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CURRENT AFFAIRS (2020-2021) & JANUARY, FEB, MARCH 2022

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24 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE



Foot Prints (Compilation of Current Events)



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TAMIL NADU

➤ Tamil Nadu State Human Rights Commission Chairman

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has announced the appointment of retired High Court judge **S. Baskaran** as the Chairperson of the TN-SHRC.

✓

➤ Washington Sundar

- ✓ Washington Sundar - was named Chennai district **election icon** by Greater Chennai Corporation.

➤ Final Electoral Rolls- Tamil Nadu Elections 2021

- ✓ The State Elections Department - has released the final electoral rolls of special summary revision, 2021

Tamil Nadu Electors	
Men voters	3.08 crore
Women voters	3.18 crore
Transgender voters	7200
Total number of electors in the state	6.26 crore

	Highest Number of Voters	Lowest Number of Voters
District	Chengalpattu	Chennai
Assembly	Shozhinganallur	Harbour
Voters	6,94,845	1,76,272

- ✓ Around 8,97,694 electors who belong to the **age group 18 to 19** years throughout the state and Chennai has the highest number of such (49,148) Electors.

➤ New Ombudsman for Local Bodies

- ✓ M. Malik Feroze Khan as New Ombudsman for local bodies.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Local Bodies Ombudsman Act, 2014, was enacted for the establishment of an Ombudsman in case of the local bodies.

➤ Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute

- ✓ The EDII-TN is the nodal agency implementing various initiatives to promote innovation and start-up ecosystem.

- ✓ The agency is organising the Tamil Nadu Start-up Seed Grant Fund (Tan seed) 2021 challenge in association with Head start Network Foundation to help state based start-up's scale up their business.
- ✓ The state launched the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Policy 2018-23 in January 2019 and had organised the Tamil Nadu Innovation Grand Challenge (TNIGC) for the last three years.
- **Saraswathi Rangaswamy**
 - ✓ Saraswathi Rangaswamy: Tamil Nadu State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TNSCPCR).
- **Bharat Net Project**
 - ✓ TamilNadu Governor announced the rollout of the '**BharatNet project**' - the rural broadband connectivity programme -- to one third of the revenue villages in the state by March 31, and the remaining villages by November 30, 2021
- **The Centre - has approved tiger reserve status for the sanctuaries covering the entire forests of Meghamalai and Srivilliputhur in Tamil Nadu.**
- **Kaliveli Wetlands**
 - ✓ The Kaliveli Wetlands is the second-largest brackish water lake in South India, after the Pulicat lake.
 - ✓ It is located near to the Marakkanam on the East Coast Road of the Kaliveli Lake.
- **Tamil Nadu - is ranked as the best performer among bigger states with respect to the utilisation of Union government funds for smart cities**
 - ✓ According to a data tabled in Parliament, Tamil Nadu had utilised 97% of the ₹3,189 crore allotted to it by the Centre.
 - ✓ Smart city projects are underway in Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Madurai, Salem, Thanjavur, Tuticorin, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur and Vellore.
- **New SIPCOT Industrial Park**
 - ✓ The industrial parks would come up at a cost of Rs1,536 crore in more than 3,500 acres of land in Manallur in Thiruvallur district, Vallam Vadagal (phase-II) and Oragadam (phase-II) in Kancheepuram district, Manaparai in Trichy and Tindivanam in Villupuram
- **Tamil Nadu government - announced 'New Entrepreneur-cum-Enterprise Development Scheme - Special Initiative for Migrants (NEEDS-SIM)'**
 - ✓ The new scheme will help making 3.6 lakh Tamil foreign returnees to the state during Covid-19 pandemic into entrepreneurs.

- ✓ The scheme is applicable to all those who returned to Tamil Nadu from abroad since January 1, 2020.

➤ **e-Kaiyoppam**

- ✓ The e-Kaiyoppam platform aims to digitise non-registrable contracts like Rent Agreements, Affidavits, Bank Guarantees, Power of Attorney documents, etc., and facilitate all the parties to remotely stamp and sign these documents
- ✓ A 'Digital India' initiative, the e-Kaiyoppam platform is set to further ease of doing business and create a transparent and unambiguous ecosystem for paperless contract executions.

➤ **Ecologically Sensitive Zone' (ESZ)-in Tamil nadu**

- ✓ The Pulicat bird sanctuary in Tiruvallur district - has been declared an 'Ecologically Sensitive Zone' (ESZ) to ensure total protection.

➤ **Cauvery-Gundar interlink project**

- ✓ The state has given in principle approval for Rs. 6,941 crore for the construction of canal under phase I between Cauvery (Kattalai) to South Vellar, in anticipation of NABARD assistance
- ✓ This phase will benefit droughtprone areas of Karur, Trichy and Pudukottai districts
- ✓ The phase I is part of the Mahanadhi-Godavari-Cauvery-Gundar link under the National Perspective Plan of the Union government.
- ✓ The linking of the Cauvery and Gundar rivers started with the commissioning of the barrage across Cauvery at Mayanur in Karur district in 2014.

➤ **Micro small and medium enterprises policy(MSME)- 2021**

- ✓ The new MSME policy aims to make Tamil Nadu the most vibrant ecosystem for MSMEs and startups.
- ✓ It is aimed at attracting investments worth ₹2 lakh crore by 2025 and creating jobs for 20 lakh persons.
- ✓ The state's earlier MSME policy was released in 2008.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has around 23.6 lakh registered enterprises and provides employment opportunities to over 1.51 crore people.
- ✓ The policy further aims to increase the share of exports from the MSMEs by 25%.
- ✓ A corpus of ₹500 crore is being created for upgradation and maintenance of Tansidco estates. Following the recommendations of the C. Rangarajan Committee looking into the impact of COVID-19 on the State's economy creation.

