

SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA

An IAS Academy

Supreme Court stays Allahabad
High Court verdict on Ayodhya

**DECEMBER FULL MONTH
CURRENT AFFAIRS
2021**

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- ✓ This is in order to take tourism deep into the interiors and hinterland of the state.
- ✓ This project has been conceived by Responsible Tourism Mission and is inspired by the slogan of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)- “Tourism for Inclusive Growth”.
- ✓ STREET is an acronym for “Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism hubs”.

Ropeway service

- ✓ Varanasi will soon become the first Indian city to start ropeway service as a mode of public transport.
- ✓ The proposed ropeway will be constructed between Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction) to Church Square (Godauliya).

First drone Mela

- ✓ In Madhya Pradesh, the first drone fair in the country was organised at Gwalior.
- ✓ Gwalior Drone Mela was organised jointly by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Government of India, the Government of Madhya Pradesh, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- ✓ Mr Scindia said that five Drone Schools will be opened in **Gwalior, Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Satna in Madhya Pradesh.**

Special drone unit

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government passed an order to form a special drone unit for the Greater Chennai Police.
- ✓ Nine drones will form the new unit.
- ✓ The nine drones consist of six quick response payload drones, two long-range surveillance drones, and a lifeguard drone.

Project RE-HAB in Assam

- ✓ Project RE-HAB is Reducing Elephant Human – Attacks using Bees.
- ✓ It was recently launched in Assam.
- ✓ The honey bees in these fences' thwart elephant attacks in human habitations.
- ✓ They dissuade the elephants without harming them.
- ✓ It is highly cost-effective as compared to erecting fences or digging trenches.
- ✓ Simultaneously, it increases honey production and increases farmer income.
- ✓ The Project RE-HAB is implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- ✓ The Project RE-HAB is a sub-mission under the National Honey Mission of KVIC.
- ✓ It was launched to provide awareness and training in using bee boxes along with the bee colonies.
- ✓ The Project was first launched in Karnataka.

Army opened fire

- ✓ The 21 Para Special forces of the Army opened fire resulting in the killing of many Oting villagers in the Mon district of Nagaland near the Assam border.
- ✓ Following this incident, the famous Hornbill festival in Kohima was shut down.

Eco park at Pallikaranai

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin virtually inaugurated an ecological park set up on 2.5 hectares of Pallikaranai marshland.
- ✓ A proposal has been sent to the Centre requesting it to declare Pallikaranai marsh as a wetland under the Ramsar Convention.

Kazhuveli Wetland Birds Sanctuary

- ✓ Tamil Nadu government has declared 5,151.60 hectares of swamp/wetlands in Villupuram district as Kazhuveli Wetland Birds Sanctuary.
- ✓ The declaration was made in exercise of the power conferred in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ✓ Kazhuveli or Kaliveli wetland system is one of the largest waterfowl congregation sites in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The Grey-tailed Tattler, a rare migratory wader, has been recorded only here and in Pulicat across the country.
- ✓ Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary will be the 16th Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.

Institute of driving and traffic research

- ✓ Chhattisgarh Government's first institute of Driving and Traffic Research was inaugurated by CM Bhupesh Baghel.
- ✓ This institute has been built in Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur.

Commissionerate system

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh government has implemented of police commissionerate system in Bhopal and Indore.
- ✓ It has been implemented in view of the law and order requirements arising out of geographical expansion and Technology.
- ✓ Inspector-General of Police level officer will be the Commissioner of Police in both the cities.
- ✓ The Commissioner of Police will have the powers of the Executive Magistrate.

Initials in Tamil

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has issued an order making it mandatory for students to write the initials of their names in Tamil while applying for certificates in schools and colleges.
- ✓ The mandate would apply to members of the public when they submit applications for government records.
- ✓ The State government already made it compulsory for its employees to sign their names and initials in Tamil.

Sponge city

- ✓ Chennai is all set to adopt innovative water management strategies and transform into a sponge city to curb urban flooding.
- ✓ The sponge city concept seeks to make urban areas more permeable and to have more open spaces to store rainwater.
- ✓ Water Resources Department in Chennai is looking over the possibility of digging recharge shafts in smaller water bodies across the city.
- ✓ It will help replenish the water table.

Police Commissionerate system - Bhopal & Indore

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh government issued a notification to implement the police Commissionerate system in Bhopal and Indore.
- ✓ With the announcement, both the cities will now get police commissioners of ADG rank.
- ✓ Police commissioners in both districts will be assisted by two IG rank officers and nine SP rank officers.
- ✓ Under the police Commissionerate system, the police commissioner will not have to report to the district magistrate.

Delhi Police's e-learning platform

- ✓ Delhi Police Commissioner launched an e-learning platform, 'Unnati'.

Top position in Total Registered EVs

- ✓ Winter Session of the Parliament, Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, informed the Rajya Sabha on the state of Electric Vehicles (EV) in India.
- ✓ As per the data, India has a total of 870,141 registered EVs, with Uttar Pradesh (UP) holding the top spot registered EVs.
- ✓ UP is followed by Delhi, Karnataka, Bihar and Maharashtra in successive positions.
- ✓ The Central Government of India has reduced the Goods & Service Tax (GST) on Electric Vehicles & related products.
- ✓ GST on EVs: 5% (previously 12%)
- ✓ GST on EV Chargers & Charging Stations: 5% (previously 18%)

GI Tag to Bihar's Mithila Makhana

- ✓ The Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) under the Central Ministry of Commerce has accepted the petition to rename Bihar Makhana as Mithila Makhana and has also suggested further changes to the brand logo to better reflect its origins.
- ✓ It also suggested amendments in the brand logo to highlight its origins and protect the product's Geographical Indications (GI) rights.

✓ Some GI tags of Bihar:

- ✚ Madhubani Paintings
- ✚ Katarni Rice
- ✚ Magahi Paan
- ✚ Silao Khaja
- ✚ Shahi Litchi
- ✚ Bhagalpuri Zardalu

National Cyber Forensic Laboratory

- ✓ Ministry of Home Affairs has approved setting up a national Cyber forensic laboratory for evidentiary purposes in the central forensic science laboratory, Hyderabad.
- ✓ The ministry has seven Central forensic science laboratories in the country which has dedicated facilities for electronic forensic, including computer and cyber forensics.

Majhi Vasundhara Curriculum

- ✓ Maharashtra State Government is in the process to introduce a comprehensive curriculum for Grades I-VIII.
- ✓ This is to inculcate climate-consciousness and green values in the next generation.
- ✓ This new curriculum has been developed by the Department of Environment and Climate Change and UNICEF.

Tamil Nadu State song

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Government declared the Tamil Thai Vaazhthu as the State song of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Everyone except the differently-abled should rise when the song is sung at educational institutions, government offices, and public functions.
- ✓ It is a 55-second song and is taken from Manonmaneyam.
- ✓ Manonmaneyam is a famous Tamil Drama written by P. Sundaram Pillai.
- ✓ The observations on Tamil Thai Vaazhthu song were made by Justice G R Swaminathan in Kan. Ilango v. State case, on December 6.

Special status for Bihar

- ✓ Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has again raised his nearly 15-year-old demand for the status of special category state for Bihar.
- ✓ The latest report of the NITI Aayog puts Bihar among the bottom states in terms of growth rate and human development indices.
- ✓ Bihar's annual per capita income lags the national figure by a significant distance.
- ✓ According to the report, 51.91 percent of the state's population lives below the poverty line.
- ✓ Bihar is also doing badly in terms of school dropouts, child malnourishment, maternal health, and infant mortality.

Punjab's State festival

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Punjab, Charanjit Singh Channi has declared Lord Krishna Balram Jagannath Rath Yatra as an annual state festival.
- ✓ Notably, Punjab Government is also developing the Bhagavad Gita and Ramayana Research Centre on a 20-acre land in Patiala.

Reservation for Transgenders

- ✓ Karnataka government has decided to give 1% reservation to transgenders across all the ranks in the police department.
- ✓ It has called for applications for the post of special reserve Sub Inspector in Karnataka police and Indian Reserve Battalion.
- ✓ Karnataka is the first state to reserve jobs in public employment for transgender the person following a direction of the Karnataka High Court in July 2021.

Innuyir Kaapoom-Nammai Kaakkum 48 scheme

- ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated Innuyir Kaapoom-Nammai Kaakkum 48 scheme.
- ✓ The scheme ensures the government pays for the medical bills of all accident victims in enlisted hospitals for treatment within 48 hours of the accident.
- ✓ All medical care services will be covered under the scheme.

- ✓ People can avail of benefits in 609 hospitals across the State.
- ✓ They include 204 government hospitals and 405 private hospitals.
- ✓ Those who are not eligible for the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) will also be covered under the scheme.
- ✓ The free treatment will be provided in collaboration with the Department of Highways and Department of Transport.

Happiness curriculum

- ✓ Preparations are underway to implement the 'happiness curriculum' in primary schools of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh is the third one to try this after Chhattisgarh and Delhi.
- ✓ The happiness curriculum will be introduced to the students of classes 1 to 8.
- ✓ It will enable them to connect with themselves, family, society, nature, and the country.

Sustainable agriculture - Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has signed an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Government.
- ✓ This is to train the farmers in good farm management practices and sustainable agricultural methods.

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- ✓ The FAO apart, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is collaborating on the project.

Goa Pink Police Force

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Goa has inaugurated Goa Pink Police Force.
- ✓ It will patrol the beach areas and will provide aid in case a woman complains of abuse or accidents.
- ✓ The Pink Force in Goa is not only for women but it is for children as well.

Single-use dialysis policy

- ✓ The Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital in Chennai has introduced single-use dialysis policy.
- ✓ In this, disposable dialyser and AV tubings for each dialysis would be put in place under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.

Free Smartphone Yojana

- ✓ The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is set to launch the Free Smartphone Yojana on December 25.
- ✓ December 25 is the birth anniversary of senior BJP leader and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the state government will distribute smartphones and tablets to final year students of graduation and above.

Meendum manjapai scheme

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched an environment-friendly initiative called Meendum Manjapai Vizhipunarvu Iyakkam.
- ✓ This awareness campaign on using ‘yellow’ cloth bag or ‘manjapai’ is aimed at encouraging people to return to the use of this eco-friendly bag and discard the plastic bags.

Prevention of Mob Violence and Mob Lynching Bill, 2021

- ✓ Jharkhand Assembly has passed this bill.
- ✓ This aims at providing “effective protection” of constitutional rights and the prevention of mob violence in the state.
- ✓ After including one amendment, the Bill was passed and sent to the Governor for his assent.
- ✓ Once notified, Jharkhand will become the fourth state to bring in such a law after West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Manipur.

Delhi’s first Teachers’ University

- ✓ Delhi Cabinet approved to set up Delhi’s first Teachers’ University.
- ✓ The university will offer a four-year integrated teacher education programme after Class 12.
- ✓ Delhi Teachers’ University will be a public university.
- ✓ It will be dedicated to prepare excellent quality teachers for Delhi across different school stages.

Indco Tea Vandis

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin flagged off 20 tea-cum-food trucks, called 'Indco Tea Vandis', at the Secretariat.
- ✓ They would serve Indcoserve's various tea varieties to customers with support from the Special Area Development Programme (SADP).
- ✓ They are to be deployed in Chennai, Coimbatore, Tirupur and the Nilgiris.

CM Dashboard monitoring system

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government launched the CM Dashboard monitoring system.
- ✓ This will enable Chief Minister M K Stalin to get real-time information on important matters including rainfall patterns, water storage levels in reservoirs and health-related among others.

Tolkappiyam

- ✓ The Hindi translation of Tolkappiyam and the Kannada translations of 9 works of Classical Tamil literature were recently issued by the Minister of State for Education.
- ✓ Tamil literature goes back to the Sangam Era, named after the assembly (sangam) of poets.
- ✓ Tolkappiyam was authored by Tolkappiyar and is considered the earliest of Tamil literary work.

- ✓ It paves the way for lowering of the legal age for the consumption of liquor, its purchase or sale from the existing 25 years to 21 in the state.

Chief Minister Health insurance scheme

- ✓ The Tamilnadu government has raised the annual family income ceiling for beneficiaries of the Chief Minister Health insurance scheme to Rs 1.20 lakh.

Brahmos missile manufacturing unit

- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has laid the foundation stone of the BrahMos Aerospace cruise missile manufacturing unit in Lucknow.
- ✓ He also laid the foundation of DRDO Defence Technology and Test Centre in Lucknow.
- ✓ BrahMos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and the NPOM of Russia.
- ✓ BrahMos missile derives its name from the Brahmaputra river of India and the Moskva river of Russia.
- ✓ Recently, India successfully test-fired the air version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the integrated test range of Chandipur.

Books nationalized

- ✓ The Books written by Tamil scholars Silamboli. Su. Chellappan, Dr. Tho. Paramasivan, Pulavar Ilankumaran,

Murugesu Bhagavadhar, Sankaravalli Nayagam, Se. Raasu are nationalized by Tamilnadu government.

The M S Swaminathan Rose

- ✓ M.S. Viraraghavan, a leading horticulturist in the country based in Kodaikanal, has bred a new rose variety and named it “The M S Swaminathan Rose”.
- ✓ This rose-wearing magenta-purple is highly disease resistant, according to a release from the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai.
- ✓ Another new variety of roses has been named “Jewel of Monkompur”, which was bred by KSG Son.
- ✓ It was bred in a nursery based in Bengaluru, and it is a sparkling pinkish floribunda rose.

World Sangeet Tansen festival

- ✓ In Madhya Pradesh, the 97th edition of the World Sangeet Tansen festival started in Gwalior.
- ✓ A five-day World Sangeet Tansen festival starts from December 25 to December 30 in the city.
- ✓ The stage of the program has been constructed on the theme of the Siddhanath temple situated in Omkareshwar.

Maharashtra government’s Shakti Bill

- ✓ The Maharashtra government’s Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2020, on crimes against

women and children has recommended capital punishment in rape cases.

- ✓ Time-limit of 30 days to complete the probe since the day of registration of the complaint.
- ✓ The earlier version of the Bill had scrapped the provision of anticipatory bail to individuals accused of assault on women.
- ✓ The new recommendations have cancelled this provision taking advice from the senior lawyers.
- ✓ The Bill has also made provision of minimum one year to maximum of three years of imprisonment and ₹1lakh in fine on those who make false complaints of sexual assault.

Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station

- ✓ The Government of Uttar Pradesh has renamed the Jhansi Railway Station as 'Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station'.
- ✓ Jhansi station's new name has been decided after Rani Laxmibai.

e-RUPI

- ✓ **Karnataka government** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) & State Bank of India (SBI)** to enable and implement the 'e-RUPI' payment solution to students under its scholarship programme.

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- ✓ For redeeming e-RUPI, the identified institutes will scan the QR code or SMS string displayed by the students using an application.
- ✓ The e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless payment solution provided by NPCI and It will be used to ensure leak-proof delivery transactions.

Benefits the e-RUPI:

- ✓ Digital payment platform e-RUPI will be used to ensure “leak-proof” payment of education fees for students eligible under the scholarship programmes of the Karnataka government.

NATIONAL

50th anniversary of Indo-Pak war

- ✓ Fortnight celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak war will be celebrated in Pune from December 3 to 16.
- ✓ The celebration will commence with the inauguration of the display of the T-55 battle tank, which was built in the Soviet Union in 1963.

A book on India-Pakistan War 1971

- ✓ The Indian Army General MM Naravane released a book titled ‘Bangladesh Liberation @ 50 years: ‘Bijoy’ with Synergy, India-Pakistan war 1971’.

- ✓ It is a compilation of personal accounts of the war by veterans from India and Pakistan.
- ✓ The book is an amalgamation of historical and anecdotal accounts of the 1971 War.
- ✓ It comprises authors from both India and Bangladesh.

The Kuno National Park

- ✓ The Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh is set to get 13 cheetahs in 2022.
- ✓ This is being described as the largest intercontinental animal translocation in the world.
- ✓ Of all, 13 cheetahs 10 are from South Africa while 3 are from Namibia.
- ✓ 69 years before (in 1952) the last surviving cheetah was recorded to have been hunted down in Chhattisgarh.

World's Tallest Pier Bridge

- ✓ The Indian Railways is constructing the tallest pier railway bridge in the world in Manipur.
- ✓ The project of the Railways in Manipur is part of the Jiribam-Imphal railway line.
- ✓ The bridge is being built at a height of 141 meters.
- ✓ The total length of the Manipur bridge will be 703 meters.
- ✓ Currently, the tallest pier bridge record is held by the 139-metre high Mala-Rijeka viaduct built at Montenegro in Europe.

NHA estimates for India for 2017-18

- ✓ The share of government health expenditure in the GDP of India has increased from 1.15% in 2013-14 to 1.35% in 2017-18.
- ✓ This is according to National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates for India for 2017- 18.
- ✓ The latest estimates also highlight growing trust in the public health care system.
- ✓ Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) as a share of foreign aid for health and total health expenditure has decreased.

Tribes India Conclave

- ✓ TRIFED organized a Tribes India Conclave in association with the Ministry of External Affairs at the “Tribes India Adi Mahotsav”.
- ✓ Tribes India Conclave was organized in line with the Prime Minister’s vision for Vocal for Local.
- ✓ It is also organized to build a self-reliant India as well as to introduce rich tribal heritage to international audiences.

Cherry Blossom Festival 2021

- ✓ The three-day festival was celebrated recently.
- ✓ The festival was held in two venues, Ward’s Lake and Polo Grounds in Meghalaya.
- ✓ The annual festival coincides with the actual blooming of the cherry blossom flowers.
- ✓ The cherry tree is also known as the Prunus Cerasoides.

- ✓ Non-bank entities, which are incorporated in India, under the Companies Act 1956, are allowed to run WLAs.

1st International conference on Hydrogen energy

- ✓ Bhagwanth Khuba, the Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy, Chemicals and Fertilizers inaugurated the 1st International Conference on Hydrogen Energy – Policies, Infrastructure Development and Challenges in New Delhi.
- ✓ The event was organized by the Central Board of Irrigation and Power with the support of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Central Electricity Authority, and NTPC.
- ✓ The conference discussed future challenges for Hydrogen Energy to find solutions for the production of Hydrogen Energy to reduce the cost of production for electrolyzers.

Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021

- ✓ On November 29, 2021, the Indian Parliament passed the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021 during the first day of the winter session.
- ✓ The three farm laws of the Centre have been repealed by Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021 was tabled by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar in Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ Indian Young Water Professionals Programme

- ✓ The First Edition of the Indian Young Water Professionals Programme was launched on November 29, 2022 virtually.
- ✓ The India Young Water Professional Programme is unique and different from typical capacity building and training programs.
- ✓ The program was taken up under the National Hydrology Project.
- ✓ The Project is supported by the Australian Water Partnership.

