and cultural exchanges in areas

such as commerce, health, education, and technology.

## Madurai Bench of Madras High Court gets its first woman mace-bearer

- D. Lalitha, has been appointed as the **first woman chobdar (mace-bearer) of the Madurai Bench** of the Madras High Court. She is the mace-bearer for Justice N. Mala.
- Earlier in **June 2022**, the **Madras High Court** had got its **first woman mace-bearer, R.N.Manjula**
- In the High Court, the mace-bearer walks in front of the judges so as to ensure free passage for them as they move from their chambers to the court halls.

## Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2022

- The **first ever Tamil Nadu Climate Summit** begins at **Chennai**.
- The **Tamil Nadu Green Climate Change Company** will focus on preparing decarbonisation pathways for various sectors; conceptualising and setting up finance models and a climate studio; climate budgeting; and partnerships with local agencies.
- **Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2022** highlighted the State's flagship missions and initiatives, one of which is the Green Climate Change Company, a special purpose vehicle to steer Tamil Nadu to become a climate smart State.
- The summit was inaugurated with **three major missions** of the State government.
  - **Climate Change Mission** - The mission will help to strengthen the government's climate response at the grassroots.
  - **Green Tamil Nadu Mission** - The mission aims to Increase the State's green cover (areas including forest and the tree cover around it) from **23.71% to 33%**.
  - **Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission** - It aims to **restore 100 wetlands** across the state in five years

## Climate-smart Agriculture

- At the first Tamil Nadu climate conference hosted in the city the experts emphasised that being climate-smart is the only way to adapt to

the effects of climate change on many sectors, especially agriculture.

- Presentations on diverse strategies for adaptation, problem-solving, and resilience to the effects of climate change on sectors like transport, agriculture, solid waste, innovation, and energy were given by experts from many professions, including the local communities.
- TN is preparing an inventory of greenhouse gases and has already completed it for Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Trichy
- It was stated that real time crop advisory, use of drones to manage crops, and implementation of smart farming techniques using artificial intelligence were a few action points taken to achieve food security.

### **Body worn cameras to monitor prisoners activities in TN jails**

- **Body worn cameras** to monitor the activities of high-risk prisoners in Tamil Nadu were introduced in Central prisons.
- Apart from **9 Central prisons in the State**, the facility will also be introduced in Pudukkottai district jail.
- Initially, the body worn cameras were introduced in Central prison Puzhal for the first time.
- In total, there are **142 prisons in Tamil Nadu** under the Prisons Department which includes 9 Central Jails, 14 District Jails, 96 Branch Jails, 5 Women's Special Jails, 12 Juvenile Schools (Borstal Schools), 3 Open Air Jails, 3 Special Jails.

### **Southern Railway headquarters celebrates centenary**

- The interiors of the Southern Railway headquarters lit up in blue to celebrate its centenary.
- The building is marked by the displaying a **decommissioned steam loco engine, PL691** at the front.
- The building was inaugurated by **Lady Willingdon, the wife of the then Governor of Madras Freeman Freeman-Thomas, on December 11, 1922.**

- The **foundation** of the building was **laid by Lord Pentland**, the then Governor of Madras, in 1915.
- Designed by N. Grayson, an architect and employee of the **Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway**, it cost **Rs.30.76 lakh**
- It was constructed by **T.Samynada Pillai**, a Bengaluru-based building contractor.
- A postal cover to mark the centenary of the headquarters was released in **January 2022.**

### **Women Commandos in the core security team.**

- The unit, called the **core cell**, is a **special unit** that provides security to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.
- The unit is attached to the **Security Branch-CID.**
- It provides foolproof and round-the-clock security at the places where the Chief Minister visits and to his convoy.
- The unit has so far been staffed by policemen. Now a team of policewomen will be inducted into the special unit.
- Currently **9 women commandos are appointed in the special division.**
- For this, women commandos with the status of Assistant Inspector of Police, Head Constable are selected through separate exams and after receiving special training, they are posted in the "Core Cell".
- The core cell comprises close protection teams, a bomb detection and disposal squad, the motor transport wing and the technical wing.
- This is the first time that women commandos have been appointed in Chief Minister's Security

### **Financing of Urban Infrastructure: Exchange of Contracts for Tamil Nadu Projects**

- Contracts for Tamil Nadu projects were exchanged in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin under the **Funding Scheme for Development of Sustainable Urban Infrastructure.**



- The **Joint Development Bank of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu** are implementing the Financing Scheme for Sustainable Urban Infrastructure.
- The objective of the project is to improve the capacity of urban local bodies to address climate resilience, drinking water supply, sewage disposal and related issues in urban infrastructure.
- The first phase of the project is worth Rs.1969.47 crore. Both phases of the project will be completed this month.
- The third phase of the project will be completed by June 30, 2030.