- ✓ A venture capital fund will be created with a corpus of ₹500 crore to support entrepreneurs undertaking ventures in the sunrise sectors.
- **Chief Minister of T.N- inaugurated the 'Salem Mathi' mobile app to help women's self-help groups sell their products online**
- **Ease of Living index 2020**
- ✓ Chennai - ranked 4 th in the Ease of Living index 2020
- ✓ 18th in the Municipal Performance Index among cities with more than a million population
- ✓ **Clearance granted to Uppur thermal power plant in Ramanathapuram**
- ✓ National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone - has withheld the environmental clearance granted to Uppur thermal power plant in Ramanathapuram.
- ✓ Tangedco had obtained the Union environment ministry's approval to set up the 1,600MW supercritical plant and foreshore facilities.
- ✓ The NGT has directed Tangedco to do a fresh coal analysis and study the bridge issue.
- ✓ **Lok Sabha - passed a bill that seeks to place seven castes under Devendrakula vellalars in Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021 which amends the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 modifies the list of Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu by grouping seven castes into one nomenclature, Devendrakula Vellalar
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government had earlier accepted a recommendation of a committee set up in 2019 headed by IAS officer Hansraj Verma to reclassify the seven sub sects under the generic name 'Devendrakula Vellalar' and forwarded it to the Centre.
- ✓ The seven communities combined have a presence in 28 of Tamil Nadu's 33 districts
- ✓ **The Vote from Home' facility - has been offered for the first time to senior citizens (above 80 years of age) and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) to around 7,300 voters in Chennai**

Chennai -kanya kumara industrial corriodor(CKIC)

- ✓ The Asian development bank -has recently approved \$484 million grant for Chennai -kanya kumara industrial corriodor(CKIC) in tamilnadu
- **New Species of Butterfly Discovered**
- ✓ A new sub - species of six line blue butterfly named "Nacaduba Sibhalaramaswamii Sadasivan" was discovered from south Western Ghats.
- ✓ The discovery of the species in Agasthyamalai
- **Matti pazham**
- ✓ The application for the GI tag was filed by Kanyakumari Banana and Horticulture Farmers Producer Company Limited
- ✓ The Nagercoil banana is also mentioned in many ancient books.

- **The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) - disposal of biomedical wastes like PPEs and masks.**
- **Government of Tamil Nadu is setting up an exclusive website and mobile app to file complaints related to disposal of biomedical wastes like PPEs and masks**
 - ✓ TNPCB is probably the first pollution control board in the entire country to launch such a facility.
- **Eighth Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu-M.K.Stalin**
 - ✓ He would be the oldest first-time CM of Tamil Nadu.
- **Mr. Gagandeep Singh Bedi IAS - was appointed as the commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation**
- **Appavu 18th speaker of Tamil Nadu legislative Assembly**
 - ✓ Mr. M. Appavu - won the election for the post of speaker of Tamil Nadu legislative Assembly at the historic Fort St George in Chennai.
- **Aruna Jagadeesan Commission- Tutucorin -firing incident**
 - ✓ The Justice (retired) Aruna Jagadeesan Commission - submitted an interim report to Chief Minister M K Stalin on May
- **'Ungal Thoguthiyil Muthalamaichar'**
 - ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched his pet project of redressing public grievances through the newly created Department of 'Ungal Thoguthiyil Muthalamaichar' (chief minister in your constituency) on May
- **Black Fungus**
 - ✓ Mucormycosis or Black fungus disease - was declared a notified disease in Tamil Nadu by Governor Banwarilal Purohit under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939.
- **Temple town of Kancheerpuram**
 - ✓ Temple town of Kancheerpuram - has 11 ancient temples from the district named on UNESCO's tentative List of World Heritage Sites
- **New State Election Commissioner**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit - appointed retired IAS officer, **V Palanikumar** as state election commissioner.
- **Mr.V Irai Anbu IAS - as TN chief secretary**
 - ✓ The state government of Tamil Nadu - appointed senior bureaucrat **V Irai Anbu** as Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu
- **Mr.Shankar Jiwal IPS-COP- chennai**
 - ✓ The newly appointed commissioner of police - took charge at a low-key function at the commissioner's office in Veperiy on May
- **New Advocate-General of Tamil Nadu.**
 - ✓ Former Rajya Sabha member and designated senior lawyer **R Shanmugasundaram** - has been appointed as the new advocate-general of Tamil Nadu.

- **The 98th birth anniversary of former chief minister, M Karunanidhi**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - made **six announcements** related to literature, health care infrastructure and agriculture to mark the 98th birth anniversary of **former chief minister, M Karunanidhi**
 - ✓ The government announced '**Ilakkiya Mamani**' awards for three Tamil writers every year.
 - ✓ The award will carry a cash prize of ₹5 lakh and a citation
 - ✓ **A Kalaingar Memorial Library**, spread across 2 lakh square feet, will also be constructed in Madurai at a cost of ₹70 crore
 - ✓ Earlier, the CM had ordered **the 'free ride' scheme** for women on his first day as chief minister on May
- **Tamil Nadu - has risen to second rank in NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index for 2020-21 from the third position during 2019-20.**
 - ✓ As per the report released on June 3, overall, Tamil Nadu had a score of 74 and was behind Kerala which retained the first rank with a score of 75.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu, which topped the country in '**no poverty**' and '**affordable and clean energy**', was placed second in '**goal of industry, innovation and infrastructure**'.
- **14-member task force chaired under IAS officer R Poornalingam**
 - ✓ The expert committee headed by CM MK Stalin for management of Covid-19 activities
 - ✓ The committee will have an advisory role and will conduct meetings periodically
- **Justice A K Rajan- Impact of NEET**
 - ✓ On June , Chief minister M K Stalin - formed a committee headed by retired **HC judge Justice A K Rajan to study the impact of NEET on medical admissions**
- **Tamil Nadu -State Development Policy Council (SDPC)**
 - Chairman - Thiru M.K. Stalin Hon'ble chief Minister
 - Vice - Chairman Dr. J. Jeyaranjan
 - Full Time Member - Prof. Srinivasan

Name	Sector
1.M Vijayabaskar	Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies
2.K Deenabandu	Retired IAS officer
3.Dr Sultan Ahmed Ismail	Director Eco- science Research Foundation and former Head of Department of Biotechnology, New College, Chennai
4.Dr G Sivaraman	Siddha physician
5.Narthaki Nataraj	Bharatanatyam dancer
6.Mallika Srinivasan	Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited
7.Dr. T.R.B. Rajaa	MLA
8.Dr. J. Amalorpavanathan	Retired Doctor

- **Tamil Nadu - has been ranked 3rd in the Performance Grading Index (PGI) report released by the Union ministry of education on June.**