12 Rajya Sabha MPs suspended for rest of Winter Session

- ✓ 12 Rajya Sabha MPs from various parties were suspended for the rest of the winter session.
- ✓ This is for 'unruly and violent behaviour' they demonstrated during the monsoon session of Parliament in August.
- ✓ The suspended MPs are Elamaram Kareem (CPM), Phulo Devi Netam, Chhaya Verma, R Bora, Rajamani Patel, Syed Nasir Hussain and Akhilesh Prasad Singh,
- ✓ Binoy Viswam of CPI, Dola Sen and Shanta Chhetri of Trinamool Congress, Priyanka Chaturvedi and Anil Desai of Shiv Sena.

Credit Card from Recycled PVC Plastic

- ✓ HSBC India has launched India's 1st credit card made from recycled PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) plastic.

- ✓ The drill aims to improve the cyber security readiness of India.
- ✓ Also, it aims to improve the protection and incident response capability of the country.

Periodic Labour Force Survey

- ✓ The National Statistical Office recently released its findings of the Periodic Labour Force Survey.
- ✓ This is a Quarterly bulletin and is the tenth in the series.
- ✓ This is for January to March 2021.
- ✓ The main objective is to estimate employment and unemployment indicators.
- ✓ The unemployment rate of people aged 15 years and above was 10.3%.
- ✓ The unemployment rate of urban females was 11.8% in 2021, which was 13.1% in 2020.
- ✓ The unemployment rate of urban males was 8.6% in 2021, which was 9.5% in 2020.
- ✓ The Worker Population Ratio in urban was 43.1%, which was 43.7% in 2020.
- ✓ The Labour Force Participation Rate in urban areas was 47.5%, which was 47.3% in 2020.

AIRNxt

- ✓ All India Radio has decided to begin a new programme called AIRNxt to offer youth a platform to air their voices

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as part of the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

- ✓ AIR stations will allow youngsters from local colleges, universities to take part in programming, allowing them to discuss and curate youth-centric shows.

Democracy, Politics and Governance – Book

- ✓ The Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled “Democracy, Politics and Governance” in English and ‘Loktantr, Rajniti and Dharm’ in Hindi.
- ✓ This happened on the 72nd anniversary of the adoption of the ‘Constitution of India’.
- ✓ The book was authored by Dr A. Surya Prakash.

InFinity Forum

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the InFinity Forum.
- ✓ The event is being hosted by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), under the aegis of the Government of India in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg.
- ✓ Indonesia, South Africa, and the UK are partner countries in the first edition of the Forum.
- ✓ InFinity Forum will bring together the leading minds of the world in policy, business, and technology.
- ✓ This will lead to discuss and come up with actionable insight into how technology and innovation can be

leveraged by the FinTech industry for inclusive growth and serving humanity at large.

India in G20 Troika

- ✓ India recently joined the G20 Troika.
- ✓ The G20 Troika is made of Indonesia, India and Italy.
- ✓ That is Troika is made of the current presidency, Indonesia; the previous presidency Italy and the incoming presidency which is India.
- ✓ Troika means a group of three people working together.

Report on suicides

- ✓ Death by suicide increased 30% nationwide among small business owners in 2020 as compared to 2019.
- ✓ This is according to the National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) accidental deaths & suicide report 2020.
- ✓ Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka record a higher number of overall suicides as compared to other Indian states.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of deaths in the self-employed category.
- ✓ It registered a 36% increase from 2019.

Facial recognition technology

- ✓ Airports at Varanasi, Pune, Kolkata, and Vijaywada will be the first to roll out the facial recognition technology-based biometric boarding system.

- ✓ The Airports Authority of India has engaged NEC Corporation Private Limited for implementing the technology as part of the DigiYatra policy.

40% power generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources

- ✓ India has achieved the target of 40 percent of its installed electricity generation capacity being from non-fossil energy sources.
- ✓ At COP 21, as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), India had committed to achieving 40 percent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy sources by 2030.
- ✓ The country has achieved this target in November 2021 itself.
- ✓ The country's installed renewable energy (RE) capacity stands at 150.05 GW.
- ✓ Its nuclear energy-based installed electricity capacity is 6.78 GW.
- ✓ This brings the total non-fossil fuels-based installed energy capacity to 156.83 GW.
- ✓ This is 40.1 percent of the total installed electricity capacity of 390.8 GW.

ZyCov – D

- ✓ ZyCov - D is the second indigenous vaccine next to COVAXIN.

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- ✓ The unique feature of ZyCov - D is that it is a needleless vaccine.
- ✓ At first, the ZyCov - D vaccine is to be launched in seven states.
- ✓ They are Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Punjab, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The vaccine is to be administered only to persons in the age group of 12 to 19 years.
- ✓ It is a three-dose vaccine.
- ✓ It is taken on the 28th day and the 56th day of the first dose.
- ✓ The ZyCov - D showed 66.6% efficacy.
- ✓ The vaccine was developed by the Indian Pharmaceutical company called Cadila Healthcare.
- ✓ The ZyCov - D vaccine was developed on plasmid DNA.

1817 Paika rebellion

- ✓ The 1817 Paika rebellion of Odisha is to be included as a case study in the Class 8 National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) history textbook.
- ✓ The Union Culture Minister Kishan Reddy recently made this recommendation.
- ✓ Paikas were recruited since the 16th century by kings in Odisha from a variety of social groups.
- ✓ They rendered martial services in return for rent-free land (nish-kar jagirs) and titles.

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- ✓ They were the traditional land-owning military of Odisha and served as warriors.
- ✓ When armies of the East India Company overran most of Odisha in 1803, the Raja of Khurda lost his power.
- ✓ Subsequently, the prestige of the Paikas went on a decline. So, they rebelled back.
- ✓ The British set up a commission under Walter Ewer to look into the issue.

Vaccine booster dose

- ✓ The INSACOG (Indian SARS CoV – 2 Genomics Consortium) recently suggested a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose.
- ✓ The advice is for people above 40 years of age.
- ✓ The advice comes to neutralize the Omicron risks in the country.

Crumb Rubber

- ✓ The Government has decided to use Crumb Rubber Modified Bitumen in bituminous pavement courses during road construction.
- ✓ Bituminous pavements are constructed in different layers such as base course, binder course, and surface course.
- ✓ Crumb rubber is recycled rubber produced by reducing scrap tires or other rubber into uniform granules.

SRESTHA Scheme

- ✓ The Government of India is to launch SRESTHA Scheme for the Scheduled Caste students.
- ✓ The scheme will provide quality residential education to the students.
- ✓ The scheme is to be implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

UN Report on Mullai periyar Dam

- ✓ The report stated that around 93% of the world's largest dams are located in 25 nations.
- ✓ The average life expectancy of a dam is 50 years.
- ✓ The report said that the Mullai periyar dam, built-in 1895, is situated in a landslide-prone area (seismically active area).
- ✓ If India's Mullai periyar Dam were to fail, 3.5 million people are at risk.
- ✓ The dam shows significant structural flaws.
- ✓ Its management is a contentious issue between Kerala and the Tamil Nadu States.

Maitri Diwas

- ✓ India and Bangladesh have decided to celebrate December 6 as "Maitri Diwas" (Friendship Day).
- ✓ 'Maitri Diwas' marks the day India recognised Bangladesh ten days before its liberation on 16 December 1971.

Delhi - Dehradun corridor

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to inaugurate Delhi - Dehradun corridor along with several other projects.
- ✓ The corridor will reduce the distance between the two cities from 248 - km to 180 - km.
- ✓ The main aim of the corridor is to decongest North East Delhi

other projects

- ✓ 120 MW Vyasi hydroelectricity project
- ✓ 38 - km long all-weather Chardham road project between Shrikot and Devprayag
- ✓ 33 - km stretch between Kautilya and Brahmapuri
- ✓ State of perfumery and aroma laboratory in Dehradun.

Earth Station of Doordarshan Kendra

- ✓ The Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Earth Station of Doordarshan Kendra at Gorakhpur.
- ✓ This will be the second earth station of Doordarshan in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Three FM stations of All India Radio were also inaugurated virtually on the occasion.
- ✓ Three FM stations of All India Radio were inaugurated at Etawah, Lakhimpur Kheri, and Bahraich districts.

- ✓ The Bill provides for proper surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of all specified dams in the country to ensure their safe functioning.
- ✓ The Bill provides for the constitution of a National Committee on Dam Safety.
- ✓ That shall evolve dam safety policies and recommend necessary regulations as may be required for the purpose.
- ✓ The Bill provides for the establishment of the National Dam Safety Authority as a regulatory body that shall discharge functions to implement the policy, guidelines, and standards for dam safety in the country.
- ✓ The Bill provides for the constitution of a State Committee on Dam Safety by the State Government.

Indian Army - new uniform

- ✓ The Indian Army will soon have a new combat uniform with a "digital disruptive" pattern.
- ✓ The new uniform is expected to be showcased at the Indian Army Day parade on January 15, 2021.
- ✓ The Indian Army's new uniform is expected to be more durable and comfortable in both summers and winters.
- ✓ It is expected to be light and more climate-friendly.

India will have nine nuclear reactors

- ✓ The nation will have nine nuclear reactors by 2024 and a new nuclear project, the first in northern India, will come

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Committee on Rural Development that 98.87% of the data on individual caste and religion was “error-free”.

Why “unusable”?

- ✓ The government had said that the total number of castes surveyed in 1931 was 4,147 while the 2011 SECC figures show that there are more than 46 lakh different castes.
- ✓ The entire exercise was corrupted because the enumerators had used different spellings for the same castes.
- ✓ In many cases, the respondents had refused to divulge their castes.

Maha parinirvana Divas

- ✓ The death anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is dubbed as Maha parinirvana Divas.
- ✓ The day falls on December 6.
- ✓ Mahaparinirvan is one of the major goals of Buddhism.
- ✓ It means “Nirvana after death”.
- ✓ Parinirvan is written as Parinibbana in Pali.
- ✓ Pali language is native to the Indian continent.

India’s first standalone metal debit card

- ✓ IDFC FIRST Bank announced the launch of FIRST Private Infinite, the country’s first-ever standalone metal debit card, in partnership with Visa.

- ✓ FIRST Private Infinite is a lifetime free card designed specifically for customers who are part of the Bank's FIRST Private program, premium savings and wealth offering.

Sandhayak

- ✓ The Indian Navy launched its new large survey vessel 'Sandhayak' in Kolkata.
- ✓ These survey ships are capable of full-scale coastal & deep-water hydrographic survey of Ports & Harbour approaches and determination of navigational channels & routes.
- ✓ These ships are also capable of undertaking surveys of maritime limits and collection of Oceanographic & Geographical data for Defence applications.
- ✓ Thus, boosting the maritime capabilities of the country.

No. 1 food supplier

- ✓ India surpassed Brazil in food exports to the league of Arab States for the first time in 15 years.
- ✓ India became number one food supplier to Arab Nations.

India – Russia 2+2 Dialogue

- ✓ The India – Russia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi.
- ✓ It was held by the defence ministers and external affairs ministers of the two countries.

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- ✓ This is the first 2+2 Dialogue held between India and Russia.
- ✓ During this dialogue, the countries discussed the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.
- ✓ The dialogue expanded military cooperation and joint development between the countries.
- ✓ During the dialogue, India signed a contract with Russia to procure more than six lakh AK – 203 rifles.

India's focus

- ✓ India aims at greater engagements in central Asia.
- ✓ To achieve self-reliance
- ✓ Free and open Indo – Pacific region.

Genesys International's digital twin platform

- ✓ Genesys International has launched its pan India program to make the Digital Twin of entire Urban India.
- ✓ The launch program was inaugurated by Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.
- ✓ The creation of this very accurate 3D data will mean a host of applications would open up in high-definition mapping for smart cars, e-commerce, logistics, gaming, utilities planning for next-generation networks in telecom, renewable energy, and in disaster management and emergency response.

Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020

- ✓ The bill aims to provide for the regulation of ART (Assisted Reproduction Technology).
- ✓ ART is used to treat infertility.
- ✓ In ART, the eggs are removed from a woman's body, mixed with sperm to form embryos.
- ✓ The bill was recently passed in Lok Sabha.

Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0

- ✓ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding.
- ✓ The agreement was signed under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.
- ✓ It was signed to strengthen the waste management sector in the country.
- ✓ Under the MoU, the UNDP will help in setting up 75 Smart Swachhata Kendras in the country.
- ✓ Also, the UNDP will help India on integrating the informal waste pickers.
- ✓ It will assist India in linking them with government welfare schemes.
- ✓ According to the MoU, the UNDP will assist India in solid waste management and used water management.
- ✓ Also, the UNDP will help India to promote and replicate a sustainable model for waste management.

- ✓ The conference is being organized by India Foundation in collaboration with the RSIS Singapore, Institute of National Security Studies, Sri Lanka, and the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research, UAE.

RUDRA

- ✓ The Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched India's 1st indigenous Server named RUDRA.
- ✓ It was developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing under the National Supercomputing Mission supported by MeITY and DST (Department of Science & Technology).

Development projects at Gorakhpur

- ✓ The three mega-development projects were inaugurated by PM Modi in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ PM Modi in Gorakhpur inaugurated these projects to facilitate the economic development of the state.
- ✓ The projects to be inaugurated by PM Modi in Gorakhpur includes
 - ✚ the Gorakhpur Fertilizer Plant,
 - ✚ the AIIMS Gorakhpur, and
 - ✚ the new high-tech lab of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Gorakhpur.

- ✓ The objective of the initiative is to share knowledge of various stakeholders (Central & State Govt. agencies, transit service providers, original equipment manufacturers) on accelerating the process towards seamless adoption of e-bus services in India.

Nutrition Mission

- ✓ The Minister for Women & Child Development, Smriti Irani, noted in Parliament that, State Governments and Union Territories have used only 56% of the total funds released under Poshan Abhiyan or Nutrition Mission in the last three years.
- ✓ The five States & UTs where utilisation were lowest are
 - ✚ Arunachal Pradesh (25.14%)
 - ✚ Puducherry (28.03%)
 - ✚ Ladakh (31.2%)
 - ✚ Punjab (33.62%) and
 - ✚ Uttar Pradesh (33.73%).
- ✓ Five States & UTs that made the most uses of the funds are
 - ✚ Nagaland (98.34%)
 - ✚ Meghalaya (98.14%)
 - ✚ Mizoram (94.22%)
 - ✚ Sikkim (93.13%) and
 - ✚ Dadra & Nagar Haveli (88.2%).
- ✓ Poshan Abhiyan was launched in March 2018.

- ✓ It was launched with the aim of reducing stunting, low birth weight, undernutrition challenges by 2% per year.
- ✓ It also seeks to reduce anaemia among young children, women, and adolescents by 3% per year until 2022.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the flagship housing-for-all scheme named “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)” till March 2024.
- ✓ Financial assistance will be provided to construct 155.75 lakh houses remaining as of March 31, 2021.
- ✓ Extension of the scheme till March 2024 ensures that the remaining households within the target of 2.95 crore houses under PMAY-G will be aided construct pucca houses with basic amenities.
- ✓ This helps to achieve the objective of ‘Housing for All’ in rural areas.

Ken-Betwa River interlinking project

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the Ken-Betwa River interlinking project.
- ✓ This project promises to address the issue of water scarcity in the Bundelkhand region, spreading across Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- ✓ This project is expected to benefit several poverty-stricken regions in MP and UP.

World Economic Forum survey

- ✓ A global World Economic Forum (WEF) survey highlighted that,
- ✓ around 90 percent of people in India believe they & their colleagues at workplaces should be fully vaccinated and
- ✓ 93 percent of Indians agreed that they should wear masks at public places or in proximity with others.

Saryu Canal National project

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the Saryu Canal National project in the Balrampur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The Saryu Canal project is the biggest in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ It will benefit some 25-30 lakh farmers across nine eastern UP districts.
- ✓ Under this project, five rivers namely Ghagra, Rapti, Banganga, Saryu, and Rohini, have been connected.
- ✓ The canals are having a total length of 6,600 kilometers and have been linked to the 318 km long main canal.

Top Google Searches in 2021

- ✓ Google India announced the results for its Year in Search 2021 and has recapped the top search trends of 2021 in India.
- ✓ As per result, the top searches are Cricket and CoWin in 2021.
- ✓ Cricket continued to be a major search trend in 2021.

- ✓ Indian Premier League, CoWIN, and ICC T20 World Cup have occupied the top three spots in the overall list of search queries.
- ✓ Euro Cup and Tokyo Olympics were respectively at number four and five in the list.
- ✓ The Covid vaccine, Free Fire redeem code, Aryan Khan, Neeraj Chopra, and Copa America were other notable searches that made to the top ten list.
- ✓ Top searched movies on Google in India in 2021 is *Jai Bhim*.

75 years of Constituent Assembly's 1st sitting

- ✓ The Constituent Assembly of India had held its first meeting 75 years ago on December 9, 1946.
- ✓ Distinguished people from different parts of India, different backgrounds, and even differing ideologies came together with one aim to give the people of India a worthy Constitution.
- ✓ The idea of a constituent assembly was put forward for the first time by MN Roy.
- ✓ In 1935, the Indian National Congress (INC), for the first time, officially called for a constituent assembly to frame a constitution for India.
- ✓ The demand for a constituent assembly was accepted for the first time by the British through their 'August offer' of 1940.

- ✓ Eventually, a constituent assembly was established under the provisions of the Cabinet Mission plan.
- ✓ It was constituted in 1946.

New Android app

- ✓ Punjab National Bank has launched the PNB Pride-CRMD module tool.
- ✓ It is an Android based application for differently abled employees, to monitor and effectively follow up special mention account borrowers.
- ✓ The app aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Vertical launch - Short Range Surface to Air Missile

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation tested the “vertical launch short range surface-to-air missile”, successfully.
- ✓ The missile was test-fired from the integrated test range in Chandipur, off the Odisha coast.
- ✓ Its launch was conducted from a vertical launcher towards an electronic target at a very low altitude.

Top 100 in arms sales - Three Indian companies

- ✓ Three Indian companies are among the world’s top 100 for combined arms sales in 2020.

- ✓ These Bills seek to replace the two ordinances on the subject promulgated this year.
- ✓ The object of the amendments is to cap the tenure of the Directors of the CBI and the Enforcement at five years.