### **Aavin's ice cream plant in Salem inaugurated**

- Chief Minister M. K. Stalin inaugurated a new ice cream plant at the **Aavin's Salem dairy**, the third such facility of the cooperative federation.
- The plant had been constructed at a cost of Rs.12.26 crore using funds from the Coimbatore, Erode and Salem unions of the **Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation**, whose popular brand is Aavin.
- The plant has a capacity to manufacture 6,000 liters of ice cream per day and supply it to three districts.

#### **Note**

- Formation - 1958
- Aavin is a state government cooperative established under the ownership of Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Limited, Ministry of Cooperation.

### **TN Government approves inclusion of kabaddi, silambam for CM's trophy**

- Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who assumed office made three important announcements
- Inclusion of **silambam and kabaddi** at all levels in the State games conducted by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu for the **Chief Minister's trophy**.
  - Earlier only 10 sports events were conducted under the Chief Minister's trophy.
  - Now, it has been decided to increase the

number to 16 by including traditional games.

- The participation of persons with disabilities, government employees and the general public will be encouraged.

Rs.47.04 crore will be sanctioned towards the **Chief Minister's trophy** and for forming State Level coordination committees, district youth welfare and sports development committees and another committee to conduct district level sports events.

Announcement regarding a scheme to **grant pension to needy sports persons**.

- They will receive Rs.3,000 per month from March 2022 to August 2022 and subsequently get Rs.6,000 per month.

**Rs.4 lakh reward was given to Ms. Niveditha Nair**, who won a silver medal in the pistol competition at the Junior World Championship held in Peru by the International Shooting Sport Federation in 2021

### **TIDCO plans to develop six thematic industrial parks across the State**

▪ **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO)**, a governmental agency in the state of Tamil Nadu is planning to develop **six thematic industrial parks – two in Chennai, three in Coimbatore and one space park at Kula sekarapattinam in Thoothukudi** to support the micro, small and medium enterprises in the State.

▪ Tamil Nadu has been ranked third in the country in the Ease of doing business for 2020-21.

▪ The state aims to improve the ranking to number 1 by supporting the micro, small and medium enterprises in the aerospace and defense sector.

### **Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property**

▪ The **Idol Wing CID (IWCID) of the Tamil Nadu police** stopped the auction of Nataraja Idol in France and insisted for its return under the **UNESCO Convention of 1970**.



- The rare variety bronze idol was **stolen from Kayathar in Thoothukudi district half a century ago.**

#### **About UNESCO 1970 Convention**

- The UNESCO 1970 Convention is an international treaty to take measures to prohibit and prevent the illicit trafficking of cultural property.
- The return and restitution of cultural property is central to the Convention.
- It entered into force **in 1972** and is **ratified by 143 states including India.**

#### **Aadhaar now mandatory for all Government schemes**

- The Tamil Nadu government issued a notification making possession of Aadhaar number or undergoing Aadhaar identification mandatory for availing various welfare schemes of the government.
- The 'Scheme' is the **Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System, administered by the Treasuries and Accounts Department**, to make online payments of bills and payments to beneficiaries through the Electronic Clearing Service.
- Aadhaar will be mandatory now for registering on 'Scheme'

#### **Note**

- Recently, **TANGEDCO** has made it compulsory for the electricity consumers (only those seeking subsidies) to link Aadhar card with **TNEB (Tamil Nadu Electricity Board).**
- **Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB)** was formed on **July 1, 1957** under section 54 of the Electricity (Supply) Act 1948.
- **TNEB was restructured** on 1.11.2010 into
  - TNEB Limited
  - Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO)
  - Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (TANTRANSCO)

#### **TN renames School Education Department campus after Anbazhagan**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin formally renamed the campus housing the

School Education Department after Professor K.Anbazhagan to commemorate his centenary celebrations of his birth anniversary.

- Anbazhagan is credited with several reforms in the education sector during his tenure as a minister in Karunanidhi government.
- Widely known as 'Perasiriyar' (Professor) his full name is Kalyanasundaram Anbazhagan.