- **The seventh phase of excavation - was resumed in Keeladi and surrounding villages on June.**
 - ✓ In the seventh phase, burial urns with skeletons, a cubical terracotta dice, terracotta pots, and black red earthenware were discovered along with a gold ornament in April 2021.
- **Tamil Nadu government - announced the members of a nine-member panel headed by retired Madras high court judge Justice A K Rajan to study the impact of NEET on admissions to medical colleges.**
- **Tamil Nadu - has a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of 51.4% in higher education, almost double the national average of 27.1%**
 - ✓ This was revealed in the All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) for 2019- 20 released on June 10
 - ✓ Also, Tamil Nadu's GER exceeds the National Education Policy's target of 50% to be achieved in the year 2030.
- **Chief minister M K Stalin - announced a commission headed by former chief justice of the Delhi high court Justice, D Murugesan**
 - ✓ The panel will study the poor enrolment of government school students in professional courses like engineering, agriculture, veterinary, fisheries and law.
 - ✓ Earlier, the state government introduced 7.5% special reservation for government school students in medical admissions last year.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission was launched in 2019**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu had 21.6 lakh rural households with tap water connection.
 - ✓ The state government has been asked by the centre to focus on 18 districts this year, where more than 70% of the rural households have no tap water connections.
 - ✓ They are Salem, Virudhunagar, Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, Tiruvallur, Krishnagiri, Villupuram, Madurai, Sivaganga, Nagapattinam, Tuticorin, Pudukkottai, Dharmapuri, Tirupur, Kallakurichi, Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram and Erode.
 - ✓ The Nilgiris is one of the 15 districts where more than 75% households do not have tap water connection.
 - ✓ The total assured fund availability for the implementation of the Mission in the state for this year is ₹8,428.2 crore.
- **'Chedi Putta'-GI Tag**
 - ✓ **Chedi Putta** is a traditional handloom sari weaved in Veeravanallur and the neighboring towns like Pudukkudi, Karukurichi and Vellanguli in Ambasamudram taluk of Tirunelveli district.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu has so far obtained GI tag for about 40 handicraft and agricultural products.
 - ✓ Some of the important products that now enjoy the GI tag are **Kancheepuram Silk, Thanjavur Veenai, Srivilliputtur milk gova, Dindigul lock, Madurai Chungudi sari, Salem white silk veshti.**
 - ✓ India has about 320 GI products, with Karnataka topping the list with about 50 products.
- **CM's first visit to Delhi**
 - ✓ The CM presented a memorandum to the PM containing 25 demands for Tamil Nadu in various sectors
 - ✓ Water Resources Minister Durai Murugan, DMK Parliamentary party leader T R Baalu and Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu were present on the occasion.

- ✓ The key issues raised during the meeting include the withdrawal of Chennai- **Salem greenfield expressway project**, scrapping NEET and similar entrance exams, early commencement of vaccine production at the **HLL Biotech Chengalpattu complex and Pasteur Institute in Coonoor**.
- **CM announces scheme for delta farmers**
 - ✓ The package is being announced by the State government after a gap of three years.
 - ✓ The scheme, to be implemented at a cost of `61.09 crore, is expected to benefit over 2.07 lakh farmers in the region.
 - ✓ It aims to provide input and equipment subsidies to farmers involved in the cultivation of kuruvai in the Cauvery delta region, according to an official release.
 - ✓ While an amount of `50 crore has been earmarked for providing farm equipment to farmers on subsidies, another `11.09 crore would be spent for effective use of water, such as farm ponds.
 - ✓ The scheme will be completely implemented in **Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Tiruvarur districts completely and partly in Cuddalore, Ariyalur and Tiruchi districts**.
 - ✓ Usually, kuruvai cultivation is undertaken in about 3.2 lakh acre in the delta districts.
 - ✓ Instructions have been given to the Agriculture Department to ensure sufficient supply of paddy seeds, artificial and biofertilizers, other inputs and equipment
- **TN Economic Advisory Council - consist of**
 - ✓ Nobel laureate **Prof Esther Duflo**,
 - ✓ Former RBI Governor **Raghuram Rajan**,
 - ✓ Former chief economic advisor to the Union government **Arvind Subramanian**,
 - ✓ Development economist **Prof Jean Dreze of Delhi School of Economics** and former Union finance secretary **S Narayan**
- **Kattur in Tiruvarur**
 - ✓ First village in Tamil Nadu to achieve 100% vaccination (at least 1 dose) for all eligible adults
 - ✓ Earlier this month, Weyan, a remote village in Bandipora district in Jammu and Kashmir, had become **the first village in the country to vaccinate all its adult population against Covid-19**.
- **'ISAC-2020 - Indian Smart Cities Award Contest'**
 - ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation - won two awards at the Smart Cities Mission's sixth anniversary award contest 'ISAC-2020 - Indian Smart Cities Award Contest'
- **M K Stalin - announced a cash reward of ₹3 crore for sportspersons from Tamil Nadu who win gold medal at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.**
 - ✓ For sportspersons taking part at international events, ₹25 lakh was being given by the Government
 - ✓ The 2020 Summer Olympics is scheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021 in Japan after it was postponed last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ Nethra Kumanan, Varun Thakkar and K C Ganapathy (sailing), G Sathiyam and A Sharath Kamal (table tennis), C A Bhavani Devi (fencing) and paralympian T Mariappan have qualified for the quadrennial games from Tamil Nadu.
- **Minorities commission-chairman**

- ✓ Senior Congress leader **S Peter Alphonse** had been appointed as chairman of **state Minorities Commission**
- **C Sylendra Babu** - has been appointed as the **Tamil Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of police force on June**
- **Fifteen burial urns** - have been unearthed from two adjacent clusters at **Sivagalai in Tuticorin district**
 - ✓ The state archaeology department is undertaking the second phase of excavations at Sivagalai.
 - ✓ Sivagalai was suspected to be the burial site of a Sivagalai cluster, just like **Konthagai in Keeladi** cluster.
- **Thenpennai- Palaru river link Project : Minister, Duraimurugan**
 - ✓ The Thenpennai - Palaru river Link project will be launched soon. When the project is completed, the water the water flow in palaru river will be continuous for 3 months.
- **Police launch 'Operation Wind' against illicit liquor sale**
 - ✓ The Prohibition and Enforcement Wing (PEW) officials are conducting intensive operations against those involved in the preparation and sale of illicit liquor. PEW has launched a special drive "Operation Wind" from June 8.
- **Minnagam',- Tangedco launches dedicated helpline**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) has launched 'Minnagam', a service call centre to register various electricity complaints by the consumers
- **Vezham**
 - ✓ The forest department - is setting up an interpretation centre named '**Vezham**' (elephant) at the government timber depot on Kotagiri Road in to create awareness about elephants among children.
- **Dindigul I Leoni - Text Book Society head.**
 - ✓ Dindigul I Leoni, a popular talk show host - has been appointed head of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation.
- **Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - has sanctioned Rs. 1.25 crore assistance to the Tamil Chair from Cologne University in Germany**
 - ✓ The timely financial assistance for the Tamil department in the University will prevent its closure due to a paucity of funds
 - ✓ The previous AIADMK government has also announced an assistance of Rs. 1.25 crore to the **Tamil Chair in 2019**.
- **Doorstep Medical- as 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam'**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu Government - to launch a doorstep medical care programme to offer home-based dialysis units to people with chronic renal failure.
 - ✓ The initiative is named as '**Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam**'
 - ✓ Initially, the state will launch a mass screening programme over the next 10 days to identify people with non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension in the state

- ✓ Later, those with diabetes or hypertension will undergo preliminary screening and consultation at PHCs.
- ✓ They will also carry **glucometers and BP apparatus** with them for routine screening.