Observer Status to the ISA

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly has conferred Observer Status to the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- ✓ ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India & France to mobilize efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.
- ✓ It was presented by the leaders of the 2 countries at the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Paris in 2015.

National Helpline against atrocities on SCs, STs

- ✓ Union Minister Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar has launched National Helpline against atrocities on SCs, STs.
- ✓ The objective of the helpline, reportedly, is to build awareness about the provisions of the Act that are aimed at ending discrimination and providing protection to all.
- ✓ The Helpline will be available 24-7 on toll-free number – 14566.

Green Hydrogen production

- ✓ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has collaborated with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre to scale up Alkaline Electrolyser Technology for Green Hydrogen production.
- ✓ This is a first-of-its-kind initiative to support the countries commitment to achieve renewable energy target and reduce Greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ Currently, hydrogen is made at the refinery via steam reforming of natural gas.

Chairmanship of Council of RATS SCO

- ✓ India assumed the Chairmanship of Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO) for 1 year.
- ✓ The National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India, in association with Data Security Council of India, as a Knowledge Partner, organized a 2-day Seminar on 'Securing Cyberspace in the Contemporary Threat Environment'.
- ✓ This was organized for the delegates from SCO member States.

Kashi Vishwanath Corridor

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi.
- ✓ This creates an easily accessible pathway between Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the banks of the Ganga River.

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- ✓ PM had laid the foundation stone for the project on March 8, 2019.

Republic Day celebrations

- ✓ India has invited the five central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as the chief guest for Republic Day celebrations, 2022.
- ✓ This is for the first time that representatives of all five Central Asian countries would be guests at the Republic Day celebrations.

High Court and Supreme Court Judges Amendment Bill

- ✓ This Bill was passed with the Rajya Sabha returning it to the Lok Sabha following the discussion.
- ✓ This Bill was returned to Lok Sabha since it was a money bill.
- ✓ The Bill seeks to amend the “Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958” as well as the “High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954”.
- ✓ These Acts regulate the conditions of services and salaries of High Courts & Supreme court judges in India.

Chabahar Port

- ✓ India, Iran, and Uzbekistan held talks on joint use of the Chabahar Port.

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- ✓ The plea raised problems faced by sex workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rashtriya Ekta Geet

- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched 'Rashtriya Ekta Geet' composed by the National Cadet Corps cadets in 22 languages on the theme of National Integration.
- ✓ It was launched during the grand finale of the 'Vijay Shrankhla aur Sanskrityon ka Mahasangam' campaign in New Delhi.
- ✓ The event comprised of honoring Bravehearts of 1971 Indo-Pak War at 75 locations across India.

India's first Green Hydrogen Microgrid Projects

- ✓ State-run NTPC Ltd has been awarded India's first green hydrogen microgrid project in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The project has been awarded at the Simhadri plant of NTPC Ltd at Vishaka Patnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ NTPC will involve in the "Standalone Fuel-cell based Microgrid along with hydrogen production using electrolyzer" project at NTPC Simhadri.

#Care4Hockey Campaign

- ✓ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has started its '#Care4Hockey' Campaign to elevate field Hockey's recognition in India.

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- ✓ The company has partnered with Padma Shri (2020) Rani Rampal, Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain, who will be the face of the campaign.
- ✓ '#Care4Hockey' is a one of its kind campaigns which aims to support the development of Hockey in India from the grass-root level.

ULIP Hackathon

- ✓ Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has launched the United Logistics Interface Platform Hackathon - LogiXtics.
- ✓ It has been launched to crowd source more ideas to benefit the logistics industry.
- ✓ This hackathon is being organised by Niti Aayog and Atal innovation mission and supported by National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation and NICDC Logistics data Bank Services Limited.
- ✓ The cost of logistics in India is about 14% which is higher than in other countries in the world.

Science Festival

- ✓ Union Minister of State Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the seventh edition of the India International Science Festival at Panaji, Goa.
- ✓ The theme of the 4-day science festival is 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' – "Celebrating Creativity, Science, Technology, and Innovation for a prosperous India".

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- ✓ The First India International Science Festival was held in 2015 at IIT Delhi.
- ✓ The main aim of the Science Festival is to bring into use the innovations by the people and develop technology that is affordable to the masses.

All-India Mayor's Conference

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to address and inaugurate an All-India Mayor's Conference in Varanasi.
- ✓ The All-India Mayor's Conference is being organized by the Department of Urban Development of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The conference will witness the participation of the mayor's from more than 100 cities.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana for 2021-26.
- ✓ As a part of the scheme, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Watershed Development, and Har Khet ko Paani components have been extended for 2021- 26.
- ✓ PMKSY scheme was launched in 2015.

Legal marriage age for women

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of increasing the marriage age for women from 18 years to 21 years.

- ✓ Currently, the minimum age of marriage for men is 21 while for women it is 18.
- ✓ The government will now look to introduce amendments to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act of 2006, Special Marriage Act of 1954, and the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 to bring the plan into action.

Nuclear Power Reactors

- ✓ The Government of India has granted 'In-Principle' approval to set up six Nuclear Power Reactors in technical cooperation with France.
- ✓ The approval to the nuclear power reactors has been accorded to a site in Maharashtra's Jaitapur.
- ✓ It will make it the largest nuclear power generating site in India.
- ✓ The Government of India has been determined to provide all the impetus to promote the use of Nuclear Energy in India in sectors such as Health Services as well as the agricultural programs for indigenous developments and import substitutes.

National Conclave on Natural Farming

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses farmers during a session of the 'National Conclave on Natural Farming'.
- ✓ The summit will focus on natural farming and provide information to farmers on its benefits.

- ✓ The three-day conclave is held in the Anand district of Gujarat.

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index

- ✓ On the Index on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, West Bengal has topped the chart in the large states category.
- ✓ The report on 'Index on Foundational Literacy & Numeracy' has been prepared by 'Institute for Competitiveness'.
- ✓ Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index is an indicator of literacy among children aged below 10 years.
- ✓ In the 'large states' category, Bihar languished at the bottom.
- ✓ In the 'small states' category, Kerala was placed at the top spot.
- ✓ Jharkhand emerged as the worst performer on the index.
- ✓ Mizoram topped the list in the Northeast category.
- ✓ In North East Category, Arunachal Pradesh came last.
- ✓ Among Union Territory, Lakshadweep topped the index.
- ✓ In the Union Territory category, Ladakh was listed at the bottom.
- ✓ More than 50 percent of the states scored below the national average of 28.05.

8th Indian Ocean Dialogue

- ✓ The eighth Indian Ocean Dialogue was held recently.

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- ✓ It will address the barriers related to the autonomy and financial freedom of women.
- ✓ Mission Shakti was launched in 2001 to enhance the holistic development of women.

First S-400 air defence system

- ✓ The Indian Air Force is deploying the first Squadron of the S-400 air defence missile system in the Punjab sector.
- ✓ It is equipped with four different missiles which can engage enemy aircraft, ballistic missiles.

Vernacular Innovation program

- ✓ Atal innovation mission, NITI Aayog launched the first of its kind Vernacular Innovation Program.
- ✓ It will enable innovators and entrepreneurs to have access to the innovative ecosystem in 22 mother tongue languages.

Controlled aerial delivery system

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) demonstrated the Controlled Aerial Delivery System recently.
- ✓ The Flight demonstration of Controlled Aerial Delivery System was demonstrated by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE).
- ✓ The System was of 500 kg capacity (CADS-500).

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- ✓ The demonstration of the flight was part of a series of activities that were organized to celebrate ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’.
- ✓ The System performance was demonstrated at Drop Zone, Malpura in Rajasthan from an altitude of 5000 m.

Ganga Expressway

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Ganga Expressway in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ After completion of work, it will become the longest expressway of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Ganga Expressway is a 594 Km long Expressway.

lection Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021

- ✓ The Union government introduced ‘The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021’ in Lok Sabha.
- ✓ This is in order to link Aadhaar with the electoral roll.
- ✓ Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 will allow electoral registration officers to ask for Aadhaar number of people who want to register as voters.
- ✓ Bill also seeks to allow electoral registration officers to ask for Aadhaar number from people who have already been included in the electoral roll.
- ✓ The bill will amend several sections of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951.

Reintroduction of Gharials in Beas Conservation Reserve

- ✓ Punjab's wildlife preservation wing has reintroduced the Gharials in the rivers of Punjab where it had become extinct half a century ago.
- ✓ Gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*) or gavials are critically endangered species of Asian crocodiles.
- ✓ The population of Gharials is a good indicator of clean river water.

Covovax vaccine for Children

- ✓ The World Health Organisation gave approval for emergency use of Covovax vaccine for Children.
- ✓ WHO listed the Covovax as the ninth COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use.
- ✓ This move is aimed at increasing access to vaccination across lower-income countries.
- ✓ The Serum Institute of India (SII) produces Covovax, under the license from Novavax of USA.
- ✓ The vaccine is administered in two doses, 21 days apart.

Parvovirus

- ✓ Nearly 2,000 pet and stray dogs in Amravati city in Maharashtra were affected by the canine parvovirus virus last month.
- ✓ It is a highly contagious viral disease affecting puppies and dogs.

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- ✓ It affects the intestinal tract of canines with puppies being more susceptible.
- ✓ This virus was discovered in 1967.

Air India stake & Tata sons

- ✓ Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of Air India, Air India SATS Airport, and Air India Express by Talace.
- ✓ Talace is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons.
- ✓ The CCI is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- ✓ It is a statutory body, working under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir

- ✓ The Delimitation Commission, in its first draft on the proposed allocation of assembly seats in districts of Jammu and Kashmir, has sought six new seats to be added in the Jammu division and only one in the Kashmir division.
- ✓ This has been rejected by all political parties in Kashmir who have termed it biased and unacceptable.

Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle

- ✓ Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane flagged off and inducted the first set of indigenously

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- ✓ The 3-year partnership with Udemy Business will offer courses on in-demand skills such as tech, domain, behavioural, and leadership skills to all NPCI employees.
- ✓ Through the mission ‘**Talent Development for All**’ of NPCI, it provides capacity-building programmes in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Blockchain, Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), Robotic Process Automation (RPA), etc.

WADA report

- ✓ **India** is among the world’s **top three dope violators** country in the world.
- ✓ Indian athletes were involved **152 times** in dope-related activities in the year 2019.
- ✓ The report has revealed the latest report published by the **World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada)**, which has put India into the top-three of the world’s biggest violators behind **Russia (167) and Italy (157)**.
- ✓ **Brazil (78)** is at fourth and **Iran (70)** fifth positions.

First anti-COVID-19 stainless steel

- ✓ The project team of the University of Hong Kong has produced the first anti-COVID-19 stainless steel.
- ✓ It kills the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 on its surface.
- ✓ The anti-COVID-19 stainless steel can also inactivate the H1N1 virus and E.coli on its surface.

PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

- ✓ The union government has extended Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana till March 2022.
- ✓ Under the Yojana, centres providing 5 kg food grains per person for month free of cost to all beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act.

India-Central Asia Dialogue

- ✓ The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar hosted the 3rd meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan participated in this.
- ✓ Their previous meeting was organized by India in October 2020 via video conference.
- ✓ Three of these five, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, share a border with Afghanistan.

First S-400 air defence system

- ✓ Indian Air Force (IAF) has deployed the first squadron of the S-400 air defence missile system in the western Punjab sector which will take care of aerial threats from Pakistan and China.
- ✓ The S-400 air defence system was contracted for by India from Russia in a deal worth around Rs 35,000 crores and five squadrons would be provided to India for tackling air threats from up to 400 km.

- ✓ The surface-to-air missile system would give India an edge in South Asian skies as they would be able to take out enemy aircraft and cruise missiles from a 400 km distance.

Hosting unicorns

- ✓ Adding **33** “unicorns” in a single year has helped **India** displace the **United Kingdom** to be third in the list of countries that are home to such enterprises valued at over **\$1 billion each**.
- ✓ The **US and China**, who occupy the first two ranks, are way ahead, according to the data compiled by Hurun Research Institute.
- ✓ However, the US and northern neighbour China, who occupy the first two ranks, are way ahead, according to the data compiled by Hurun Research Institute.

NITI Aayog - UN WFP

- ✓ NITI Aayog and United Nations World Food Programme (UN WFP) have agreed to diversify the food basket.
- ✓ The partnership between NITI Aayog and UN WFP focuses to mainstream the millets and supporting India in taking a lead internationally in knowledge exchange.
- ✓ The year 2023 is called the International Year of Millets.
- ✓ This partnership also aims to build resilient livelihoods for small farmers and adaptation capacities towards climate change as well as transforming food systems.

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- ✓ The government of India had observed 2018 as a year of millets, to encourage and promote millet production.

Wizikey Report

- ✓ Reliance Industries topped the 2021 Wizikey News Score ranking as India's most visible corporate in the media.
- ✓ State Bank of India is a close second on the ranking, followed by Bharti Airtel, Infosys, and Tata Motors.
- ✓ The highest-ranked state-owned firm is National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), at rank 13.
- ✓ On the global rankings chart for top Multinational Corporations (MNC), Facebook tops the index, followed by Google's Alphabet Inc.

Pralay missile

- ✓ India successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously developed, surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay' off the Odisha coast.
- ✓ The solid fuel used here is based on Prithvi Defence Vehicle.
- ✓ It is a battlefield missile developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation.
- ✓ The missile, launched from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island.

Vodafone sells world's first SMS

- ✓ Vodafone announced that it is auctioning the world's first SMS as a non-fungible token (NFT).

- ✓ Now, the company has announced that a bidder has paid 107,000 euros for the replica of the first communication protocol of a short message, perpetuated as an NFT.
- ✓ Vodafone will donate them to UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, to support millions of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and persecution.

Bharat Darshan Park

- ✓ Union Home minister inaugurated the Bharat Dharshan Park in Delhi which showcases replicas of several iconic monuments of India built with scrap and waste materials.
- ✓ The replication Anil Gardens spread over 8 acres, built by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation.
- ✓ The park will have 22 replicas of monuments like Qutub Minar, Taj Mahal, Charminar, Gateway of India, Konark Temple etc.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

- ✓ The total number of beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has crossed the 44-crore mark.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh tops the list with the highest number of accounts followed by Bihar.
- ✓ The PMJDY was launched on August 28, 2014.
- ✓ It aims to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people in the country.

INS Khukri

- ✓ India's first indigenously built missile corvettes, INS Khukri (P49), was decommissioned after 32 years of service at Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ INS Khukri was built by the Mazagon Dock shipbuilders on August 23, 1989.
- ✓ It had the distinction of being part of Western as well as Eastern Fleets.

First ABDM integrated Health Locker

- ✓ Docprime tech has launched India's first health locker integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- ✓ ABDM was launched in August 2020 for developing an integrated digital health infrastructure in the country.
- ✓ ABDM integrated Health Locker will provide users a digital and self-consented health data management system without any charges.
- ✓ It will store and manage health records electronically.

Green hydrogen plant

- ✓ Oil India Limited, India's second largest state owned oil Explorer, setting up a plant to manufacture green hydrogen at Jorhat oil field in Assam.
- ✓ The Pilot plant will generate green hydrogen using AEM Technology.

- ✓ This is a first of its kind project in the country.

Himachal Pradesh's Renukaji Dam project

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid down the foundation of the Renukaji Dam Project in Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The project, once completed, is likely to generate 200 million units of energy in a surface powerhouse which have an installed capacity of 40 MW.
- ✓ The storage capacity of the dam will be 498 million cubic meters.
- ✓ It will fulfil around 40 percent of the drinking water requirement of Delhi.
- ✓ Giri river is a tributary of the Yamuna.

3 big announcements by PM Modi for Covid-19 vaccine

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the Covid-19 vaccine for children and booster doses for Health workers and senior citizens, amid the Omicron scare.
- ✓ Children between the age group of 15 to 18 years will be getting the Covid vaccine from January 3, 2022.
- ✓ Senior citizens with comorbidities will receive booster doses from January 10, 2022.
- ✓ Citizens above 60 years of age with co-morbidities will also have the option of a precautionary dose of the vaccine on the advice of their doctor.
- ✓ The healthcare and frontline workers will be given another 'precaution dose' [booster shot] starting from January 10."

Good Governance Index 2021

- ✓ The index was launched on the occasion of Good Governance Day (December 25).
- ✓ It was prepared by the Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- ✓ The objectives of GGI are to provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and union territories, enable them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance and shift to result-oriented approaches and administration.

Performance of various states

- ✓ Gujarat has topped the composite ranking, followed by Maharashtra and Goa.
- ✓ Delhi has topped the union territories category composite ranking.
- ✓ Among the sectors, Uttar Pradesh secured the top position in the commerce and industry sector.
- ✓ Tamilnadu tops in the sector of Judicial & Public Security.

NITI Aayog Health Index 2021

- ✓ NITI Aayog released the fourth edition of its state health index for 2019-20 on December 27, 2021.
- ✓ The report, titled “Healthy States, Progressive India”, ranks states and Union Territories based on their year-on-

year incremental performance in health as well as their overall status.

- ✓ Kerala retained its top rank on the health index among the larger states while Uttar Pradesh was the worst.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu ranks second with a score of 72.42
- ✓ Mizoram topped the health index among smaller states while Nagaland was ranked at the bottom.
- ✓ Among union territories, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu was ranked at the top and Andaman & Nicobar was ranked at the bottom.

Jana Gana Mana

- ✓ December 27 marks the 110th anniversary of the first time Jana Gana Mana, India's national anthem was sung publicly at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress in 1911.
- ✓ Jana Gana Mana was later adopted as the national anthem by India's Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950.
- ✓ Rabindranath Tagore composed Bharata Bhagyo Bidhata.
- ✓ The first stanza of it, Jana Gana Mana, is now our national anthem.

Bill to raise marriage age for women to 21 years – Parliament Standing committee

- ✓ The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 that seeks to raise the marriage age for women from

Delmicron

- ✓ As per scientists, there is no variant of a novel coronavirus called Delmicron.
- ✓ The fake reports talked about the alleged mixing of the genetic material of Omicron and Delta variants leading to the birth of “more dangerous” Delmicron.

150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the first meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) which has been constituted to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo.
- ✓ The Prime Minister proposed to launch the commemoration celebrations of Sri Aurobindo from Puducherry coinciding with the celebration of National Youth Day.

Soya Meal as an Essential Commodity

- ✓ The government has notified, under the Essential Commodities Act 1955, to declare 'soya meal' as an essential commodity up to 30th June 2022.
- ✓ This step is expected to stop any unfair practices (like hoarding, black marketing, etc) in the market having the potential to hike the prices of soya meal.
- ✓ This will also enhance the availability of the commodity for consumers like poultry farms and cattle feed manufacturers.