#### **Books by 8 scholars were nationalised**

- The state government announced that the **Literary Works of eight Tamil scholars** were nationalized.
- It is important that the literary works of Tamil Scholars should be made available to all. Hence the writings of the best Tamil scholars are nationalised by Government.
- The solatium will be given to their legal heirs having regard to the number of books written by them, their social impact and their literary value.
- The scholars whose books were nationalised are
  - Nellai S. Diwan
  - Viduthazhai Rajendran
  - Na. Mammadhu
  - Nellai Kannan
  - Kantharvan alias Nagalingam
  - Somalae
  - Dr. N. Rajaiah
  - Thanjai Prakash

#### **Bill to include Narikoravan, Kurivikkaran tribes in ST list of Tamil Nadu passed**

- Parliament passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022**, to include the **Narikoravar and Kuruvikarar** tribes of Tamil Nadu in the Scheduled Tribes list of the State.
- Tamil Nadu's population is over seven crore and the two communities constitute just about 27,000 of the population.
- On the basis of the recommendation of Tamil Nadu and after consultation with the **Registrar General of India and the National**

**Commission for Scheduled Tribes**, it is proposed to amend **Part XIV of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950**.

- Since the Bill is approved by Parliament, the members of Narikoravar and Kurivikkarak communities will be entitled to all benefits which are provided to those belonging to the ST category, especially reservation in educational institutions and government jobs.

#### Note

- Article 342 deals with the provisions related to Scheduled Tribes.
- It states that the President after consultation with the Governor by public notification may specify a particular tribe deemed to be deemed as scheduled tribe.

### 6 Lakh Trees in 4 hours

- Tamil Nadu's Food and Civil Supplies Minister R.Sakkarapani** and his team have set out to create a **new Elite World Records by planting 6 Lakh trees in just 4 hours**, in a bid to honour the **Green Tamil Nadu Mission**.
- The Objective of the Mission is to increase its forest to 33 per cent cover from the present 23 per cent before 2030 to combat climate change.
- About 16,000 volunteers are involved in the huge plantation campaign in which saplings will be planted at Idayakottai Village of Oddanchatram Constituency in Dindigul District.

### Introduction of 'Blockchain technology in Tamil Nadu Idol Wing Police

- The **Idol Wing CID of Tamil Nadu Police** has launched an initiative on the blockchain where informants who wish to pass inputs on idol smuggling or possession or sale of

illicit antique idols can anonymously give information to the police.

- The staff of Idol Wing can submit their grievances on the blockchain.
- The public wishing to lodge their complaints can also do so on the decentralised blockchain at [complaints.tnidols.com](https://complaints.tnidols.com).
- Blockchain Technology has been introduced for the **first time in Tamil Nadu**.
- A case will be registered within 7 days if the complaints are confirmed to be genuine.
- Similarly, complaints made by departmental police officers and officers will be **resolved within 15 days**.

### Greenhouse Gas Inventory compendium for Coimbatore, Tiruchi and Tirunelveli

- TN government has launched **greenhouse gas inventory compendium for Coimbatore, Trichy and Tirunelveli**.
- The aim is to prepare a contextual and inclusive climate resilient action plan for these cities.
- The manufacturing and construction sectors accounted for the highest quantum of greenhouse gas emissions in Coimbatore (35%).
- In Trichy, the residential sector topped the list (35.6%), followed by waste (31.7%). Transport accounted for 15% in both Trichy and Coimbatore.
- The residential buildings were the largest contributor in Tirunelveli, at 51%, followed by road transport, at 22%.

#### Key Indicators

- Energy consumption and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in three cities of Tamil Nadu in 2020-21.

Cities	Total energy use (GJ*)	Total GHG emissions	Per Capita Energy use (GJ)	Per capita GHG emissions t CO <sub>2</sub> e
Coimbatore	21,125,595	2,948,011	10.48	1.46
Tirunelveli	4,839,859	662,107	8.76	1.2
Tiruchi	8,634,240	1,758,457	8.42	1.71

## UG in Siddha Medicine

- Undergraduate course in Siddha Medicine will be inaugurated at National Institute of Siddha (NIS) located in Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai.

### Note

- NIS was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh in 2005.
- The Siddha Central Research Institute is located on the premises of NIS which is functioning under the name of Ayothidoss Pandithar Hospital.