➤ **Justice A K Rajan - had submitted a 165-page report to chief minister M K Stalin at the secretariat**

A	First generation students in government medical college (%)
B	Influence of family income below 2.5 lakh (%)
C	No. Students from Tamil Nadu
D	State board Students %
E	Number of govt school students who got admission into govt medical college. 7.5 % quota
F	Number of govt school students who got admission into Self financing medical college. 7.5 % quota
G	Demand for domicillary certificate for admission to govt medical colleges %
H	Demand for domicillary certificate for admission to Self financing medical colleges %

➤ **Tamil Nadu government - will launch 47 industrial projects bringing in investments to the tune of Rs. 28,664 crore into the state**

- ✓ These projects are expected to provide employment to 82,400 people in the state
- ✓ Out of the 47 projects, the state government will sign agreements for 35 new projects, with an investments worth over Rs.17,000 crore
- ✓ Further, the foundation stone for 9 other projects would be laid by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

➤ **Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced his government is working on a target to make Tamil Nadu a \$1 trillion (\$1 lakh crore) GDP economy by the year 2030.**

- ✓ The CM launched the DMK government's first major Industrial Conclave, organized by the Guidance bureau, after it came to power in May 2021.

➤ **'Canine Parvovirus'**

- ✓ The State veterinary university - has warned that several dogs in Chennai had started testing positive for the highly contagious 'canine parvovirus'

➤ **Rurban Mission**

- ✓ The Union government - is planning to construct a heritage village and tourism at **Singaperumal Koil** as part of efforts to promote rural tourism.

➤ **Tamil Nadu government - has reconstituted the state-level vigilance and monitoring committee for SC/STs with chief minister M K Stalin as chairman.**

- ✓ Mr. Palanivel Thiagarajan (Finance),
- ✓ N Kayalvizhi Selvaraj (adi dravidar welfare),
- ✓ C V Ganesan (labour welfare)
- ✓ M Mathiventhan (tourism)
- ✓ It comprises of nine MPs, including VCK leaders Thol Thirumavalavan and D Ravikumar.

➤ **Chennai-based National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) - deployed a buoy fitted with sensors off the coast of Puducherry**

- ✓ Based on the data, the NCCR team will also calculate the water quality index alongwith remedial measures to improve it, if needed

- ✓ After the southwest monsoon ends in September, NCCR plans to deploy similar buoys off Visakhapatnam and Lakshadweep.
- ✓ At present, it collects water samples manually in more than 22 locations along the 7,500km Indian coast every month to measure quality.

➤ **Revival of MSMEs in the state govt**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government –has constituted a **13-member expert committee** for revival of MSMEs in the state.
- ✓ Former Industries secretary, Tamil Nadu government.
- ✓ The state government had promised to constitute such a committee “to formulate schemes for revival of MSMEs” in the Governor’s address delivered to the state assembly on June 21, 2021.

The committee will include –

- ✓ **Prof M Vijayabhaskar**, part time member of State Development Policy Council,
- ✓ **Bindu Anand**, former member of RBI Committees on financial inclusion, SME finance and securitization,
- ✓ **N Balasubramaniam**, former CMD, SIDBI,
- ✓ **Hemalatha Annamalai**, co-founder and ex-CEO, Ampere Vehicles (evehicle),
- ✓ **Israr Ahmed**, regional chairman, FIEO,
- ✓ **Anburajan**, president, TANSTIA and
- ✓ **R Anand**, ex-partner, Ernst and Young and former member of RBI Committee on Asset Reconstruction Companies.

➤ **Greater Chennai Corporation – to launch the Rs. 180-crore air and water pollution mitigation programme in association with Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board**

- ✓ Under the programme, the civic body is planning to install ambient air quality monitoring systems (AAQMS) in 50 locations in the city.
- ✓ The system would calculate the level of air pollutants such as PM2.5, PM10, SOx, NOx and carbon monoxide and display it on digital boards.
- ✓ Further, wind augmentation and purifying units (WAYU) will be installed at 20 junctions in Chennai.

➤ **Srivilliputhur sanctuary has the highest leopard density in Western Ghats: report**

- ✓ The Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu has the highest leopard density (per 100 sq km), not just in the State but in the entire Western Ghats landscape.

➤ **Phuket to be Chennai’s sister city**

- ✓ The city of Phuket in Thailand has proposed to establish a sister city agreement with Chennai.
- ✓ The Royal Thai Consulate-General in Chennai has requested the Greater Chennai Corporation to discuss various aspects of the sister city partnership.

New higher education panel formed; The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHHE) has been reconstituted by the government with the appointment

➤ as

Name	Sector
Ramasamy.A	Vice-Chairman .
S. Krishnasamy	Member secretary

➤ **T.N. Open University begins excavation at Porpanaikottai**

- ✓ Minister for Environment Siva V. Meyyanathan inaugurated the excavation works taken up by the Tamil Nadu Open University at Porpanaikottai village in Tiruvarangulam panchayat union in the district in a bid to unearth possible archaeological remains.

Recent Excavations -in Tamilnadu

➤ **Sivagalai Archaeological**

- ✓ For the first time, a full human skeleton - was discovered in one of urns found at the Sivagalai archaeological site on July.
- ✓ The second phase of excavation is underway at the site by the Tamil Nadu state department of archaeology

➤ **Ra Ra Peruvazhi**

- ✓ An 800-year-old stone inscription belonging to the reign of Rajaraja Chola I - has been found in Nambuthalai near Thondi in Ramanathapuram district.
- ✓ Ra Ra Peruvazhi, is the name of the east coast highway laid during the period of Rajaraja Cholan.

➤ **The State Archaeology Department - has discovered the remnants of a large ancient conch industry in Korkai in Tuticorin district**

- ✓ This is the site in which the Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department conducted its first excavation, after it was established in 1969.

➤ **A terracotta container with an intricately designed band running along its outer surface - has been unearthed at the archaeological site at Keeladi in Sivaganga during the seventh phase of excavation**

- ✓ The ring wells unearthed in Keeladi, have an interlocking system where sand cannot enter the wells, but air and water could percolate through them.