First Intelligent Transport System

- ✓ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the first Intelligent Transport System on Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Dasna, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ This is launched in an attempt to minimize traffic woes and enhance the safety of commuters.

India to chair UNSC Counter terrorism Committee

- ✓ India will chair the Counterterrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in January 2022.
- ✓ India had last chaired this committee in 2011-12.
- ✓ The UNSC Counter-terrorism Committee was formed in September 2001 soon after the tragic 9/11 terrorist attack.
- ✓ This was formed to chart the way forward to fight against terrorism.

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

- ✓ Telangana has secured 1st place among the 34 states and Union Territories (UTs) that implement the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu and Gujarat have secured 2nd and 3rd place on the list respectively.
- ✓ The objective of the mission is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well-planned Rurban clusters.

Import duty on refined palm oil reduced

- ✓ Concerned over the high prices of cooking oils, the government has reduced the basic customs duty on refined palm oil to 12.5% from 17.5% till March next year.
- ✓ This is to boost domestic supplies and bring down rates in the domestic retail markets.
- ✓ With the reduction in the basic customs duty (BCD), the effective levy (including social welfare cess) on both refined palm oil and refined palmolein will come down to 13.75%, from 19.25%.

Atal ranking 2021

- ✓ Ministry of education has released the Atal ranking of Institutions on innovation achievements 2021.
- ✓ IIT Madras has topped the ranking third year in a row, followed by IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi.

CRPF women commandos

- ✓ In a first, a maiden contingent of CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) women commandos who have been trained in VIP security will soon be deployed with ZPlus personalities.
- ✓ CRPF raised its first-ever contingent of 32 women commandos in its VIP Security wing.
- ✓ The women commandos will now be tasked to guard its protectees who are based in New Delhi and who receive the top Z+ Cover.

- ✓ He is the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.
- ✓ He would submit the recommendations within 45 days.
- ✓ Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry Piyush Goyal will be its Member Secretary.
- ✓ The Chief Secretary and DGP of Nagaland and the DGP of Assam Rifles will be the other members of the committee.
- ✓ The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant.
- ✓ It also gives immunity to the forces if they shoot someone dead.

State of India's Livelihood Report 2021

- ✓ The State of India's Livelihood (SOIL) Report 2021 has stated that just 1-5 % of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) have received funding under central government schemes introduced to promote them in the last seven years.
- ✓ Access Development Services, a national livelihoods support organization has prepared the SOIL report.
- ✓ It has analysed only Farmer Producer Companies (FPC — FPOs registered under Companies Act, 2013) since they make up a large majority of the organizations started in recent years.
- ✓ The number of FPOs registered as cooperatives or societies is very small.

Quantum Laboratory

- ✓ The Indian Army recently established the “Quantum Laboratory” at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The Quantum Laboratory was established with the help of the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).
- ✓ It was established at Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) in Mhow.
- ✓ It was established with the objective of spearheading research and training in the key developing field.

Hydropower Projects

- ✓ The foundation stone of Hydropower Projects was laid down by Prime Minister Modi in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The hydropower projects in Himachal Pradesh inaugurated by PM also included the Renukaji Dam Project that was lying pending for three decades.
- ✓ The four projects are,
 - ✚ Sawra-Kuddu Hydropower Project
 - ✚ Luhri Stage 1 Hydro Power Project
 - ✚ Dhaulasidh Hydro Power Project
 - ✚ Renukaji Dam Project

Gram Ujala Programme

- ✓ The state-owned CESL has achieved a milestone to distribute 50 lakh LED bulbs.

US Dollar and the increase in the price of grocery and transport.

- ✓ Paris and Singapore are jointly ranked second.
- ✓ They are followed by Zurich and Hong Kong at the fourth and fifth spots respectively.
- ✓ Syria's Damascus was ranked as the world's cheapest city.

Kyhytysuka sachicarum

- ✓ Kyhytysuka sachicarum is a new marine reptile species discovered by an international team of researchers.
- ✓ It is an extinct species.
- ✓ It was discovered from fossils found in central Columbia.
- ✓ Kyhytysuka means "the one that cuts with something sharp".
- ✓ The word belongs to the indigenous language of central Columbia.

Global trade report of UNCTAD

- ✓ The value of world imports and exports of goods hit \$5.6 trillion in the third quarter of 2021.
- ✓ This set a new quarterly record, according to the UNCTAD report.
- ✓ New projections in the November edition of the organization's Global Trade Update show trade in goods and services reaching \$28 trillion for the year.
- ✓ This is an increase of 23% from 2020 and 11% compared with pre-COVID-19 levels.

- ✓ The nine-day exercise focuses on a wide range of naval capabilities.
- ✓ It includes cooperative actions that demonstrate the US and Bangladesh's capacity to work together to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific.

World Migration Report 2022

- ✓ International Organization for Migration (IOM) of the United Nations launched the 11th edition of the World Migration Report 2022.
- ✓ This states that the global international migration has increased from 84 million globally in 1970 to 281 million in 2020.
- ✓ It means that the proportion of the international migrants has increased from 2.3% to 3.6% of the global population.
- ✓ The 2022 report stated that climate change has displaced more people than conflicts.
- ✓ India and China, have the largest absolute numbers of migrants living abroad.
- ✓ India has the largest emigrant population in the world with around 18 million people living abroad.
- ✓ The Philippines has recorded the highest number of new disaster displacements in 2020.
- ✓ In 2020, Asia has reported the largest internal displacement due to disasters.
- ✓ China has reported 5 million new disaster displacements.

- ✓ India has reported nearly 4 million new disaster displacements.

First sustainable aviation fuel airline

- ✓ British Airways will become the first airline to use sustainable aviation fuel produced on a commercial scale in the UK.
- ✓ This fuel is produced from sustainable waste sources and can reduce life cycle CO₂ emissions by over 80% compared to traditional Jet fuel.

First cross-border train

- ✓ China launched the first cross-border train of its multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) from Laos.
- ✓ Laos is the only landlocked country in South East Asia.

Painless death

- ✓ Switzerland has reportedly approved the news of a suicide pod called the Sarco capsule.
- ✓ It allows users to kill themselves relatively painlessly by inducing hypoxia and the hypocapnia (the state of inadequate oxygen supply at the tissue level and reduce the carbon dioxide in the blood leading to death).
- ✓ The euthanasia device allows its occupant to bring the oxygen level.

Aung San Suu Kyi

- ✓ Aung San Suu Kyi is a Burmese politician.
- ✓ She was called the “Children of Gandhi”.
- ✓ She is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate in 1991.
- ✓ The Myanmar special court sentenced her to 4 years of prison for violating corona virus restrictions.

First country to transition to 4-and-half day work

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates has announced to change its existing 5 days work week to a four-and-a-half-day starting January 1, 2022.
- ✓ It has become world's first country to make the employee friendly transition as part of its efforts to improve productivity and work life balance.

Allyship

- ✓ Allyship - word Allyship is Dictionary.com's word of year for 2021.
- ✓ The terms “DEI” (diversity, equity, and inclusion) and “critical race theory” made their debuts as entries on the site with “allyship” this year.

World's population decline

- ✓ The world's population is set to decline for the first time ever in the next century, a new study published in the Lancet journal has revealed.

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- ✓ The study has predicted that the peak in the global population would expectedly be around 9.7 bn in 2064 and then decline to 8.79 bn in 2100.
- ✓ The population in India, the second biggest populous country, would set to hover around 1.09 bn in 2010.

Data on Arms Sales

- ✓ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released new data on Arms Sales.
- ✓ As per SIPRI data, the arms industry appears not to have been too highly affected due to the pandemic in 2020.
- ✓ The sale has increased by 1.3 percent as compared to 2019.
- ✓ As per SIPRI, 2020 marked the sixth consecutive year of growth in arms sales by 100 largest companies of the arms industry.
- ✓ It was because sales were 17 percent higher as compared to in 2015 when SIPRI first included data on Chinese firms.
- ✓ According to SIPRI, the United States has the highest number of companies featured among the top 100 in arms sales.
- ✓ The US is followed by the top Chinese firms.

Same-sex marriage

- ✓ Chile has passed a law permitting same-sex couples to marry.

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- ✓ According to that, China is the world's biggest captor of journalists.
- ✓ The journalists have been detained for reporting and publishing content that has been deemed 'sensitive' by the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

Global Health Security Index 2021

- ✓ The Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 was jointly released by non-profits Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Security.
- ✓ The GHS Index 2021 is the first comprehensive assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capacities of 195 countries to prepare for epidemics and pandemics.
- ✓ The world's overall performance on the GHS Index score slipped to 38.9 (out of 100) in 2021, from a score of 40.2 in 2019.
- ✓ This, even as infectious diseases are expected to have the greatest impact on the global economy in the next decade.
- ✓ The report showed that India has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019.
- ✓ According to the GHS Index 2021, all countries remains unprepared for future epidemic and pandemic threats.

Anti-corruption Champions

- ✓ The US State Department of State has named 12 new Anti-corruption Champions who have demonstrated leadership,

Undersea cable in Pacific

- ✓ The Western Allies namely, the United States, Australia and Japan have announced to jointly fund the construction of an undersea cable in the Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ The undersea cable in the Pacific will be used to boost internet access in three small Pacific countries since the Western allies seek to counter increasing Chinese influence in this region.
- ✓ This Allies will develop the cable for providing faster internet to Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Israeli PM's first official visit to UAE

- ✓ Prime Minister Naftali Bennett started the first official visit by an Israeli leader to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ✓ This diplomatic outreach has come at the time when world powers are negotiating with Iran on the 2015 nuclear deal, which is opposed by Israel.
- ✓ The nuclear deal is also abandoned in 2018 by former U.S. President Donald Trump.

100% Paperless

- ✓ **Dubai** became the world's first government to turn **100% paperless**, the announcement was made by the United Arab Emirate (UAE) Crown Prince.

- ✓ It will save around 3 billion Dirham (USD 350 million) and 14-million-man hours.
- ✓ The digitization will provide all the govt. services to customers & reduce paper consumption by more than 336 million papers.
- ✓ All the exceptional digital services can be accessed by the Citizens through the “Dubai Now application”.

Asian Development Outlook Report

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) released the report recently.
- ✓ It has reduced the growth forecasts for developing Asia for the year 2021.
- ✓ This move came in line with the uncertainty that the new Omicron coronavirus variant has brought.
- ✓ The ADB now sees 2021 gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 7.0% for developing Asia, as opposed to the 7.1% forecast.
- ✓ For 2022, it forecasted a growth of 5.3%.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

- ✓ **UNESCO** has added **Durga Puja** in Kolkata to its 2021 list of **Intangible Cultural Heritage**, giving international recognition to the biggest religious festival of the 331-year-old city and the state of **West Bengal**.
- ✓ The UNESCO’s announcement was welcomed by **Bengal’s ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC)** as chief

minister Mamata Banerjee is widely recognized as the biggest patron of the festival.

- ✓ With the inclusion of Durga Puja, the number of elements in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage from India has increased to **14**.

Cannabis at home – Malta

- ✓ Malta has become the first country in European Union to legalize cannabis at home and for personal use.
- ✓ Under the new law, Malta has allowed people aged 18 and above to have up to seven grams of cannabis.
- ✓ They would also be allowed to grow up to four plants at home.

10th death anniversary of Kim Jong II

- ✓ North Korea has banned its citizens from laughing, drinking, and going grocery shopping for 11 days starting from December 17, 2021.
- ✓ North Korean government authorities have ordered the citizens of the country to not show any signs of happiness.
- ✓ This is as part of the 10th death anniversary of former leader Kim Jong II.

Joumou Soup

- ✓ UNESCO placed a traditional Haitian soup called ‘Joumou Soup’ in the intangible cultural heritage list.

- ✓ Haitian soup is widely considered a symbol of independence.
- ✓ Haitians celebrated their freedom by consuming the soup.
- ✓ They traditionally serve the soup on New Year's Day for commemorating the anniversary of liberation from slavery.

Comprehensive strategic & economic

- ✓ India and Vietnam signed a letter of intent for enhanced cooperation in the postal sector.
- ✓ It was signed in line with the comprehensive strategic & economic ties between both countries.

Kalibari temple

- ✓ This Hindu temple is located in Bangladesh.
- ✓ It was recently inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ✓ It was destroyed by Pakistani forces in 1971.
- ✓ The original Ramna Kalibari was built during the medieval era and was famous for its tall structure.
- ✓ In 1929, the temple complex acquired an additional building for the devotees of the famous saint Anandamayee.

UAE announces to End Censorship

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced to end the censorship in cinematic releases.

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- ✓ The UAE administration decided to end censorship, in a bid to attract foreigners.
- ✓ As per the latest announcement, the government will not cut sensitive scenes which offend Islamic sentiments.
- ✓ The administration has also introduced a new 'above 21 years of age' category for viewers.

Queen of Asia

- ✓ Sri Lanka's National gem and Jewellery Authority has said that the world's largest corundum, blue sapphire has been found in Ratnapura in Sri Lanka.
- ✓ It weighs around 310 kg.
- ✓ This rare gemstone had been found three months ago from a gem in Ratnapura.
- ✓ The blue sapphire which has been discovered as a single crystal has been named Queen of Asia.

World Anti-Doping Agency Report

- ✓ The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) published its report on "Rule Violations", recently.
- ✓ The number of offenders in India and increased in 2019, making India among the top three of the world's biggest doping violators.
- ✓ India stands behind Russia and Italy.

Zero Covid Policy

- ✓ Hong Kong implemented its new 'Zero Covid Policy'.

Belgium to close all its nuclear power plants

- ✓ The Belgian Government has agreed in principle to close all its nuclear power plants by the year 2025.
- ✓ However, the government has decided to leave open the possibility of extending the life of two reactors if it will not be able to otherwise ensure the energy supply.
- ✓ The country has decided to phase out nuclear power plants while using gas as a bridge towards sustainable energy sources.

UNSC Resolution 2615

- ✓ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously passed this resolution to permit a carve-out in sanctions against the Taliban to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.
- ✓ This carve-out covers urgently needed humanitarian assistance and other activities that support basic human needs in Afghanistan.
- ✓ The resolution (2615) mandates a review of the carve-out every six months.
- ✓ It also requests that an Emergency Relief Coordinator brief the UNSC every six months on the delivery of assistance and any obstacles to implementation.
- ✓ It also “calls on all parties” to respect human rights and observe international humanitarian law.

World's 1st Dual-Mode Vehicle

- ✓ Japan has introduced a minibus lookalike world's first dual-mode vehicle (DMV) in its town of Kaiyo.
- ✓ The vehicle can run on normal rubber tyres on the road but its steel wheels, which are in its underbelly, descend when it hits the rail tracks.
- ✓ The DMV can carry up to 21 passengers and runs at a speed of 60km/h on rail tracks and can go as fast as around 100km/h on public roads.
- ✓ The front tyres are lifted off the track and the rear wheels stay down to propel the DMV onto the railway.
- ✓ It runs along part of the coast of Shikoku island in southern Japan, connecting several small towns and offering passengers attractive seaside scenery.

Indonesia bans Boeing 737 Max

- ✓ Indonesia has lifted a ban on the Boeing 737 Max, more than three years after the Lion air disaster that saw the loss of people on board.

New Meat Alternatives With 3D Printing

- ✓ Israeli food-tech firm SavorEat launched a plant-based burger system, that has been personalized to each customer.
- ✓ SavorEat has become one of the first companies to use 3D printing technology to cook food.

- ✓ Through this technology, customers can also choose how much fat and protein they want in each burger.

Nuclear-powered icebreaker

- ✓ **Russia** has launched its first in the series **Project 22220 versatile** nuclear-powered icebreaker known as **‘Sibir’**.
- ✓ This icebreaker will support the growing fleet of icebreakers to keep the Northern Sea Route open for year-round shipping through the **Arctic** and enable a wider presence of **India in the arctic region**.
- ✓ The construction of Sibir was started in 2015 and the icebreaker was floated on 22nd December 2017.
- ✓ Sibir was handed over to the Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation for exploitation.

MEDICINE

Vaccines for Childrens

- ✓ Covaxin manufacturer Bharat Biotech has received approval from DCGI for emergency use of its vaccine for children aged between 12-18 years.

Vaccines and pill against Covid

- ✓ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved Corbevax and Covovax Covid vaccines and anti-viral drug Molnupiravir for restricted use on adults in emergency situations.

- ✓ CORBEVAX vaccine is India's 1st indigenously developed RBD protein subunit vaccine.
- ✓ It is made by Hyderabad-based firm Biological-E.
- ✓ The Nanoparticle Vaccine, COVOVAX, will be manufactured by Pune-based firm Serum Institute of India.
- ✓ Molnupiravir, an antiviral drug, will now be manufactured in the country by 13 companies for restricted use under emergency situation for adults.

GEOGRAPHY

Cyclone Jawad

- ✓ A cyclonic storm, named Cyclone Jawad is expected to hit Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal.
- ✓ The name is as per the suggestion from Saudi Arabia and means generous or merciful in Arabic.

Semeru volcano

- ✓ The Semeru volcano of the Indonesian island of Java erupted.
- ✓ Semeru, the tallest mountain on Java Island, more than 3,600 meters high, is one of the Indonesia's nearly 130 active volcanoes.
- ✓ Pacific Ring of Fire, highly seismically active zone, creates a large number of earthquakes and volcanoes.

Typhoon Rai

- ✓ Typhoon Rai hit the south-eastern part of the Philippines, bringing heavy rains and flooding causing displacement of thousands over a large area.
- ✓ Typhoon Rai is called as Typhoon Odette in the Philippines.
- ✓ It is currently a powerful tropical cyclone, which impacted the Philippines after passing near the island of Palau.
- ✓ It became the first Category 5 super typhoon in December month.
- ✓ Rai typhoon was the 15th major weather disturbance that hit the country in year 2021.
- ✓ It intensified rapidly and classified as a super typhoon, with sustained winds of 120 miles per hour.
- ✓ It had the gusts of up to 168 miles per hour.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Server Rudra

- ✓ Under the National Supercomputing Mission, Minister of State for Electronics and IT launched the first indigenous server, Rudra, developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing.
- ✓ The server design can be used for manufacturing commercial servers and building large supercomputing systems of tence of petaflops of computing performance.

GJ 367b

- ✓ The astronomers recently found GJ 367b.
- ✓ It is a small planet that is circling a dim red dwarf star.
- ✓ The star is 31 light-years away from the sun.
- ✓ GJ 367b is one of the lightest known exoplanets.
- ✓ The planet completes its orbit in 7.7 hours.
- ✓ Thus, it is called the Ultra Short Period Planet.