## ISO Certification for 4, 517 Fair Price Shops in TN

- 4,517 fair price shops in Tamil Nadu have been given ISO certification so far.
- There are 35,000 fair price shops in Tamil Nadu in total. Of these, 25,000 shops are operating as full-time shops and less than 10,000 shops are operating as part-time shops.
- 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.
- Fair price shops across Tamil Nadu will be revamped with improved facilities.

### Note

- Tamil Nadu follows the Universal Public Distribution System where classifications such as BPL, APL, do not exist.
- TN is providing rice at free of cost under Public Distribution System to all eligible card holders from 01.06.2011.
- Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation procures the essential commodities from Food Corporation of India and stores them in godowns across the state.

## Solution to repel Wild animals

- Erode district administration with the help of Indian Council of Agricultural Research is launching a sustainable solution to repel wild animals.
- In order to protect the crops and humans from the attack of wild animals, Herboliv manufactured by a private manufacturer will be sprayed in the crops.

- It is produced using a combination of different botanical extracts and other natural products.
- crop damage caused by elephants, pigs, deer, wild buffaloes, monkeys, rabbits, peacocks, rats and parrots due to the aroma emitted from it. can be prevented. It gives immunity to crops so that they grow well.
- Other schemes like Food processing Plants at village, biofortification of maize grains and Green fodder bank have been launched to help the farmers in the area of Western Ghats.

## Makkal ID

- TN Government is planning to launch Makkal ID
- Under the unique individual identification system each individual will be provided with 'Makkal ID'
- The card will be issued for the seamless implementation of government schemes.
- Makkal ID will be generated as a random number (10 digits) and not as a pattern-based number with encoded information or the alphanumeric string.

## Modernisation of Forest Force

- The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to modernise Tamil Nadu Forest Force by equipping them with modern equipment and technology, training and capacity building etc.
- Strategic objectives include
  - Sustainable growth of forest resources.
  - Build an efficient and effective department.
  - Enable better protection and management of biodiversity and ecosystems.
  - Strengthen the service delivery infrastructure through regional facilities.
  - Ensure continuous updating of knowledge of forest personnel.
  - Improve the capability and mobility of field staff to handle Human wildlife conflict issues.

## TNPL unit II, SIPCOT park inaugurated

- Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated Unit-II of Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL) hardwood pulp mill at a capital outlay of Rs 1,385 crore at Mondipatti village near

Manapparai in Trichy.

- The **first SIPCOT industrial park of Trichy** was inaugurated at Manapparai at a cost of Rs 47.44 crore.

#### **Note**

- **State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamilnadu Ltd (SIPCOT)** was established in the year 1971 to develop industrial growth in Tamilnadu.
- The **Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL)** was established to produce newsprint and writing paper using bagasse, a sugarcane residue.
- The factory is situated at **Kagithapuram, Karur and Manapparai, Trichy.**

#### **Portal for benefit of private schools**

- The Tamil Nadu Government launched a portal established by the School Education Department for processing applications for opening private schools and getting fresh government recognition or extension of recognition for schools.
- Over 15,000 private schools will be benefitted from the portal.

#### **Installation of Transponders**

- TN Government launched a scheme for **installing transponders** in over 4,990 fishing vessels at a total cost of RS.18.01 crore.
- The transponders, developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), would help fishermen in the high seas communicate with the authorities in the mainland in case of emergency.

#### **Initiatives for Startups**

- The **Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN)** has announced special packages of assistance for green tech, rural impact and women led start-ups.
- The government launched a portal, **startuptnmentors.com**, to connect startups and aspirant mentees with mentors.
- The startups that qualified for the **Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund (TANSEED)** are eligible for the financial assistance.
- Women led Startups are those startups that should be owned by women or co-founded by a group of **women having a minimum equity of 75% in the enterprise.**
- **Green tech Startups** which take upon commercially viable infrastructure projects that promote sustainability and circularity will be funded by the **Green Climate Fund.**

#### **Note**

- **TANSEED** was launched to support early stage startups with a seed **grant of up to Rs.10 lakh each.**

#### **Blood art to be banned in Tamil Nadu**

- TN government has banned the use of blood for art works or blood art.
- The government took the decision after considering the health and safety of the people.
- The ban was followed by the concerns about the hygiene followed by the artists while taking the blood which can result in the spread of infections like HIV.