➤ **Archaeologists - have discovered a rubble stone well at the Kodumanal site, close to the banks of river Noyyal near Chennimalai in Erode district**

- ✓ Earlier, ring wells and brick wells have been found in other archaeological sites in Tamil Nadu like Keezhadi in Sivagangai district
- ✓ Archaeologists have found evidence for existence of iron smelting unit with furnaces in the site, besides urn burials, beads, pot shreds with brahmi inscriptions, aged 2,300 years.
- ✓ Kodumanal has yielded the highest number of pot sherds with Tamil brahmi inscriptions
- ✓ Kodumanal site has copper, gold, iron and glass pieces as well as artefacts
- ✓ There were three types of burial methods - cairn circles, urn burials and urn burials with cists - found at Kodumanal site

➤ **Konthagi is burial site of Keeladi**

- ✓ Archaeologists - have identified seven human skeletons in a single quadrant in Konthagai in the Keeladi cluster. Keeladi is considered to have been the industrial hub of a 2,600-year-old civilization
- ✓ Its neighbouring villages of Konthagai, Agaram and Manalur are also treated as part of this civilization.
- ✓ At present, the seventh phase of excavation is taking place in Keeladi cluster

- ✓ The second phase of excavation is being carried out in the three neighbouring villages of Konthagai, Agaram and Manalur by the Tamil Nadu state department of archaeology
- ✓ As per the recent findings, Konthagai was supposed to be the burial site of the Keeladi civilization.
- **A punch-marked silver coin - was located at the Keeladi excavation site in Sivaganga**
 - ✓ The discovery was announced by Archaeology minister Thangam Thennarasu
 - ✓ The coin having the figures of the sun, moon, bull, taurine, an animal figurine, and geometric designs show that Keeladi inhabitants were a trading community.
 - ✓ During the ancient period, such silver punch-marked coins were in circulation from the time of Mahajanpadas of the 6th century BCE.
 - ✓ Such coins have been recovered from excavations conducted at Alangulam also.
- **Discovery of additional wall at Ariyalur Maligaimedu excavation**
 - ✓ The State Department of Archaeology has made some encouraging finds lower than two months into the excavation at Maligaimedu near Gangaikondacholapuram, the capital of King Rajendra Chola I.
- **Terracotta container with designs found in Keeladi**

A terracotta container, which has intricately designed bands around it, has been unearthed at the Keeladi archaeologi
- **Megalithic full-length sword unearthed**
 - ✓ The excavations at Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district have yielded a full-length iron sword broken at places.
 - ✓ This is the first time the Department of Archaeology has unearthed a full-length sword with a handle in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ The length is 60 cm.
- **Perforated terracotta distillation pipes unearthed in Korkai**
 - ✓ Nine perforated terracotta pipes, stacked one above the other, have been found during archaeological excavation at Korkai, an ancient site, in Thoothukudi district.
- **T.N. legislature turns 100**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu witnessed elections in **November 1920** when electors (only men), accounting for **just 3% of the population**, were enrolled, as a result of the **Montagu-Chelmsford Report** and the Government of India Act of 1919.
- **Highlights in 100 years of legislation :TN Legislative Assembly**
 - ✓ In its first session in April 1921, resolved to provide **voting rights to women**.
 - ✓ **Muthulakshmi Reddy**, the well-known medical practitioner and social activist, became the first woman member of the Council and, in no time, became the **Deputy President of the Council**.
 - ✓ **C. Subramaniam**, as Finance Minister, was the first to make a budget speech in Tamil in 1957-58.
 - ✓ **“Tamil Thai Vazhthu”** was rendered in July 1991 for the first time at the beginning of the Governor’s address.
 - ✓ During the two-year rule of the DMK founder **C.N. Annadurai**, the Assembly, in July 1967, adopted a motion renaming **Madras State as Tamil Nadu**

- ✓ Several landmark laws for the welfare of women, such as **Devadasi abolition, equal rights to women in property** and constitution of the **State Commission for Women**.
- **Key milestones- TN Assembly**
 - ✓ **January 1921-:** The Madras Legislative council, the biggest body of its kind in India, constituted with 127 members, including 98 elected representatives, and a fixed term of three years.
 - ✓ **April 1921:** Council adopts removal of **sex disqualification** on women for franchise.
 - ✓ **July 1937: Bi- Cameral Legislature** formed with the Legislative Assembly having 215 members and the Legislative council having 56.
 - ✓ **March 1952:** The **first Assembly after Independence** is constituted with 375 seats 243 single – member constituencies and 66 double- member constituencies.
 - ✓ **April 1957:** Subsequent to reorganisation of **states on linguistic lines**, the legislative Assembly strength went down to 205.
 - ✓ **April 20 to May 9, 1957:** The only occasion when the Assembly and the council met outside **Chennai- Aranmore palace, Udhagamandalam**.
 - ✓ **November 1986:** Legislative council Was abolished..
- **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam – TN Govt .**
 - ✓ **'Makkalai thedi maruthuvam'**, an initiative to take healthcare services to the doorstep of the people, in **Samanapalli, Krishnagiri district**, said Health Minister Ma. Subramanian.
 - ✓ **This is the first-of-its-kind scheme in the country, which will include physiotherapy-related therapies, testing and providing medicines to the poor and for non-communicable diseases at their doorsteps.**
 - ✓ The CM also inaugurated the scheme in **Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem, Thanjavur, Trichy, Tirunelveli and Chennai districts** through video-conferencing.
- **Tamil Nadu weavers - received more loans under the Mudra scheme than all other states put together in the last three years**
 - ✓ This was announced by the Union textile minister **Piyush Goyal** in a statement made in Rajya Sabha on August 5
 - ✓ According to the Minister, 41,568 Tamil Nadu weavers were provided loans under the **Mudra scheme in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.**
- **White paper on the state's finances, four days ahead of his first budget, at Secretariat in Chennai**
 - ✓ The white paper highlighted the state's fall from a revenue surplus of Rs.1,760 crore in 2012-13 to a **deficit of Rs.61,320 crore** (or 3.16% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2020-21.
 - ✓ As per the white paper, Tamil Nadu's agricultural sector registered growth in the past 15 years, even though employment in the sector reduced by 10% – from 54% to 44% between 1981 and 2010.
- **Paperless budget after Himachal Pradesh and Odisha**
 - ✓ This year, Tamil Nadu government will present a paperless budget after **Himachal Pradesh and Odisha**.
- **The Tamil Nadu tourism, culture and religious endowments department - announced that the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I will be celebrated as a government event.**