IXPE Mission

- ✓ The Imaging X-Ray Polarimetry Explorer is called IXPE.
- ✓ It is a NASA Space Observatory.
- ✓ It has three identical telescopes that measure the polarization of cosmic X – Rays.
- ✓ The Mission studies exotic astronomical objects.
- ✓ The main goal of the mission is to understand the high–energy astrophysical processes and their sources.
- ✓ This supports the first science objective of NASA, which is, How the Universe works.

Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a new XRay mission called the Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer or IXPE.
- ✓ This aims at unlocking the secrets of the black hole and other extreme cosmic objects.
- ✓ The ambitious mission is a collaboration between NASA of the USA and the Italian Space Agency.

Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD)

- ✓ NASA launched its first-ever laser communications system
- ✓ It will be in a geosynchronous orbit, over 35,000km above Earth.
- ✓ LCRD will showcase the unique capabilities of optical communications in space.
- ✓ Optical communications will help increase the bandwidth 10 to 100 times more than radio frequency systems.
- ✓ LCRD will send data to Earth at 1.2 Gbps using infrared lasers.
- ✓ LCRD is NASA's first two-way, end-to-end optical relay.

BrahMos Supersonic Missile

- ✓ An air version of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile was successfully test-fired by India.
- ✓ The latest launch by the Defence Research and Development Organisation has cleared the system for the serial production of BrahMos missiles in India.

Comet A1 Leonard

- ✓ Comet A1 Leonard is a long-period comet.
- ✓ It was discovered by GJ Leonard in January 2021.
- ✓ It was the first comet to be discovered in 2021.
- ✓ The comet will pass near the earth on December 18, 2021.
- ✓ It is to make its closest approach to the sun in January 2022.

- ✓ long-period comet's range is greater than 200 years.

Portable devices for soil testing

- ✓ IIT Kanpur has developed a portable testing device that can detect soil health in just 90 seconds.
- ✓ This first-of-its-kind invention is based on near Infrared spectroscopy technology that provides real-time soil analysis reports on smartphones with an embedded mobile application, named Bhu Parikshak.

Gaganyaan

- ✓ India's first human space mission Gaganyaan will be launched in 2023.
- ✓ Two uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan will also take place in 2022.
- ✓ The second mission will carry "Vyommitra", a spacefaring human-robot developed by ISRO, at the end of 2022.

OSCAR 1

- ✓ OSCAR 1 is the first amateur radio satellite launched by Project OSCAR.
- ✓ OSCAR stands for "Orbiting Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio".
- ✓ It was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Lompoc in California.

- ✓ The satellite is a rectangular box, measuring 30 x 25 x 12 cm and having a weight of 10 kg.

Shijian-6 05

- ✓ **China** successfully launched a new group of satellites **Shijian-6 05** into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China for space exploration and new technology tests.
- ✓ The satellites were launched by a **Long March-4B rocket** which marked the **400th** mission of Long March series carrier rockets.
- ✓ The information about the number of satellites has not been specified.
- ✓ As the message reads, they will be used for space exploration and new technology tests.

Parker solar probe

- ✓ For the first time in history, on NASA spacecraft has touched the corona of the Sun.
- ✓ It is an extreme environment that's roughly two million degrees Fahrenheit.
- ✓ The rocket ship, called the Parker solar probe, successfully entered and flew through the sun's uppermost - the Corona- on April 28, 2021, and sampled particles and magnetic fields situated on the surface of the Sun.

New molecule that block covid-19

- ✓ Scientists have developed a new molecule that attaches to the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and prevent it from entering human cells and spreading covid-19.
- ✓ The researchers noted that the molecule is cheaper and easier to manufacture than the antibody currently used to treat covid-19.
- ✓ The molecule belongs to a class of compounds known RNA aptamers.

Log4Shell

- ✓ A new vulnerability named Log4Shell is being touted as one of the worst cybersecurity flaws to have been discovered.
- ✓ The vulnerability is based on an open-source logging library used in most applications by enterprises and even government agencies.
- ✓ This vulnerability grants hackers' access to an application, and could potentially let them run malicious software on a device or servers.

SMART system

- ✓ India successfully launched Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo System (SMART) from Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast.

- ✓ The SMART system has been designed for enhancing anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of torpedoes.
- ✓ SMART carried a torpedo, release mechanisms, and parachute delivery system.
- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed the weapon for the Indian Navy.

Launching foreign satellites

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed six agreements with four countries for launching foreign satellites during 2021-2023.
- ✓ The ISRO-Indian space agency, founded in 1969 to develop an independent Indian space program.
- ✓ Minister of State for Atomic Energy and Space Dr Jitendra Singh has said that ISRO has launched a total of 342 satellites from 34 countries since 1999.
- ✓ ISRO through its commercial arm, New Space India Limited (NSIL), has been launching satellites belong to other countries from Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- ✓ Total 124 indigenous satellites have been put into Earth's orbit including 12 student satellites.

Xenobots

- ✓ Scientists have witnessed a never-before-seen type of self-replication in the world's first living robots (Xenobots).

- ✓ These are created in the lab using frog cells.
- ✓ Xenobots are synthetic life forms that are designed by computers to perform some desired function and built by combining together different biological tissues.
- ✓ Xenobots are named after the African clawed frog (Xenopus laevis).
- ✓ The world's first Xenobots were developed in 2020 by assembling African clawed frog cells.
- ✓ One day these Xenobots could be programmed to perform useful functions such as finding cancer cells in the human body or trapping harmful microplastics in the ocean.

Agni P Missile

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the new generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile 'Agni P'.
- ✓ Agni P was launched from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ It is a medium-range ballistic missile, developed by DRDO as the successor of Agni-I and Agni-II missiles.
- ✓ It is the sixth missile in the Agni series of ballistic missiles.

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is in process of developing a Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) with private participation.

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- ✓ SSLV will provide a payload capability of 500 kg to a planar orbit of 500 km.
- ✓ SSLV is being developed with the aim of launching small satellites commercially at a reduced price and higher launch rate as against the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

Noises captured near Jupiter's moon

- ✓ NASA released the noises captured by the Juno mission, near Jupiter's moon Ganymede.
- ✓ Juno beamed back data from its flyby across the biggest moon in the Solar System.
- ✓ Juno is a NASA space probe, covering planet Jupiter.

NASA-ISRO research programme

- ✓ The Kerala University of Fisheries & Ocean Studies (KUFOS) has been chosen to join a research project under a NASA-ISRO collaborative program.
- ✓ KUFOS will join the research program by the Space Application Centre of ISRO.
- ✓ NASA and ISRO have been jointly developing a space-borne synthetic aperture radar (NISAR).
- ✓ NISAR will provide high-resolution data for large areas with the capability for systematic observation of earth resources.

ASIGMA app

- ✓ Indian Army launched a contemporary messaging application named ASIGMA.
- ✓ ASIGMA stands for Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application.

Artificial sun

- ✓ China conducted a nuclear fusion experiment, for advancing its “artificial sun.”
- ✓ The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) heating system was kicked off by Hefei Institute of Physical Science in December 2021.
- ✓ EAST heating system experiment was conducted with the aim of making artificial sun or auxiliary heating system ‘hotter and more durable.’
- ✓ Tokamak uses extremely high temperatures to boil the hydrogen isotopes into a plasma and then fuse them together to release energy.

Abhyas

- ✓ DRDO has successfully conducted the flight test of Indigenously developed Abhyas from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast, Odisha.
- ✓ Abhyas is a High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) System developed to meet the requirement of aerial targets of the Indian Armed Forces.

- ✓ It is designed for autonomous flying with the help of an autopilot.
- ✓ It was developed indigenously by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory.

James Webb Space Telescope Mission

- ✓ NASA is all set to launch its much-awaited next-generation space telescope mission named “James Webb Space Telescope Mission”.
- ✓ It will be launched on Ariane 5 rocket, operated by Arianespace.
- ✓ It has been jointly developed by NASA, Canadian Space Agency (CSA), and the European Space Agency (ESA).
- ✓ As NASA’s flagship astrophysics mission, it is planned to succeed the Hubble Space Telescope.
- ✓ JWST mission will provide improved infrared resolution and sensitivity as compared to Hubble Space Telescope.
- ✓ It is the 256th Ariane mission.

Apretude

- ✓ The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the USA approved the world’s first injectable medication for reducing the risk of acquiring HIV.
- ✓ Apretude is an injectable drug.
- ✓ Its generic name is “cabotegravir extended-release injectable suspension”.

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- ✓ The drug provides an alternative to daily pills for HIV prevention, like Truvada and Descovy.
- ✓ These pills are effective up to 99% at preventing the sexual transmission of HIV.
- ✓ However, it must be taken every day to be effective.

Inmarsat-6 F1

- ✓ Japan has launched Inmarsat-6 F1, a communication satellite, through a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) H-IIA204 rocket from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center that will enter geostationary orbit, about 22,240 miles (35,790 kilometres) above the earth.
- ✓ The satellite is 12,060-pound (5,470 kilograms) and is the first of two 'I-6' spacecraft.

Artificial Intelligence Prosecutor

- ✓ Researchers in China have developed a machine that can charge people with crimes by using artificial intelligence.
- ✓ This is the world's first kind of technology.
- ✓ The AI prosecutor has the capability to file a charge with more than 97 percent accuracy.
- ✓ It will file a charge on the basis of a verbal description of the case.

ECONOMY

World Inequality Report 2022

- ✓ France-based World Inequality Lab published this report.

- ✓ This report was authored by Lucas Chancel, who is the co-director of World Inequality Lab.
- ✓ It was coordinated by the famed French economist Thomas Piketty.
- ✓ The report notes that the top 1 % of India's population owns more than one-fifth of the total national income in 2021.
- ✓ The bottom half of the population earns just 13.1 percent.
- ✓ It highlights that economic reforms and liberalization that India has adopted, have mostly benefited the top 1 percent.
- ✓ The report identifies India as a poor and unequal country, with an affluent elite.
- ✓ 1 percent richest people in India hold 22% of the total national income in 2021, while the top 10 % own 57 percent of the income.
- ✓ The average national income of the Indian adult population is Rs 204,200 in 2021, on the basis of purchasing power parity.
- ✓ However, the report clarified that the average national income of a country masks inequalities.

Mid-Year Trends Report 2021

- ✓ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) released this report.
- ✓ According to the report, 50.9 people were internally displaced across 33 countries due to conflict and violence in the first 6 months of 2021.

- ✓ The trend of rising forced displacement continued from 2020 into 2021, with global numbers now exceeding 84 million.
- ✓ This is an increase from 82.4 million at the end of 2020.
- ✓ This resulted largely from internal displacement.
- ✓ Much of the new internal displacement was in Africa.

RBI's new norms for Private banks

- ✓ Under the new norms, RBI has accepted the suggestion to increase the cap on the stake of promoters in banks from 15 percent to 26 percent.
- ✓ However, it is still examining if industrial houses should be allowed to run banks in accordance with the recommendations of an internal working group (IWG).
- ✓ In all, RBI accepted 21 out of 33 recommendations of the IWG.
- ✓ IWG is headed by the director of the central board of the RBI, Prasanna Kumar Mohanty.

Repo rate unchanged

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent for the ninth consecutive time.
- ✓ The reverse repo rate will continue to be 3.35 per cent.

Foreign exchange reserves

- ✓ India currently has the fourth largest foreign exchange reserves in the world.
- ✓ The forex reserve of India stands at USD 640.4 billion.

Scheduled bank status

- ✓ Paytm Payments Bank has been given the scheduled bank status by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ The bank has been included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the approval will help it to bring more financial services and products.
- ✓ Chairman of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd: Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

Loan against digital gold

- ✓ Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB) signed a partnership agreement with fintech firm, India gold to launch India's first Loan against Digital Gold.
- ✓ This agreement will enable customers to use their digital gold balance to avail of instant and digital loans up to Rs. 60,000.
- ✓ It also seamlessly accesses gold loans starting at a monthly interest of just 1%.

Retail inflation Rises

- ✓ Retail inflation based on consumer price index, has risen to 4.91% in November from 4.48% in October.

- ✓ As per the ministry of statistics and programme implementation data released, this is the fifth month that the retail inflation has remained within the RBI's target band of 2-6%.
- ✓ CPI inflation in rural India stood at 4.29% and 5.54% in urban areas.

Tether

- ✓ Myanmar's shadow government has allowed the use of the world's largest cryptocurrency called Tether.
- ✓ Tether Cryptocurrency will be used as an official currency.
- ✓ This move will make it easier to raise funds and make payments.

Wholesale inflation

- ✓ Producers' inflation based on the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** has reached an all-time high in the current series at **14.23 per cent** in November.
- ✓ This is the eighth successive month of double digits WPI (mainly due to the hardening of prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude petroleum and natural gas).
- ✓ Wholesale Price-based Index (WPI) inflation base year is 2011-2012.
- ✓ Also, the spike is highest since April 2015.

Prompt Corrective Action Framework

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) under the ambit of prompt corrective action (PCA) framework.
- ✓ Under the PCA framework, NBFCs will face restrictions when parameters such as capital adequacy ratio, non-performing assets, and Tier 1 capital will fall below the stipulated levels.
- ✓ The Banks are already covered under the framework.
- ✓ This framework will be applicable for all deposit-taking NBFC.
- ✓ However, it will exclude government NBFCs, housing finance companies, primary dealers and other non-deposit taking NBFCs in the upper, middle, and top layers.
- ✓ The PCA framework for NBFCs will be implemented from October 1, 2022.
- ✓ This is done on the basis of the financial position of NBFCs on or after March 31, 2022.

bob World Wave

- ✓ Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched a wearable payment solution called “bob World Wave”.
- ✓ To develop the “bob world wave”, the Bank of Baroda partnered with NPCI.
- ✓ It was developed by leveraging the existing NFC-based technology.

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- ✓ This technology is witnessing the rise of tremendous interest worldwide.
- ✓ The lenders are using this opportunity for adopting more convenient and cashless digital payments systems.

Government cuts GST rate

- ✓ The government has slashed the GST rate on ethanol meant for blending under the Ethanol Blended Petrol program to 5% from 18%.
- ✓ This program has been extended to the whole India except union territories of andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.

RBI imposes penalty

- ✓ A penalty of Rs 1.8 crores has been imposed on Punjab National Bank (PNB) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), while ICICI Bank has been fined Rs 30 lakh for deficiencies in regulatory compliances.
- ✓ According to a statement issued by the central bank, PNB was found guilty of contravening provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, related to pledge of shares by it.
- ✓ The RBI however made it clear that in both the cases, penalties were levied on deficiencies in regulatory compliances and it was not a pronouncement on the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their respective customers.

Agency Bank to conduct Govt Business

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Department of Financial Services, the Ministry of Finance, has decided to make the Scheduled payments banks and scheduled small finance banks (SFBs) eligible to conduct Government agency business.
- ✓ In May this year, RBI has revised the existing guidelines on 'Appointment of Scheduled Private Sector Banks as Agency Banks of RBI' for authorising Scheduled Private Sector Banks as agency banks of RBI for conducting govt business (Central and/or State).

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

- ✓ ICICI Prudential Life Insurance became the first Indian insurance company to sign United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI).
- ✓ This is to demonstrate the commitment towards environmental, social, and governance issues.
- ✓ In order to promote sustainability, IPRULIFE is integrating Environmental, social, and governance factors into its investment management framework.
- ✓ The UNPRI is an investor initiative in partnership with the two bodies of the United Nations – the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative and the UN Global Compact.

Top spot in Digital Payments

- ✓ Bank of Baroda has announced it has won the #1 position in overall digital transactions amongst large banks for FY20-21.
- ✓ The bank showed the exceptional growth of digital payment transactions achievement and was felicitated by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India at the Digital Payments Utsav.
- ✓ To commemorate the **75th anniversary** of the Independence of India, MeitY is celebrating “Digital Payments Utsav”.

World Gold Council’s ‘Bullion Trade-in India’ report

- ✓ Imports made up 86% of India’s gold supply between 2016-2020.
- ✓ The inbound shipments continue to grow despite high import duty.
- ✓ In 2020, India imported 377 tonnes of gold bars from more than 30 countries.
- ✓ Out of this 55% came from just two countries - Switzerland (44%) and the UAE (11%).

Non-banking financial companies

- ✓ Corporate houses, which are allowed to own a bank, now pick up a 15% stake in commercial banks through their non-banking financial Company.

Best governed company listed segment

- ✓ HDFC Life has been adjudged the 'Best Governed Company Listed Segment: Large Category' at the 21st edition of the ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance.
- ✓ HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited was established in 2000.

Green fixed deposits

- ✓ **IndusInd Bank** has announced the launch of 'green fixed deposits', whereby the deposit proceeds will be used to finance projects and firms supporting the UN's **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- ✓ A green deposit is a fixed-term deposit for investors looking to invest their surplus cash reserves in environmentally friendly projects.
- ✓ These deposits will be offered to both retail & corporate customers.

Trend and Progress of Banking in India

- ✓ India's central bank, **RBI** has released the latest iteration of its annual report on the financial performance of the country.
- ✓ In its report, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** details that, despite the devastation caused by the COVID-19 outbreak in India, the financial performance of banks has

improved, citing a fall in the gross non-performing asset ratio for **scheduled commercial banks (SCBs)**.

- ✓ The report, titled '**Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India**,' also showed how a rise in profitability of SCBs in 2020-21 was driven less by an increase in income but more via reductions in expenditure.

Agency Bank

- ✓ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the empanelment of **CSB Bank**, a private sector lender as an '**Agency Bank**'.
- ✓ Through this appointment, the CSB Bank will undertake the general banking business of the central and state governments under the guidelines set by the RBI.
- ✓ As an Agency bank, CSB Bank will work with different state governments and central government departments for businesses such as tax collections, pension payments, collection of stamp duty, etc.

ENVIRONMENT

Study on Flash Droughts

- ✓ A recent study has identified India among the global flash drought hotspots from 1980-2015.
- ✓ About 10-15% of areas under cultivation of rice and maize were affected by flash droughts during the monsoon seasons in India from 1951-2018.

- ✓ The new species named the Chocolate-bordered Flitter, also carries the scientific name *Zographetus dzonguensis*.
- ✓ The new species is closely similar to *Z.Pangi* from Guangdong and *Z.hainanensis* from Hainan, China.
- ✓ This is the second butterfly species new to science from the Northeast after 2015.