- **The state government - has appointed former IAS officer P W C Davidar -as Adviser (digital and simplified governance) to Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency.**
- **100 Days of Government of Tamilnadu-Achievements**
 - ✓ Saving people from Corona pandemic
 - ✓ Rs.4,000 and 14 grocery items to 2.07 crore family rice cardholders.
 - ✓ Petrol price reduced by Rs. 3 per litre.
 - ✓ Aavin milk price reduced by Rs. 3 per litre.
 - ✓ Free bus travel for women, differently-abled and transgenders.
 - ✓ A Multi-Speciality Hospital at a cost of Rs.250 crore in the campus of King Institute, Chennai.
 - ✓ **"Kalaigarnar Memorial Library"** with modern facilities at a cost of Rs.70 crore in Madurai.
 - ✓ 49 Industrial Projects through **"Investors First Destination - Tamilnadu."**
 - ✓ Rs. 28,508 crore investment.83,482 employment oppurtunities.
 - ✓ **"Health at the Doorsteps Scheme" - First in the Country.**
 - ✓ Appointment of Archagars from all castes.
 - ✓ Poojas in **"Annai Thamizh" in Temples**
 - ✓ **10.5% Special Reservation for Vanniars, Seermarabinar Tribes and other MBCs.**
 - ✓ **"Separate Annual Budget for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare" - First in the State.**
 - ✓ Fixed Deposit of Rs.5 lakh and Rs.3 lakh to Children who lost their parents due to Corona disease.
 - ✓ Journalists announced as frontline workers. Rs.10 lakh compensation to the families of those who die of Covid-19.
 - ✓ Financial allocation of Rs. 4,508.23 crore to Free Electricity Scheme.
 - ✓ Re-introduction of **"Anna Marumalarchi" and "Namakku Naame"** Schemes.
 - ✓ **Kalaigarnarin Anai thu Grama Orunginaintha Velaan Valarchi Thittam"** at a cost of Rs. 1,245.45 crore.
 - ✓ Financial allocation of Rs. 1,149.79 crore for the **"Welfare of Fisherman."**
 - ✓ **"Kalaigarnar Urban Development Scheme"** at a cost of Rs. 1,000 crores.
 - ✓ Rs. 2,750 crore loans to Women Self Help Groups waived. Rs. 20,000 crore loan assistance.
 - ✓ **"Thagaisal Thamizhar Award"** constituted for eminent persons who contribute to Tamilnadu and Tamils.
 - ✓ **"Economic Advisory Council"** with World renowned Economists.
 - ✓ **"Singara Chennai 2.0"** to improve Chennai to the international standards
- **E - Paarvai**
 - ✓ **Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency's (TNeGA) award-winning mobile app, E-Paarvai - is helping government hospitals identify people with cataracts.**
 - ✓ The **Artificial Intelligence-based** app named 'E-Paarvai' allows healthcare workers to identify cataracts on-the-spot with 91% accuracy.
 - ✓ Untreated cataracts are one of the primary reasons for blindness in Tamil Nadu.
- **IN TAMIL NADU, Six airports in the state including Chennai, 491 km of national highway and the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) - are among the infrastructure assets identified by the Centre under the National Monetisation Plan.**
 - ✓ Solar power capacities of NLC India, gas pipelines in the Cauvery basin, some port assets of **VOC Port in Tuticorin, railway stations of Puducherry and Chennai, Hotel Ashok in Puducherry** are among the chosen assets to witness joint leasing by the Union government
 - ✓ Trichy airport has been identified for monetisation through brownfield PPP models in FY22.

- ✓ This will be followed by **Madurai and Coimbatore airports** in FY23, and Chennai airport in FY24
- ✓ The national highway stretches identified for monetization over FY 2022-2025 in the State include listed below.

From	To	Distance
Ulundurpet	Padalur	94 km
Ulundurpet	Tindivanam	73 km
Trichy	Padalur	38 km
Krishnagiri	Thopurghat	63 km
six laning of Hosur	Krishnagiri	60 km
Tambaram	Tindivanam	46.5 km
Trichy	Karaikudi including Trichy bypass	117 km

- **T.N. launches 100 cr. Urban Employment Scheme**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will implement an urban employment scheme on the lines of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** at a cost of 100 crore to improve the livelihood of urban poor, Minister for **Municipal Administration, Urban and Water Supply K.N. Nehru** said in the Assembly on Tuesday.
- **IIT Madras develops India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair 'NeoBolt'**
 - ✓ IIT Madras has developed India's first indigenous **motorized wheelchair** vehicle named 'NeoBolt', which can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains. It has a maximum speed of 25 kmph
- **On August, the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly - unanimously passed a bill to provide 7.5% horizontal quota to government school students for admissions to undergraduate professional courses**
 - ✓ The Bill was framed on the basis of the recommendations provided by retired Judge, Justice **D Murugesan** committee.
- **T.N. renames Development policy council**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday renamed the **State Development Policy Council as the State Planning Commission.**
 - ✓ The government issued an order making the change with immediate effect.
 - ✓ In 2020, consequent to the abolition of plan, non-plan distinction, orders were issued replacing the State Planning Commission, which was constituted in 1971, with the **State Development Policy Council (SDPC).**
 - ✓ The SDPC was tasked with preparing **short, medium and long-term plans and strategy documents, monitoring, evaluation and policy advocacy,** creating policy coherence and implementation of special programmes.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has announced "Chief Minister Road Improvement Scheme" to widen the roads connecting taluk headquarters and the district headquarters in the next ten years.**
- **Singara Chennai 2.0**
 - ✓ Tamilnadu CM revives the '**Singara Chennai**' project. After the DMK won in the 1996 Local Body elections, M K Stalin, who was then the mayor of the capital city, rolled out a

slew of projects to keep the city clear of garbage and spruce it up with road infrastructure like flyovers under the 'Singara Chennai' umbrella.

- **On August 15, Chief Minister MK Stalin - hoisted the Tricolour for the first time at the ramparts of Fort St George on the occasion of 75th Independence day and received a guard of honour provided by Tamil Nadu police**
 - ✓ During his speech, the CM also recalled his father and former CM Dr. Kalaingar M Karunanidhi's letter to former PM Indira Gandhi that has started the tradition of CMs unfurling the tricolour on August 15 from the year 1974
 - ✓ Till 1973, state Governors used to unfurl the national flag on both Independence Day and Republic Day.
 - ✓ CM Stalin also unveiled a 'commemorative pillar' to mark the Diamond Jubilee (75th year) celebrations of India's Independence
 - ✓ The Chief Minister announced that the monthly pension for freedom fighters would be increased from Rs.17,000 to Rs.18,000 while their family pension would be hiked from Rs.8,500 to Rs.9,000
 - ✓ He also said the Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Madurai will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.6 crore so as to attract even youngsters towards Gandhian principles
- **Tamil Nadu - is ranked as the best performing state in the progress of Smart Cities Mission**
 - ✓ Chennai and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, Indore, Bhopal and Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, and Surat and Rajkot in Gujarat figure among the best performers on different criteria
 - ✓ The Smart Cities Mission was launched in 2015 to redevelop 100 cities across the country
- **Dr J Jayalalithaa University merged with Annamalai University**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - passed a Bill in the assembly to merge Dr J Jayalalithaa University with Annamalai University.
 - ✓ The DMK's new bill seeks to repeal the Dr J Jayalalithaa University Act 2021.
- **T.N. announces parks for future mobility, apparels**
 - ✓ An integrated apparel park in Virudhunagar district at a cost of 400 crore, a future mobility park in Krishnagiri district at a cost of 300 crore and a SIPCOT Industrial Park in Tiruvallur district, costing 250 crore, were among the major announcements made by the Tamil Nadu government in the Assembly on Tuesday
- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced that Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board will henceforth be known as Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board**
 - ✓ 'Housing for All' scheme for the urban slum/poor families before 2030
- **Sponge park**
 - ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation - has proposed to set up a 'sponge park' with artificial pond and rain gardens at the Kargil Nagar flood water pumping station in Manali zone.
- **Unique Health ID**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu government - is planning to provide a unique health ID (UHID) to everyone in the state.
 - ✓ The registry will have the name, age, gender, mobile number, smart (ration) card number, health ID, street details, health sub-centre of the beneficiaries.

- ✓ The state has already commenced the pilot run of UHID projects in two blocks of Krishnagiri district.
- **The Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation Limited (TANSIDCO) - is planning to establish four industrial estates at a cost of Rs. 218.22 crore for MSME units in Tiruvallur, Chengalpet, Trichy and Madurai district**
 - ✓ Through the Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund (TANSEED), the state is also planning to provide a grant of Rs.10 lakh each to 50 startups this year.
- **The State government - to set up common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) in 10 locations in Erode and Namakkal districts to prevent discharge of effluents from industries into water bodies.**
- **Blue flag certification**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - plans to spend Rs.100 crore over the next five years to get the prestigious **Blue Flag certification for the Marina** and nine other beaches in the state.
- **Chief minister of Tamil Nadu - announced a 'manimandapam' (memorial) for the renowned 19th century Tamil scholar Iyothee Thass Pandithar in North Chennai on the sidelines of his 175th birth anniversary.**
 - ✓ **Iyothee Thass Pandithar was born as Kathavarayan in Royapettah in Chennai on May 20, 1845**
 - ✓ Out of reverence and affection for his guru, he took the name of Iyothee Thass after his teacher, Iyothee Thaasa Kaviraja Pandithar
 - ✓ His grandfather, Kanthappan handed over palm leaf manuscripts of '**Thirukkural**' and '**Naaladiyar**' to British civil servant Francis Whyte Ellis and helped towards their publication
 - ✓ Iyothee Thass Pandithar. founded the **Advaita Sabha in 1870** with the objective of fighting caste system and '**Dravida Mahajana Sabhai**' in 1891.
- **Celebrations for V.O.C.'s birth anniversary**
 - ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday made 14 announcements in the Assembly in line with his Independence Day speech that the 150th birth anniversary of freedom fighter **V.O. Chidambaranar** would be celebrated as a government function
 - ✓ The freedom fighter's death anniversary on November 18 would be observed as a '**Day of Sacrifice.**'
- **Tamil Nadu makes it official: it's workers' right to sit**
 - ✓ It introduces a Bill that makes it mandatory for establishments to provide seating to employees.
 - ✓ It might not have all the connotations of a **Rosa Parks'** protest, but the Bill that the Tamil Nadu government introduced in the Assembly on Monday is revolutionary enough by recognising **workers' "right to sit"**.
- **On September, the state government - announced solar power parks across the state to generate 4,000MW of solar energy with battery storage system of 2,000MW in areas excluding corporations and municipalities.**
- **Tamil Nadu-Denmark plan energy island in Gulf of Mannar**

- ✓ State of Tamil Nadu and Denmark have planned to create an energy island in **Gulf of Mannar** that lies between the west coast of Sri Lanka and south-eastern tip of India.
- ✓ This plan was made as Tamil Nadu is looking to expand its footprint in the **green energy sector**.
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced in the state Assembly that a civilization flourished on the banks of Thamirabarani river 3,200 years ago**
 - ✓ Carbon dating showed paddy found in **burial urn at sivakalai** in Thoothukudi district belonged to 1155 BCE
 - ✓ Thamirabarani river starts in pothigai hills of Western Ghats, flows through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts and empties at korkai (Tirunelveli district into Gulf of Mannar)
 - ✓ The state archaeological department is now excavating sites at **Adichanallur, Sivagalai, Korkai, Kodumanal, Mayiladumparai and Gangaikonda Cholapuram**, the CM said.
 - **The Tamil Nadu government - has proposed to start excavation at three new sites – Vembakottai in Virudhunagar, Thulukarpatti in Tirunelveli and Perumpalai in Dharmapuri district.**
- **'Porunai civilisation is 3,200 years old'**
 - ✓ "The finding has established that the **Porunai river [Thamirabarani] civilisation dates back to 3,200 years**
- **TN Govt. to introduce new cement brand 'Valimai'**
- **TN Govt. to introduce new salt brand 'Neidhal'**
- **Freedom fighter Subramania Bharati's 100th death anniversary**
 - ✓ The CM declared September 11 as "**Mahakavi Day**", recalling the contributions of the freedom fighter who also advocated equal social rights to all.
- **"Ola Electric" - announced an "all-women" 10,000-strong workforce at its upcoming two-wheeler factory in Pochampalli village of Krishnagiri district in TN**
 - ✓ The **Foxconn** group company has a 25,000 all-women team manufacturing devices and appliances.
 - ✓ Under a specialised '**Project Tejaswini**' initiative, **Hero Motors** has also increased the number of women employees on the shopfloor to more than 1,000
- **Tamil Nadu Government - to celebrate the birth anniversary of social reformer Periyar E V Ramasamy, September 17, as 'Day of Social Justice' every year**
 - ✓ **Thanthai Periyar**, as he is popularly known, founded the **Dravidar Kazhagam**, a precursor to the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK).
 - ✓ The chief minister recalled former chief minister and **DMK founder CN Annaduarai's** 1967 statement in the Assembly that the first DMK government was "**a tribute to Periyar**". He also said the **first amendment to the Indian Constitution** came about because of Periyar, who "never went to Parliament
- **Tamil Nadu and Kerala governments - agreed to set up technical sub-committees to assess the Nirar-Nallar multipurpose straight-cut scheme**
 - ✓ The panel will discuss ways and means to avoid a long circuitous route and convey water from **Upper Nirar to river Nallar**