Flatbill flycatchers

- ✓ In South America, a New Species of Bird named Flatbill flycatchers have been discovered.

Update of IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

- ✓ The number of species at risk of extinction in the Red List of IUCN has exceeded 40,000 for the first time.
- ✓ As per an update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the destruction of wetlands is causing the decline of dragonflies across the world.
- ✓ Their decline is due to the widespread loss of swamps, marshes, and free-flowing rivers where they breed in.
- ✓ The decline is mostly driven by the expansion of unsustainable agriculture and urbanisation worldwide.
- ✓ It now includes 142,577 species, out of which 40,084 are threatened with extinction.

Atlantification

- ✓ A recent study has found that Atlantification started at the beginning of the 20th century.

- ✓ The Arctic has warmed by 2 degrees Celsius since 1900.
- ✓ The larger Atlantic Ocean began flowing faster than the Arctic Ocean could accommodate.
- ✓ This weakened the distinction between the layers and transformed Arctic waters into something closer to the Atlantic.
- ✓ This process is called Atlantification.
- ✓ It is part of the reason why the Arctic is warming faster than any other ocean.

Bengal Tiger in Buxa Tiger reserve

- ✓ A camera trap set up at Buxa Tiger Reserve in Alipurduar district of West Bengal has captured sight of the Royal Bengal Tiger.
- ✓ The sighting of the Bengal Tiger is significant because no tiger had been photographed for more than 23 years, in the Buxa Reserve.
- ✓ The last known tiger was photographed in 1998.

New Arctic temperature

- ✓ The United Nations has officially recognized 38 degrees Celsius as a new record high for the Arctic.
- ✓ The temperature was measured in Siberia in 2020.
- ✓ The move has come as an alarm over climate change.
- ✓ The World Meteorological Organisation said that the sweltering heat which is equivalent to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit was seen in 2020.

- ✓ It will identify and support 'technology showstoppers' or promising joint India-US Science and Tech-based entrepreneurial initiatives in this area.

Barn owl in Bihar

- ✓ The forest officials rescued a barn owl in Supaul district of Bihar, in a rare sighting.
- ✓ The Barn owl is usually native to the US, the UK, and other parts of Europe.
- ✓ It is rarely seen in the Indian subcontinent.
- ✓ The Barn Owl is scientifically called *Tyto alba*.

Finn's weaver bird

- ✓ The Finn's weaver bird, numbering less than 500 in India is primarily found in Terai grasslands, in Uttarakhand and western Uttar Pradesh, apart from a few pockets in Assam.
- ✓ The Finn's weaver (*Ploceus megarhynchus*), listed as "vulnerable" in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List has been up listed to the "endangered" category.

Study on coral reefs

- ✓ Most of the coral reefs in the western Indian Ocean face a high risk of extinction in the next 50 years due to global warming and overfishing, as per a new study.

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- ✓ The study conducted by a group of researchers claims that coral reefs from Seychelles to South Africa might become functionally extinct by 2070.
- ✓ The study was published in the journal - Nature Sustainability.

In-country migration

- ✓ The longest in-country migration route of lesser floricans has been tracked for the first time from Rajasthan to Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district.
- ✓ Lesser floricans are the endangered birds of the bustard group.

Anniversary of Biosphere preservation

- ✓ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation overrated the 50th anniversary of a Man and the Biosphere Programme.
- ✓ This programme was created in 1971.

NAVY

First sea trials

- ✓ Indian Navy conducted the first sea trials for Indian Navy's indigenously built stealth destroyer called Mormugao, in the Arabian Sea.
- ✓ Mormugao is the second indigenous stealth destroyer, that is being built under Project P-15B.

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- ✓ INS Visakhapatnam was the first ship built under project P-15B.
- ✓ The ship was commissioned into Indian Navy on November 21, 2021 in Mumbai.

About Project-15B

- ✓ Under this project, a total of four warships have been planned namely, Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat.
- ✓ These Guided missile destroyers are under construction at M/s Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1971: Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories

- ✓ A new book that unearths true stories of the 1971 Indo-Pak war, '1971: Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories, written by Rachna Bisht Rawat, was released.
- ✓ The book includes, from the story of the flight lieutenant who went missing after his plane crashed inside Pakistan to the 'last khukri attack' in modern military history.

Public Service Ethics

- ✓ The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu launched 'Public Service Ethics- A Quest for Naitik Bharat' authored by Prabhat Kumar, published by IC Centre for Governance, at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas, New Delhi.

- ✓ The book highlights the multiple dimensions element of human character, the practice of ethical principles as a way of life.

Assam Governor releases book

- ✓ Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi released a book 'Principles and Practice of Oncology'.
- ✓ The book will benefit students and practicing clinicians across the country.

Dr Shashi Tharoor's book

- ✓ Former union minister and Lok Sabha Member of Parliament Dr. Shashi Tharoor's 23rd book titled 'Pride, Prejudice and Punditry' was launched in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ There are ten sections in this book, each devoted to a particular topic such as modern Indian history, Indian Politics, etc.
- ✓ He has won 'Sahitya Akademi Award' for 2019, awarded to his book – 'An Era of Darkness.

Rekha Chaudhari's book

- ✓ Doctor Rekha Chaudhari's book 'India's ancient Legacy of Wellness' was launched.
- ✓ The book reveals of important it is for human being to be close to nature which helps to revive and recharge to do productive work.

Rahul Rawail's book

- ✓ Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has released the book titled 'Raj Kapoor: The Master At Work' authored by Rahul Rawail.
- ✓ The book launch event was held at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, coinciding with Raj Kapoor's 97th birth anniversary.
- ✓ The vice president described the book as a "labour of love and dedication".

SS Oberoi

- ✓ The book titled 'Rewinding of First 25 years of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology' authored by SS Oberoi, the former adviser at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) was launched by Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary of MeitY.
- ✓ The book consists of life experience, challenges working as an advisor under the MeitY.
- ✓ He was the first head of the Software Development Agency and the first adviser of Information Technology.

Shantanu Gupta's book

- ✓ The book titled "The Monk Who Transformed Uttar Pradesh: How Yogi Adityanath Changed UP Waala Bhaiya' abuse to a Badge of Honour", authored by Shantanu Gupta.

Dr Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad's book

- ✓ Vice President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** has released the Telugu book titled '**Gandhi Topi Governor**' by Padma Awardee **Dr Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad**, Chairman, Official Language Commission, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The book chronicles the life of Barrister Idpuganti Raghavendra Rao.
- ✓ I R Rao was a prominent freedom fighter, Legislator and the Governor of the Central Provinces in the British Administration.

Tusshar Kapoor's book

- ✓ Actor-producer Tusshar Kapoor has announced his debut book "Bachelor Dad: My journey to Fatherhood and more".

Autobiography of Arup Roy Choudhury

- ✓ Vice-President of India M Venkaiah Naidu has released the book titled "The Turnover Wizard – Saviour Of Thousands", an autobiography of Arup Roy Choudhury, the former Chairman and Managing Director of NTPC Limited and NBCC (India) Limited.
- ✓ The book consolidates Arup Roy Choudhury's learnings from life and brings out the management lesson from his life.

- ✓ The book is also endorsed by E Sreedharan, The Metro Man of India.

Gen. Nirmal Chander Vij (ret)'s book

- ✓ A new book by former Indian Army Chief of Staff Gen. Nirmal Chander Vij (ret) claims to offer a “full picture” of the conflicts in Jammu and Kashmir and the way forward.
- ✓ The book published by HarperCollins India, the book of General Vij, The riddle of “Kashmir: the quest for peace in a troubled land”.

Spices Statistics at a Glance 2021

- ✓ Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has released the book titled Spices Statistics at a Glance 2021.
- ✓ The book is a compendium of all the spices statistics like area, production, productivity, export, import, price, and value of the output of various spices produced in the country.
- ✓ The book has been published by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development.
- ✓ The book highlights the growth achieved in the spices sector during the last seven years.
- ✓ Spices production in the Country has grown from over 67 lakh tonnes in 2014- 15 to over 106 lakh tonnes in 2020- 21 with an annual growth rate of 7.9 percent.

V L Indira Dutt's book

- ✓ Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu has launched the book titled 'Dr V L Dutt: Glimpses of a Pioneer's Life Journey' authored by Dr V L Indira Dutt, Chairperson and Managing Director of KCP Group, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The book is based on the life of Late Velagapudi Lakshmana Dutt (V.L. Dutt), the former Chairman of KCP Group.

Bala Krishna Madhur's autobiography

- ✓ An autobiography titled 'At Home In The Universe' by Bala Krishna Madhur was released.

SPORTS

Ravichandran Ashwin's new record

- ✓ Ravichandran Ashwin became India's third-highest wicket-taker (With 418 wickets) in Test cricket.
- ✓ He surpassed veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.
- ✓ He achieved this feat on Day five of the first Test between India and New Zealand at the Green Park Stadium in Kanpur.
- ✓ He dismissed the Kiwi vice-captain Tom Latham to reach the milestone.

ATP Challenger tournament

- ✓ Indian tennis player Ramkumar Ramanathan won his maiden singles title at the ATP Challenger tournament in Manama, Bahrain.
- ✓ He defeated Evgeny Karlovskiy of Russia.
- ✓ Ramkumar Ramanathan is from Chennai.

National Shooting Championship

- ✓ In shooting, Rajshree Sancheti climbed the gold medal in the women's 10 metre air rifle at the 64th National Shooting Championship Competitions in Bhopal.
- ✓ In the junior women's 10m air rifle event, Tamil Nadu's R. Narmada Nithin won the gold.

Ajaz Patel

- ✓ Left arm spinner Ajaz patel created a history by taking all 10 wickets in an innings in the 2nd test match against India. He plays for New Zealand.
- ✓ He became the third bowler after Jim Laker and the Anil Kumble to achieve the feat.

Asia Youth Paralympic Games

- ✓ The Tokyo Paralympian Kashish Lakra had a gold medal in the club throw at the 2021 in Asia Youth Paralympics Games in Bahrain.
- ✓ Ananya Bansal on the country's first ever silver medal in shot put in the F-20 category.

- ✓ Bahrain is hosting the 4th Asian Youth Paralympic Games.

Malaysian Open Championships

- ✓ Indian Squash star, Saurav Ghosal has scripted history as he has become the first Indian squash player to win the Malaysian Open Championships.
- ✓ He won against Miguel Rodriguez of Colombia to achieve this feat.

Davis Cup 2021

- ✓ The Davis Cup 2021 was won by the Russian Tennis Federation.
- ✓ The Davis Cup finals match was held between Daniil Medvedev and Andrey Rublev of Russia.
- ✓ Daniel Medvedev won the match bringing victory to the Russian Tennis Federation.
- ✓ Andrey Rublev was named the Most Valuable Player.
- ✓ The Davis Cup is also called the World Cup of Tennis.
- ✓ It is an international team event in men's tennis.
- ✓ The women's equivalent of the Davis Cup is Billie Jean King Cup.
- ✓ It is conducted by the International Tennis Federation.

Asian team squash championships

- ✓ Malaysia won against India in the men's final of the Asian team squash championships.

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- ✓ India had lost in the summit clash before in 1981 and 2012 also.
- ✓ Malaysia's women's team also won by defeating Hong Kong in the final.
- ✓ The last time Malaysian men's and women's teams won was in the 2008 championships in Kuwait.

BWF World Tour 2021

- ✓ The BWF World Tour 2021 finals was held between PV Sindhu of India and Seyoung of Korea at Bali in Indonesia.
- ✓ Seyoung won the cup and Sindhu settled in for a silver medal.
- ✓ In Men's Singles of the BWF World Tour 2021, Viktor Axelsen won the cup.
- ✓ The BWF World Tour is a Grade 2 Badminton tournament series.
- ✓ It is held by the BWF, Badminton World Federation.
- ✓ It is held among the top world-ranked players in singles (men and women) and doubles (men, women, and mixed).

Olympics 2022 - US boycott

- ✓ The US Government recently announced the boycott of Olympics 2022.
- ✓ The Olympics 2022 is to be held in Beijing of China.
- ✓ The US cited that "China's human rights ATROCITIES" is the main reason for its boycott.

- ✓ The US has named the boycott “Diplomatic Boycott”.
- ✓ It means that the US is not sending any official or diplomatic representation to participate in the Olympics.
- ✓ However, the US is allowing American athletes to participate in the Olympics.
- ✓ The US is boycotting for the following human rights atrocities of China:
 - ✚ Situations in Taiwan and Tibet
 - ✚ The crackdown in Hong Kong
 - ✚ Abuse of minority Muslim Uyghurs in Xinjiang
- ✓ With this move, Australia has joined a US diplomatic boycott of the Winter Olympics Games.

Virat Kohli's new achievement

- ✓ Virat Kohli became the first cricketer in history to register 50 wins in international cricket across formats.
- ✓ He achieved this after India crushed New Zealand by 372 runs in the Mumbai Test.
- ✓ Kohli's 50th Test win added to his tally of 153 ODI victories and 59 T20I triumphs.
- ✓ It is making him the only player to achieve the feat in international cricket.

2021 FIH Junior Men’s Hockey World Cup

- ✓ Argentina lifted the coveted trophy of the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup after defeating Germany 4-2 in the

final match at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- ✓ India suffered a defeat against France in the bronze medal match.

Senior Women's National Football Championship

- ✓ Manipur successfully defended their Senior Women's National Football Championship crown after a dramatic penalty shootout win over Railways in the final at the EMS Stadium in Kozhikode, Kerala.

Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021

- ✓ **Sanket Mahadev Sargar** won the gold medal in **Men's 55 kg snatch category** at the ongoing **Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021**.
- ✓ He created the national record by lifting 113kg in the men's 55kg snatch category.

Asian Youth Para Games 2021

- ✓ India claimed 41 medals (12 Gold, 15 Silver, 14 Bronze) at the 4th Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG).
- ✓ The event was held in Riffa city, Bahrain.
- ✓ The event was organized by the National Paralympic Committee of Bahrain with the support of the local government.
- ✓ The 5th edition of the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 will be hosted by Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Asian Rowing Championship

- ✓ India won a total of six medals, including two gold and 4 silver medals in the Asian Rowing Championship in Thailand.
- ✓ Senior rower Arvind Singh bagged a gold in the lightweight Men's single sculls event while his compatriots won three silver medals.
- ✓ India bagged silver medals in Men's Lightweight Double Sculls, Men's Quadrapul Sculls and in Men's Coxless Four.
- ✓ In Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, India's Ashish Phugat and Sukhjinder Singh won the silver.

New captain of the Indian ODI and T20I

- ✓ Rohit Sharma has been named as the new captain of the Indian ODI and T20I teams.
- ✓ He is succeeding Virat Kohli.

Committee for differently abled cricketers

- ✓ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has formed a committee for the differently-abled cricketers of the country.
- ✓ Disability cricketers have welcomed the decision of the BCCI to form a Differently Abled Committee for the differently-abled cricketers.

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- ✓ On the basis of the recommendation of the **Justice Lodha committee**, a board of three former disabled cricketers was being awaited for the last several years.
- ✓ The Proposal was approved by BCCI headed by president Sourav Ganguly & secretary Jay Shah.

Sports journalists' federation of India award

- ✓ The prestigious Sports journalists' federation of India medal will be honoured on legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar.
- ✓ Neeraj Chopra was adjudged the SJFI sports man of the Year while fight left Mirabai Chanu was voted as the sportswoman of the year.

Chess Championship

- ✓ World chess champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway defended his title and won the FIDE World Championship in Dubai.
- ✓ He beat Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia.
- ✓ Carlsen clinched his fifth world championship title.

SAFF championship

- ✓ India will host the women's under-18 and under-19 SAFF championship in 2022.
- ✓ This was announced by the All India Football Federation.

- ✓ She was honoured for growing talent and increasing young girl in India to take up sports and fight for gender equality.
- ✓ She is a World Championships bronze medalist in the long jump.

Khelo India Women's Hockey League

- ✓ The Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur formally inaugurated the firstever national-level Khelo India Women's Hockey League at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Sports Authority of India and Hockey India are jointly organizing the firstever national-level Khelo India league.

Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships

- ✓ Ajay Singh clinched India's third gold of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships held at Tashkent of Uzbekistan by winning the men's 81kg category.
- ✓ Ajay Singh lifted a total of 322kg and also set a national record in snatch (147kg).
- ✓ He became the third Indian weightlifter to directly qualify for next year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
- ✓ Jeremy Lalrinnunga (67kg) and Achinta Sheuli (73kg) have already qualified for the 2022 CWG after winning gold in their respective competitions.

Kidambi Srikanth

- ✓ Kidambi Srikanth created history by becoming the first Indian shuttler to enter the men's singles final of the BWF World Championships in Huelva, Spain.
- ✓ Kidambi Srikanth is currently ranked world no.14.
- ✓ He has not only become the first Indian male shuttler to qualify for the final at the prestigious event but he is also the third Indian after PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal.

BWF World Championships

- ✓ Shuttler Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian man to win a silver medal at BWF World Championships held at Huelva, Spain.
- ✓ In the final, he was defeated by Singapore's Loh Kean Yew.
- ✓ This was also the first time that a men's player from Singapore won gold at BWF World Championships.

BWF Athletes Commission

- ✓ Former world champion **PV Sindhu** has been appointed as a member of the Badminton **World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission**, along with five other people.

Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021

- ✓ India concluded the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021 with 16 medals.

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- ✓ The 16 medals include 4 Gold, 7 Silver, and 5 Bronze.
- ✓ It was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- ✓ Bindyarani Devi was India's only medallist at the World Weightlifting Championships 2021, which was also held parallelly at Tashkent.

Jr Squash Open

- ✓ Indian teenager Anahat Singh has scripted history by winning the U-15 girls category of the prestigious Junior US Open Squash tournament in Philadelphia.
- ✓ She became the first Indian girl to win the Junior US Open Squash tournament.

Harbhajan Singh

- ✓ Veteran spinner Harbhajan Singh has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- ✓ He is the first Indian bowler to claim a test hat trick.
- ✓ He is also the country's fourth highest Wicket taker behind Anil Kumble, Kapil Dev and Ravichandran Ashwin.

Aanchal Thakur

- ✓ Ace Indian Skier Aanchal Thakur has bagged a bronze medal at the FIS Alpine Skiing competition in Montenegro.
- ✓ With this, Aanchal became the first Indian ski athlete to win two medals at the international level.

SAFF U 19 women's Championship

- ✓ Bangladesh under 19 women's team defeated India at women's football Championship in Dhaka.
- ✓ Shaheda Akter Ripa of Bangladesh scored the maximum number of goals in the tournament.
- ✓ She received the 'most valuable player' award.

Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh beat Tamil Nadu by 11 runs (VJD Method) in the final to win their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy title, at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.

National Skating Championship

- ✓ Avik Shit Vijay Viswanath won 4 gold and 1 silver medal at the recent 59th National Skating Championships in Delhi.
- ✓ He is a student of Kola Perumal Chetty Vaishnav Senior Secondary School in Arumbakkam, Chennai.

4th Para-Badminton National Championship

- ✓ Nitesh Kumar won doubled gold at the 4th Para-Badminton National Championship, which concluded in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Cristiano Ronaldo's statue

- ✓ Portuguese football legend Cristiano Ronaldo's statue has been installed in Panaji, Goa.

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- ✓ The aim of installing it is to motivate the younger generation towards sports and following their dreams.

Mohammed Shami

- ✓ He has established himself among the greats of Indian cricket by becoming only the fifth Indian pacer to take 200 Test wickets.
- ✓ Shami achieved the feat on Day 3 of the first India-South Africa Test match in Centurion.
- ✓ Shami has joined Kapil Dev, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, and Ishant Sharma in the elusive list.
- ✓ Shami reached the milestone in 55 Test matches.
- ✓ He is the third quickest Indian after Kapil and Srinath to join this list.

Rashmi Kumari

- ✓ The two-time World Champion Rashmi Kumari has won her third Federation Cup title in Varanasi.
- ✓ It was her third Federation Cup trophy, after the earlier triumph in 2012 and 2010.

Arif Khan

- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir-based alpine skier Arif Mohammed Khan has become the first Indian athlete to qualify for two different events of the Winter Olympics 2022.

First Asian team

- ✓ India became the first Asian team to win a Test match at Centurion after beating South Africa by 113-run.
- ✓ The only other teams to beat South Africa in Centurion are England and Australia.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Rohan Bopanna

- ✓ Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna was presented with the Rajyotsava award by Karnataka Chief Minister.
- ✓ Bopanna has represented India in 2002 in Davis Cup, against Australia.
- ✓ He was elected the Ekalavya award in 2005.

BRICS Film Festival awards

- ✓ The 6th edition of the BRICS Film Festival awards was announced at the 52nd International Film Festival of India in Goa.
- ✓ For the first time, BRICS Film Festival was held alongside IFFI.
- ✓ Best film Award was shared by South African Film “Barakat” and Russian Film “The Sun above me Never Sets”.
- ✓ Barakat has been directed by Amy Jephta while The Sun above Me Never Sets has been directed by Lyubov Borisova.

- ✓ These films were awarded for their brilliant cinematic portrayal of human emotions as well as magnificent storytelling on screen.
- ✓ Tamil actor Dhanush won Best Actor for his role in ‘Asuran’.

IPI India Award for Excellence in Journalism-2021

- ✓ The International Press Institute (IPI) India Award for Excellence in Journalism 2021 has been awarded jointly to Sreenivasan Jain and Mariyam Alavi of NDTV, and Lakshmi Subramanian and Bhanu Prakash Chandra of The Week.
- ✓ Jain and Alavi have been awarded for their report on “untruthfulness of the cases of forcible conversion registered against young men belonging to the Muslim community who had married Hindu women in Uttar Pradesh, in the name of love Jihad”.
- ✓ The award has been jointly given to Subramanian and Prakash Chandra of The Week on their report on tracing Indians, especially women, who were trapped in refugee camps in the civil war-torn regions of Syria and Iraq.

International film festival of India

- ✓ The 52nd edition of the International film festival of India concluded in Goa.
- ✓ For the first time, the BRICS film festival was hosted alongside IFFI.

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- ✓ 75 creative young minds of cinema were felicitated at IFFI.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh has been picked as the most-friendly state for film shooting.

Dadabhai Naoroji biography

- ✓ Biography of Dadabhai Naoroji, one of the founders of the Indian National Congress, by Dinyar Patel, has been named winner of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2021.
- ✓ 'Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism' was selected from the six shortlisted books.

Startup India Grand Challenge 2021

- ✓ Sascan Meditech has been adjudged the winner of Startup India Grand Challenge 2021 in the medical device category.
- ✓ It is a Kerala-based medical technology start-up.
- ✓ The start-up was also recently selected as the winner of 'Anjani Mashelkar Inclusive Innovation Award 2021' from the Anjani Mashelkar Foundation.

Dr. M S Swaminathan Award

- ✓ Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, V Praveen Rao won the 7th Dr. M S Swaminathan Award for the period 2017-19.

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- ✓ It is a biennial national (every 2 years) award.
- ✓ It is presented by the retired ICAR Employees Association and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited.

UNESCO award for Excellence and sustainability

- ✓ The UNESCO recently presented two Heritage Awards to the Nizamuddin Basti Project in Delhi.
- ✓ The project was awarded for its conservation efforts.
- ✓ It was awarded the Special Recognition for Sustainable Award and Award of Excellence.
- ✓ The Nizamuddin Basti Project is an Urban Renewal Project.
- ✓ It successfully unified the segregated zones of the seven-century old settlement of the Nizamuddin Basti.

Asom Bhaibav Award

- ✓ On the occasion of Assam Divas, the Assam government has decided to confirm a renowned Industrialist Ratan Tata with the Asom Bhaibav award.
- ✓ It is the highest civilian state award and will be given for his contribution to cancer care in the state.

Ciprian Foias Prize

- ✓ Nikhil Srivastava has been jointly selected for the inaugural Ciprian Foias Prize.
- ✓ Along with him, the other awardees are Adam Marcus and Daniel Spielman.

- ✓ Srivastava has now received the Ciprian Foias Prize for the third time after jointly winning the George Polya Prize in 2014.
- ✓ The Prize was established in 2020 in memory of Ciprian Foias.

President's Colour Award

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh Police has conducted the 'President's Colour Award' ceremony at Shimla's historic Ridge Ground.
- ✓ The Governor bestowed the 'President's Colour Award' to the State Police on this occasion.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh Police is India's eighth state police force to receive this honour.

Asia's most creative entrepreneur

- ✓ Vivek Paul has been awarded at the Asia Africa business and social forum 2021, in Dubai.
- ✓ He was awarded the title of 'Asia's Most Creative Entrepreneur' and 'Asia's Most Innovative platform for Short Films and Documentaries'.
- ✓ He is the founder of The Great Indian Film Festival.

Best Bank for Women Entrepreneurs

- ✓ ESAF Small Finance Bank (SFB) got Honourable Mention in Best Bank for Women Entrepreneurs at 4th Global SME Finance Awards 2021.

- ✓ It is a Kerala-based bank in Thrissur.
- ✓ The award is constituted by the United States (US)-based SME Finance Forum.
- ✓ This acknowledgment is due to the gender-equal opportunities provided by SFB through universal financial access, livelihood, and economic development including providing microloans to women in unserved and underserved households in India.

Jnanpith Award

- ✓ Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan Jr won the 56th Jnanpith Award and Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo won the 57th Jnanpith Award.
- ✓ The country's highest literary award, the Jnanpith is bestowed on writers for "their outstanding contribution to literature".
- ✓ This was instituted in 1961 and is given only to Indian writers who write in Indian languages and English.
- ✓ Phookan was awarded the Padma Shri in 1990 and received the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 2002.
- ✓ Phookan is the third Assamese writer to have received the Jnanpith and Mauzo is the second Jnanpith Award for a Konkani writer.

President's Standard Award

- ✓ The 22nd President's Standard Award was presented to the 22nd Missile Vessel of the Indian Navy.

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- ✓ During the 1971 India – Pakistan War, the vessel bombed the Karachi port and sunk Pakistani ships.
- ✓ The 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron is also called “The Killer”.
- ✓ It is being awarded in 2021 as this year marks the 50 years of successful deployment of the squadron.
- ✓ The President’s Standard is the highest honour awarded in the military.
- ✓ It has the same honour as that of the President’s Colours awards.

2021 Yidan Prize for Education Development

- ✓ Rukmini Banerji has been awarded the 2021 Yidan Prize for Education Development.
- ✓ The prize is the world’s highest education accolade.
- ✓ She is awarded for her work in improving learning outcomes.
- ✓ Rukmini Banerji is the CEO of Pratham Education Foundation.

Ramanujan Prize

- ✓ Professor Neena Gupta, mathematician at the Indian statistical Institute in Kolkata, has been awarded the 2021 Ramanujan Prize for young mathematicians from developing countries.
- ✓ She has been awarded for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and communicative algebra.

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- ✓ Professor Gupta is the third woman to receive the Ramanujan Prize.

Kalinga literary awards 2021

- ✓ Padmasree Shrinivas Udgata was awarded Kalinga literary award and Arun Kamal was awarded the Kalinga literary International Award.
- ✓ Divya Dutta was awarded Kalinga literary (Woman writer) award.

Royal Gold Medal

- ✓ The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has announced that Indian architect Balkrishna Doshi will be the recipient of the 2022 Royal Gold Medal.
- ✓ The distinction, approved by Her Majesty The Queen and awarded each year since 1848, is given to architects or practices in recognition of a lifetime's work and the impact on the evolution of the field and the built environment.

National award for disability welfare

- ✓ Tamil Nadu has been recognized as the Best State in promoting the empowerment of persons with disabilities.
- ✓ It received the award on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 03), at a ceremony in New Delhi.

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- ✓ Salem district also got an award for the best district in providing rehabilitation services.
- ✓ It is among the two districts in the country getting the award.

Nightingale Award

- ✓ Daniel Vijayaraj, a 50-year-old male nurse from Madurai, has been awarded the Nightingale Award.
- ✓ Each year, London's highest award, the Nightingale Award, is presented in recognition of the service rendered by nurses.

DigiDhan Awards by MeitY

- ✓ Karnataka Bank has been conferred with two DigiDhan awards instituted by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ✓ The awards were given during Digital payment Utsav in New Delhi.
- ✓ The award recognized banks for achieving the target with the highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions under the private sector bank category consecutively for two years 2019-20 and 2020-21.
- ✓ Karnataka Bank has always stood ahead of the time in adopting the latest digital technology to its products in order to provide best in class service to our customers.

Formula One (F1) world title

- ✓ Max Verstappen has won his first “Formula One (F1) world title”, leaving behind Lewis Hamilton, at Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.
- ✓ Max Emilian Verstappen is a Belgian racing driver.

Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration award

- ✓ Azim Premji is this year’s recipient of the 10th annual Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration.
- ✓ It was jointly established by Christian Medical College Vellore (CMC) and the U.S. based Vellore CMC Foundation.
- ✓ Azim Premji is the founder chairman of Wipro Limited and founder of Azim Premji Foundation.
- ✓ The award is presented to Mr. Premji in recognition of his contributions to society.
- ✓ Established in 2001, the Foundation has
 - ✚ contributed immensely towards education,
 - ✚ runs Azim Premji University in Bengaluru, and
 - ✚ also supports several not-for-profit organizations with financial grants.

Person of the Year for 2021

- ✓ The prestigious TIME magazine has named Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, as the “2021 Person of the Year.
- ✓ In 2021, US-based electric-vehicle startup Tesla became \$1 trillion company as Musk became the world’s

richest person with an estimated net worth of around US \$255 billion.

- ✓ Musk is also the founder and CEO of rocket company SpaceX, and leads brain-chip start-up Neuralink and infrastructure firm The Boring Company.
- ✓ US President **Joe Biden** and Vice President **Kamala Harris** were named as the Person of the Year for 2020 by Time magazine.

Highest civilian award

- ✓ Bhutan has honoured PM Modi with its highest civilian award, Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo.
- ✓ Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering has announced PM Modi's name for Bhutan's highest honour.
- ✓ The honour comes as an appreciation for India's friendly approach to Bhutan under PM Modi's governance.
- ✓ During the pandemic, India had extended support to the neighbouring country in the form of vaccines, medicines and other emergency services.
- ✓ According to PMO Bhutan, 'Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has played an unconditional friendship over the years and has helped immensely during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Time Magazine's 2021 Athlete of the Year

- ✓ **Simone Biles** was named **Time magazine's 2021 Athlete of the Year.**

- ✓ The world's most decorated gymnast, a four-time Olympic medalist, was hailed for putting her mental health first when she withdrew from four event finals at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ Despite the setback, the 24-year-old managed to earn a team all-around silver and a bronze in balance beam at the Tokyo Games.
- ✓ Biles along with hundreds of athletes accused the FBI, USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee for failing to stop the abuse.

Global Entrepreneur of the Year award

- ✓ Aditya Birla Group chairman, Kumar Mangalam Birla receive the Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Business Transformation from The Indus Entrepreneurs.
- ✓ He is the first Indian Industrialist to receive the award.

World's 8th most admired man in 2021

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ranked 8th on the list of the world's top 20 most admired men, in a survey carried out by data analytics company YouGov.
- ✓ PM Modi is ahead of Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan and Virat Kohli.
- ✓ The list has been compiled taking feedback from 42,000 people in 38 countries.
- ✓ Apart from PM Modi, the other Indian men who, according to the survey, were the most admired in 2021

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include **Sachin Tendulkar, Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan and Virat Kohli.**

- ✓ The list also includes the most admired Indian women of 2021 has Priyanka Chopra, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Sudha Murty.

Environment management award 2021

- ✓ The Steel Authority of India Limited has been awarded the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for 2021 in the Steel sector by the Institute of Directors.
- ✓ SAIL has been the winner of this award for successive three years.
- ✓ The company's environmental protection measures are focused on adopting various environmental measures including upgrading pollution control facilities.

Young Geospatial Scientist award

- ✓ Ropesh Goyal from IIT-Kanpur won the Young Geospatial Scientist award.
- ✓ It was awarded in recognition of his unique contribution to developing the Indian Geoid Model and computation software.
- ✓ The 'Young Geospatial Scientist award and a gold medal have been presented every year since 2011 to promising scientists below 35 years of age.
- ✓ It is awarded in memory of Rachapudi Kamakshi.

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- ✓ Rachapudi Kamakshi is a strategic analyst with a strong inclination towards geography and geospatial studies.

International Maritime Organization Award

- ✓ The International Maritime Organization council has awarded Certificate of Commendation to Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, and Master along with crew members of tugboat Ocean Bliss.
- ✓ The award has been given for exceptional and courageous efforts towards the rescue operation of M/T New Diamond.
- ✓ The rescue team members of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, and the master and crew of tugboat Ocean Bliss carried out sustained and effective firefighting operations.
- ✓ They skilfully towed the vessel away from the coast, thereby preventing loss of life at sea and averting a serious marine pollution incident.

Best Female Debut

- ✓ Indian Shooter Avani Lehara won the Best Female Debut honour at the 2021 Paralympics Awards.
- ✓ She is the first Indian to clinch a gold medal at the Tokyo Paralympic Games 2020.
- ✓ She became the first Indian female to win two medals in Games' history.
- ✓ She was also awarded Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna.

Radhakrishnan - SKOCH award

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan received the SKOCH Public Service Award for Disaster Management and Mitigation in New Delhi.
- ✓ The award was presented to him for handling the aftermath of the Kumbakonam fire tragedy, tsunami relief, and rehabilitation in Nagapattinam district in 2004 and to handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021

- ✓ Tennis star **Emma Raducanu** is the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year for 2021.
- ✓ She has become the third WTA player to win the award in its 67-year history.
- ✓ She became the first British woman to win a Grand Slam singles title.

National energy conservation award 2021

- ✓ GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited has been awarded the certificate of merit by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under National energy conservation awards 2021.
- ✓ It has been awarded for his excellent efforts in the areas of energy conservation.
- ✓ This Airport was the first airport in the airport sector that received this distinct recognition.

PETA India's 2021 Person of the Year

- ✓ People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has named Alia Bhatt as its Person of the Year 2021.

National awards

- ✓ The President Ram Nath Kovind conferred National Awards for outstanding work towards empowerment of persons with disabilities in New Delhi on International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3).
- ✓ AM Venkatakrishnan, S. Elumalai, K. Dinesh, Manakasha Dantapani, K. Jothi and D. Prabhakaran from Tamil Nadu were awarded with this award.

South African of the Year Award

- ✓ Dr. Imtiaz Sooliman has won the prestigious South African of the Year Award run by the Daily Maverick newspaper.
- ✓ He is an Indian-origin philanthropist and founder of the disaster relief group 'Gift of The Givers'.
- ✓ The charitable and relief organisation has undertaken relief work in countries after natural disasters such as earthquakes as well as assisting people in wartorn countries.

Sahitya Academy award – Tamil

- ✓ Ambai has won this year's Sahitya Akademi award.

- ✓ She has been awarded for her short story collection Sivappu Kazhuthudan Oru Patchaiparavai.
- ✓ Ambai is the fourth woman writer from Tamil Nadu to get the award.
- ✓ Her original name is C.S. Lakshmi.
- ✓ Tamil writer Mu Murugesu bagged the Bala Sahitya Puraskar for his collection of short stories.
- ✓ The name of the book is 'Ammavukku Magal Sonna Ulagin Mudhal Kadhai'.

The National Breed Conservation Award for 2021

- ✓ The award has been bagged by the "All-India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP)" on poultry breeding, Mannuthy of Kerala.
- ✓ It received the prestigious award for the cause of conservation and research activities on the Tellicherry breed.
- ✓ Tellicherry breed is the only registered native chicken breed in the state of Kerala.

World CEO Winner of the Year 2021 award

- ✓ The most prominent C-level executive awards have crowned Kishore Kumar Yedam as 'World CEO Winner of the Year 2021'.
- ✓ The World CEO Rankings are online awards to acknowledge the best CEOs worldwide through the strict nomination process and three-month-long voting season.

APPOINTMENTS

Gita Gopinath

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund has appointed its outgoing chief economist Gita Gopinath as its first Deputy Managing Director.
- ✓ She is the first Indian to hold this post.
- ✓ The Deputy Managing Director is the second top post in IMF next to the Managing Director.

Chairperson of NHAI

- ✓ Senior bureaucrat Alka Upadhyaya has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Highways Authority of India.

Executive Director of UNICEF

- ✓ United Nations has appointed Catherine Russell as the next Executive Director of the UN children's agency UNICEF.
- ✓ Since its establishment in 1946, UNICEF's executive director have been American.

Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee

- ✓ Army Chief General M.M. Naravane has assumed the charge as the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee that comprises the three service chiefs.

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- ✓ The post fell vacant following the death of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat in the Indian Air Force helicopter crash on December 8.
- ✓ General Naravane has been given the charge, as he is the senior-most among the three service chiefs.
- ✓ Before the creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff, the senior-most among the three service chiefs used to be the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

First woman chairman of Disney board

- ✓ Walt Disney named the Susan Arnold as its Chairperson.
- ✓ She is the first woman to hold this position after 98 years.

Indian Newspaper Society

- ✓ Mohit Jain of The Economic Times has been elected President of The Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2021-22.

India's Chef de Mission

- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association of India (IOA) has appointed the Ice Hockey Association of India's general secretary, Harjinder Singh, as the Chef de Mission of the country's contingent for the upcoming 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.
- ✓ Harjinder Singh is the general secretary of the Ice Hockey Association and has also led the Indian contingent at the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Violet Baruah

- ✓ Violet Baruah has become the first ever women to get promoted to the rank of Inspector General in Assam Police.
- ✓ In 2021, she received President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

South Africa's highest judicial bench

- ✓ Indian origin, Narandran 'Jody' Kollapen has been appointed to South Africa's highest judicial bench, the Constitutional Court.

President of the International Automobile Federation (FIA)

- ✓ Mohammed Ben Sulayem of the United Arab Emirates has been elected successor to Jean Todt as the first non-European president of the International Automobile Federation (FIA).
- ✓ The FIA is the governing body for Formula One, the World Rally Championship, World Endurance, and Formula E among other series.

India's new ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament

- ✓ Senior diplomat Anupam Ray has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

PERSONALITIES

Parag Agrawal

- ✓ Indian-origin technology executive, Parag Agrawal has been appointed as the new CEO of Twitter.
- ✓ He is now the youngest CEO.
- ✓ However, Agrawal is 37 and the same age as Mark Zuckerberg.

Dance Master Shiva Shankar

- ✓ The renowned choreographer and actor, Shiva Shankar Master passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ He was born on 7 December 1948 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ He received the National Award for 'Best Choreographer' for the movie 'Magadheera'.

Eileen Ash

- ✓ The world's oldest form of Test cricketer Eileen Ash of England passed away.
- ✓ She was part of the Ashes tour of Australia in 1949 apart from playing representative cricket for Civil Service Women, Middlesex Women.
- ✓ Ash made her debut against Australia in 1937 in test cricket.
- ✓ Ash also worked for The Secret Intelligence Service 'MI6' during World War II.

Pradip Shah

- ✓ Pradip Shah has been appointed chairman of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
- ✓ He is the founder of IndAsia Fund Advisors.
- ✓ Shah is credited for establishing India's first and largest housing finance company, HDFC, and rating firm Crisil.

Shruti Sithara

- ✓ 2021 Miss Trans Global title was conferred to Kerala native Shruti Sithara, who had been competing in the pageant for the last 6 months.
- ✓ She is the first Indian to do so.

Konijeti Rosaiah

- ✓ Former Governor of Tamil Nadu and former Chief Minister of the unified State of Andhra Pradesh Konijeti Rosaiah passed away in Hyderabad.
- ✓ Rosaiah, aged 88, was one of the most senior Congress leaders.

Sarada Menon

- ✓ Padma Bhushan Dr Mamballaikalathil Sarada Menon, India's 1st woman Psychiatrist and the longest-serving head of the Institute of Mental Health has passed away.
- ✓ She was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 1992 for social works.

About the International IDEA

- ✓ The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) was established in 1995.
- ✓ It is an intergovernmental organization based in Stockholm, Sweden.
- ✓ India is one of the founding members of the institute.
- ✓ The key mission of International IDEA is to support sustainable democracy worldwide.
- ✓ It currently has 34 member countries, which include new, old, small and large democracies from all continents.

Sanjiv Mehta

- ✓ The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) announced that Sanjiv Mehta, the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), will be appointed as its President.

Eileen Ash

- ✓ The World's oldest Test Cricketer Eileen Ash passed away at the age of 110.
- ✓ She made her debut to the England side in 1937 against Australia.

Anil Menon

- ✓ An Indian-origin doctor, Anil Menon has been named among the 10 new astronaut recruits selected by NASA for its future space missions.

Yusaku Maezawa

- ✓ Billionaire Yusaku Maezawa has become the first Japanese tourist to visit the International Space Station.
- ✓ He blasted off in a Soyuz spacecraft from the Russia-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- ✓ During this time period, he will complete 100 tasks including hosting a badminton tournament in orbit.

70th Miss Universe 2021

- ✓ Actor-model Harnaaz Sandhu made history as she was crowned Miss Universe 2021 beating contestants from 80 countries, 21 years after India last brought home the title.
- ✓ Only two Indians before Ms Sandhu have won the title of Miss Universe— actors **Sushmita Sen** in 1994 and **Lara Dutta** in 2000.
- ✓ The 70th edition of the event was held in Eilat, Israel, where the 21-year-old bagged the coveted pageant.

Dr Biswajit Borkakoty

- ✓ The Indian Council of Medical Research- regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh led by senior scientist Dr Biswajit Borkakoty has prepared except that enables detection of Omicron variant within 2 hours.
- ✓ As of now, a minimum of 36 hours was required for targeted Sequencing and 4 to 5 days for the whole genome Sequencing to detect the variant.
- ✓ The test 100% accurate.

Anne Rice

- ✓ American gothic-fiction writer Anne Rice, best known for The Vampire Chronicles novel series, passed away.
- ✓ Anne Rice's debut novel, published in 1976, Interview with the Vampire revolves around a vampire named Louis de Pointe du Lac, who narrates the story of his life to a reporter.
- ✓ Her other works: Pandora, Violin, Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt, The Witching Hour etc.

Sonali Garg

- ✓ Sonali Garg has won a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship on biodiversity at Harvard University.
- ✓ Sonali Garg is a researcher at Delhi University.
- ✓ She has described 50 new species of frogs from India, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

Justice GT Nanavati

- ✓ Former Supreme Court judge, Justice Girish Thakorlal Nanavati who headed two inquiry commissions formed to probe into the 2002 Godhra Riots & 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots, passed away.
- ✓ Justice Girish Thakorlal Nanavati was 86.
- ✓ He was elevated as the Judge of the Supreme Court of India with effect in March 1995 and he retired as an SC Judge in February 2000.

Cate Blanchett

- ✓ Oscar winner Cate Blanchett will be felicitated with French cinema's top honour, the Cesar d'Honneur.
- ✓ Blanchett will receive the Cesar d'Honneur, a lifetime achievement award, in Paris on February 25, 2022.
- ✓ Blanchett won her first Oscar for Martin Scorsese's 'The Aviator', in which she played the role of late screen icon Katharine Hepburn.
- ✓ She earned her second Oscar trophy for Woody Allen's 2013 feature film 'Blue Jasmine'.

Alimihan Seyiti

- ✓ China's oldest person, Alimihan Seyiti, has died at the age of 135 in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.
- ✓ Seyiti was born on June 25, 1886.
- ✓ In 2013, she topped the list of China's oldest living persons.
- ✓ Komuxerik is known as a "longevity town," with many elderly aged above 90.

Richard Rogers

- ✓ Pritzker Prize-Winning British-Italian Architect, **Richard Rogers** has passed away at his residence in London, United Kingdom.
- ✓ He received the **Pritzker Prize**, known as the Nobel Prize of Architecture, in **2007**.

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- ✓ He received the Knight Bachelor in 1991 and he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.
- ✓ He was the architect of the new World Trade Center.

Nanda Prusty

- ✓ Noted educationist and Padma Shri award Nanda Kishore Prusty passed away.
- ✓ In his native Kantira village, he was popularly known as Nanda master or Nanda Sir. Walking to educate the masses, he had always upheld the tradition of Chatshali.
- ✓ The Chatshali tradition refers to a non-formal school for primary education common in Odisha.

R Parthiepan - Golden Visa

- ✓ Actor-filmmaker R Parthiepan has become the first Tamil actor to receive Golden Visa from the United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ The coveted recognition has been accorded to him for his contribution to the field of cinema.
- ✓ The UAE Golden Visa is a long-term residence visa system, extending from five to 10 years, and is automatically renewed.
- ✓ It is granted to achievers from various fields, professionals, investors, and those with promising abilities.

Tusshar Kapoor - Golden Visa

- ✓ Bollywood actor Tusshar Kapoor was awarded Golden Visa.
- ✓ He joins a growing list of Indian movie stars, including Mohanlal and Shah Rukh Khan, who has received the coveted 10-year residency.
- ✓ In 2019, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) implemented a new system for long term residence visas.
- ✓ Thereby it is enabling foreigners to live, work and study in the UAE without the need of a national sponsor and with 100 percent ownership of their business.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

- ✓ South African anti-apartheid icon Archbishop Desmond Tutu, described as the country's moral compass, died recently.
- ✓ He was remembered for his easy humour and characteristic smile — and above all his tireless fight against injustices of all colours.
- ✓ The Archbishop won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for combating white minority rule in South Africa.
- ✓ He coined the term “Rainbow Nation” to describe South Africa when Nelson Mandela became the country's first black President in 1994.
- ✓ Former U.S. President Barack Obama, the country's first black leader, hailed Tutu as a “moral compass”.

Modern day Darwin

- ✓ Edward O Wilson, the trailblazing US scientist, professor and author pass the way.
- ✓ His study of insects and Clarion call to protect Earth earned him the nickname "Darwin's natural heir".
- ✓ He was the author of hundreds of scientific papers and more than 30 books.

Vikram Misri

- ✓ Vikram Misri was appointed as India's new deputy National Security Adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat.
- ✓ Misri is a 1989 batch Indian Foreign Service officer.
- ✓ He currently serves as India's Ambassador to China.
- ✓ He will be succeeded by Pradeep Kumar Rawat, who was recently appointed as the next ambassador to China.

Karolos Papoulias

- ✓ Veteran Greek politician **Karolos Papoulias**, who served as president at the height of the economic crisis of the 2010s, died.
- ✓ Papoulias, a longtime socialist lawmaker and minister, was close to Andreas Papandreou, the founder of the **Socialist PASOK party**.
- ✓ He served two terms between 2005 and 2015.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World AIDS Day - December 01

- ✓ The day aims to show support for people living with HIV and the ones who have lost their lives because of AIDS.
- ✓ The theme for the year 2021 is 'End inequalities. End AIDS.'
- ✓ The day was first marked in 1988.

National Pollution Control Day - December 02

- ✓ The day is observed in the memory of the people who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
- ✓ The day is celebrated in India to make the citizens aware of laws that exist in India that help to contain pollution.
- ✓ The Bhopal gas tragedy occurred on December 2nd and 3rd, 1984.
- ✓ During the accident poisonous chemical methyl isocyanate leaked from a pesticide plant union carbide India Limited in Bhopal.
- ✓ It was considered the biggest industrial disaster in the world.

World Computer Literacy Day - December 02

- ✓ The day aims to promote awareness about computers and to encourage people to use them efficiently.
- ✓ It intends to encourage digital literacy in under-resourced communities worldwide.

- ✓ The day promotes technological skills, especially in children and women.
- ✓ The day was originally founded by the Indian computer company NIIT to mark its 20th anniversary in 2001.
- ✓ The day was first observed and held in the year 2001.
International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - December 02
- ✓ The day commemorates the brutal history of slavery practised by colonial rulers of past centuries.
- ✓ It aims to eradicate modern forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities-December 03

- ✓ Every year, the day is celebrated by the United Nations and several other organizations spread all over the world.
- ✓ This year the theme is - "Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19".
- ✓ The International Day of Persons with Disability was first proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992.

Indian Navy Day- December 04

- ✓ Every year the Indian Navy Day is celebrated to commemorate Operation Trident.

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- ✓ The operation was launched by the Indian Navy during the India-Pakistan war of 1971 to attack Karachi Harbour.
- ✓ The theme for this year is 'Indian Navy – Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive'.

International Day of Banks - December 04

- ✓ The day is celebrated to recognize the importance of multilateral and international development banks in financing sustainable developments.
- ✓ United Nations also observes the day in recognition of the vital role of banking systems in Member State in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living.

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World Wildlife Conservation Day – December 04

- ✓ The World Wildlife Conservation Day falls every December 4th.
- ✓ It is observed to raise awareness and engage conversations about species that are endangered or under threat of

extinction because of poaching, trafficking, and other environmental factors.

International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development - December 05

- ✓ The day is also referred to as IVD.
- ✓ It is mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1985.
- ✓ To achieve goals at the local, national and international levels, the UN offers an opportunity to volunteer-involving organizations and individual volunteers to promote volunteerism.
- ✓ The theme for International Volunteer Day 2021 is 'Volunteer now for our common future'.

World Soil Day 2021 - December 05

- ✓ World Soil Day is aimed at spreading awareness about the importance of soil.
- ✓ The day encourages people to come together and think of sustainable ways to manage soil resources.
- ✓ The date of December 5 was chosen because it coincides with the birthday of Thailand's King, Bhumibol Adulyadej.
- ✓ Also, he was the one who formally sanctioned the event.
- ✓ “Halt soil salinization, enhance soil production” is the theme for the year 2021.

International Civil Aviation Day - December 07

- ✓ The day is celebrated to recognize the importance of aviation to the social and economic development of the world.
- ✓ It has been decided that from now until 2023, the theme will be: “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”.
- ✓ The Day was established in 1994 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the day in 1996.

National Armed Forces Day - December 07

- ✓ It is also known as the National flag day of India.
- ✓ The aim to observe this day is to collect funds from the people for the betterment of armed forces.
- ✓ The Armed Forces Flag Day in India has been celebrated since 1949.

International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime - December 09

- ✓ This International Day is observed annually.
- ✓ The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of the Genocide Convention and its role in combating and

preventing the crime of genocide, as defined in the Convention, and to commemorate and honour its victims.

International Anti-Corruption Day - December 09

- ✓ The day is observed globally to raise awareness about corruption and the ways to combat this global ill.
- ✓ As per reports, the global cost of corruption is about five percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product or \$2.6 trillion.
- ✓ The theme for this year's International Anti-Corruption Day is 'Your right, your role: Say no to corruption.'

Human Rights Day - December 10

- ✓ This Day came into existence on December 10, 1948, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations.
- ✓ This day is observed every year across the world, as it empowers us all.
- ✓ The day also acknowledges the advocates and defenders of human rights around the world.
- ✓ The theme for Human Rights Day 2021 is “EQUALITY – Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights.”
- ✓ This year’s Human Rights Day theme relates to ‘Equality’ and Article 1 of the UDHR – “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

International Animal Rights Day - December 10

- ✓ It aims to remember the atrocities on animals by human tyranny.
- ✓ It calls for the recognition of our Universal Declaration of Animal Rights (UDAR).
- ✓ The day is shared with Human Rights Day because animals have the right to be treated with respect, and acts of cruelty against them need to end just as much as for humans.

UNICEF Day - December 11

- ✓ UNICEF Day is observed every year, to spread awareness on saving children's lives, defending their rights and helping them fulfil their potential from childhood to adolescence.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly announced this day on December 11 in the year 1946.
- ✓ This was done to ensure the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.
- ✓ The theme for this year is to help children recover from interruptions and learning losses experienced through pandemics in the last two years.

International Mountain Day - December 11

- ✓ The day is celebrated to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life.

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- ✓ It also highlights the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and building alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and environments around the world.
- ✓ The theme of this year is sustainable mountain tourism.

International Day of Neutrality - December 12

- ✓ The day is observed each year to raise public awareness of the value of neutrality in international relations.
- ✓ It was officially declared by a UN General Assembly resolution adopted in February 2017.
- ✓ First observed on December 12, 2017.

International Universal Health Coverage Day - December 12

- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners.
- ✓ This year theme of International Universal Health Coverage Day is “Leave No One’s Health Behind: Invest in health systems for all.”

National Energy Conservation Day 2021 - December 14

- ✓ This occasion has been celebrated since 1991 led by the Ministry of power.
- ✓ This day is celebrated to raise awareness regarding the conservation of energy as it is the best way to have a greener and brighter future.

- ✓ ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Energy Efficient India’ and ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Clearer Planet’ will be this year’s theme.

International Tea Day (ITD) - December 15

- ✓ Tea is the second most used drink in the world after water.
- ✓ The first ITD was held in New Delhi in India in 2005.
- ✓ However, in 2015, the Indian government proposed to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to expand International Tea Day across the world.

Vijay Diwas - December 16

- ✓ In India Vijay Diwas also called Victory Day is celebrated every year.
- ✓ The country is celebrating the 50th Vijay Diwas in 2021.
- ✓ Vijay Diwas is observed to commemorate the service, valour, and sacrifices of the gallant men of the Indian Armed Forces’ victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.
- ✓ The Indo-Pakistan war of 1971 which began on December 3 lasted for 13 days and officially ended on December 16.

International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers - December 17

- ✓ It is annually observed across the globe to focus attention on the hate crimes committed against sex workers across the globe.

- ✓ The NCM in India was established by the Union Government under the National Commission for Minorities Act, in 1992.

World Arabic Language Day - December 18

- ✓ The Arabic language is one of the pillars of the cultural diversity of mankind.
- ✓ It is one of the most widely used languages in the world.
- ✓ The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of the history, culture, and development of the language by preparing a program of special activities and events.
- ✓ The theme of this year's World Arabic Language Day is "The Arabic Language and Civilizational Communication".

60th Goa Liberation Day - December 19

- ✓ It is celebrated in the state as Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule on that day in 1961.
- ✓ Goa was a Portuguese colony for 451 years.
- ✓ The government of India under Jawaharlal Nehru in 1961 adopted a plan called Operation Vijay to free the Portuguese colonies in India.

Good Governance Week - December 20 to 25

- ✓ The Good Governance Week is being organized in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj & Rural Development.

Kisan Diwas - December 23

- ✓ It is also called National Farmers' Day.
- ✓ It is celebrated across the nation on to commemorate the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- ✓ He brought farmer-friendly policies and worked towards the welfare of the farmers.
- ✓ He served the country as Prime Minister from 28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980.

5th Siddha Day - December 23

- ✓ The day is observed to create awareness about the Siddha system of medicine.
- ✓ The day is annually organised by the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).
- ✓ It is celebrated on the eve of the birthday of Siddhar Agathiyar, which falls during the Ayilyam star in the Tamil month of Margazhi.
- ✓ In 2021, the Siddha Day falls on 23rd December 2021.
- ✓ The year 2021 marks the celebration of the 5th Siddha Day.
- ✓ The theme of the 5th Siddha Day is “Strength of Siddha in Communicable Diseases”.
- ✓ It sensitises the public on the importance of the Siddha system in tackling communicable diseases.

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- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly had emphasised on the need to advocate the importance of the preparedness for, prevention of and partnership against epidemics.

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