- ✓ The discussions included building a new dam under **Pandiyar-Punnampuzha** project to divert water to **Noyyal** and **Bhavani** basin in Tamil Nadu.
- **Ravindra Narayan Ravi - was sworn in as the 26th governor of Tamil Nadu on September**
 - ✓ Chief Justice of the Madras HC, **Sanjib Banerjee**, administered the oath of office to him at a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan, Chennai
 - ✓ During the swearing-in event that lasted for 10 minutes, **chief secretary V Irai Anbu** read out **'Warrant of Appointment'** signed by President Ram Nath Kovind on September.
 - ✓ **Sonali Navangul, who translated Tamil novel Irandam Jaamankalin Kathai** by Salma in Marathi.
- **The state government has decided to make "Silambam", a prehistoric martial art developed in the state, as one of the sporting disciplines eligible for recruitment under 3% sports quota**
- **Honour for a Tamil writer after 25 years**
 - ✓ **Indira Parthasarathy, commonly known as Ee. Paa, is Sahitya Akademi fellow.**
 - ✓ After a gap of 25 years, the Sahitya Akademi has chosen a Tamil littérateur – **Indira Parthasarathy, commonly known as Ee. Paa** – for its highest honour of Fellowship.
 - ✓ In 1996, **D. Jayakanthan, aged 62, was the youngest to become a Fellow of the Akademi.** Before him, only two from the Tamil literary world – **Rajaji or C. Rajagopalachari (1969) and T.P. Meenakshisundaram (1975).**
 - ✓ Talking of the three previous recipients, he pointed out that Rajaji was known for his elegant Tamil prose. **Meenakshi sundaram was a "great Tamil scholar and proficient in many languages"**.
 - ✓ Jayakanthan was the "first full-fledged creative writer" who was made a Fellow.
- **The Kovalam beach in Chennai and Eden beach in Puducherry - have been awarded the prestigious "Blue Flag" certification**
 - ✓ India have 10 beaches with the coveted international eco-level tag that is given to clean and well-managed beaches as per globally recognised standards
 - ✓ Eden Beach of Puducherry becomes the first beach in the Union Territory to get the coveted eco label
- **Tamil Nadu government - has identified six champion sectors to focus for the State's exports thrust**
 - ✓ The champion sectors identified for achieving the \$100 billion target include **automobile and auto components, textiles, food processing, leather and footwear, electronic and communication** as well as machinery.
- **The school education department - is planning to launch a statewide campaign to prevent the learning loss and to ensure basic literacy among children of Classes I to VIII**
 - ✓ Under the campaign, the government plans to take schools to places near students with the assistance of local volunteers to ensure everyone has foundational numeracy and literacy skills.
 - ✓ It will be modelled on the **'Veethi Vagupparai'** (Classes on the Streets) method followed by a NGO.

- ✓ The campaign is likely to be linked with the government's 'Ennum Ezhuthum' mission to ensure children are able to comprehend and possess basic arithmetic skills by the time they reach eight years old.
- **MGR Railway Station of Chennai has become a Green railway fully powered by solar energy.**
 - ✓ **Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MG Ramachandran Central (DRM)** or Chennai Central railway station will get 100 percent energy through Solar Energy. The Chennai Central railway station comes under the South Central Railway (SCR) zone and which is going to become the world's largest green railway network.
- **Tamil Nadu-based MSME bags contract from Boeing**
 - ✓ For the first time, a Tamil Nadu-based MSME has clinched a deal with the largest aerospace firm Boeing.
 - ✓ Aerospace Engineers Private Limited, located in Salem, won a long-term contract from Boeing to manufacture and supply critical aviation components and parts for the global aerospace company's products.
 - ✓ It will be setting a new manufacturing plant in Hosur.
- **Trans Kitchen**
 - ✓ Trans Kitchen, a hotel run by a group of **transgender people**, was inaugurated near Goripalayam junction, Madurai.
 - ✓ It is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the city.
 - ✓ Swasti organization funded the initiative, in association with organizations like **Aroghyam, Virutti, and Sri Lakshmi Pengal Munnetra Sangam**
- **Chief Minister, M K Stalin - inaugurated the Tamil Nadu police museum at Egmore in Chennai on September**
- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - relaunched the 'Varumun Kappom' (preventive healthcare) scheme as 'Kalaigharin Varumun Kappom' at a function at Vazhapadi in Salem on September**
- **On September, Chief Minister M K Stalin - introduced a bill in the state assembly to constitute a state commission for scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs).**
The bill is to be called "The Tamil Nadu State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 2021"
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has increased the quota for women in government jobs from 30% to 40 %**
- **Chennai Sustainable Urban Services Programme**
 - ✓ The World Bank has approved \$150 million (around Rs 1,112 crore) loan for funding '**Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Program**' of Tamil Nadu, with the vision of making Chennai into a world-class city that is more green, livable, and resilient to climate change.
 - ✓ The project will drive significant improvements in the quality of four key urban services, including water supply and sewerage, mobility, health, and solid waste management

- **Vallalar's birth anniversary is "benevolence day"**
 - ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the State government would observe the birth anniversary of **'Arutpragasa Vallalar' Ramalinga Adigalar** as the **Day of Thaniperungarunai** (boundless benevolence) every year.
 - ✓ In a statement, Mr. Stalin recalled the life of Vallalar and highlighted how the kitchen in his **Sathya Gnana Sabha in Vadalur**, Cuddalore district, continued to feed the hungry
- **The State Government - announced the constitution of Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board** to ensure the welfare of non-resident Tamils living abroad and in other parts of the country
 - ✓ A scheme - **'My Village' - will** be launched to help non-resident Tamils improve infrastructure in their native, and meet the basic needs such as education and healthcare.
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government announced a welfare board for non-resident Tamils under the **Tamil Nadu NonResidentTamils Welfare Act, 2011**.
 - ✓ The board would have 13 members, including officials and representatives of the non-resident Tamils.
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu NonResident Tamils Welfare Fund would be created with an initial corpus of `5 crores
- **GI Tag for five products**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu - has earned GI tag for five products – **Kanyakumari clove, Thanjavur Netti works, Karuppur Kalamkari paintings and wood carvings of Arumbavur and Kallakurichi**
- **DISHA**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has constituted a 39-member committee, led by chief minister M K Stalin to monitor the implementation of centrally-sponsored schemes in the state.
 - ✓ The schemes to be monitored include MGNREGA, **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya - Grameen Kaushalya Yojana** (rural employment scheme) and **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** (road connectivity to habitations).
 - ✓ The district development coordination and monitoring committee, also known as DISHA committee, would meet at least once in every six months.
 - ✓ Minister for rural development **K R Periakaruppan** will remain as the co-chairperson for the state-level committee.
- **T.N. Cooperative of indigenous people wins UNDP Equator Prize**
 - ✓ The **Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar** Producer Company Limited in the Nilgiris has been awarded the prestigious Equator prize 2021 by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.
- **Multi - Modal Logistics Park - " Mappedu "**
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - released the draft of its first resettlement and rehabilitation policy for slum dwellers.
 - ✓ The policy deals with various issues relating to relocation of slum dwellers and also about enhancing employment opportunities provided to them after moving to the tenements.
 - ✓ As per the draft drawn up by the **Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB)**, a Chennai city habitat development committee would be established.

- **Tamil Nadu set to be 1st state to give kids Covid-19 vaccine**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu is set to become the first in the country to administer Covid-19 vaccines to those aged 2-18 years.
- **'Illam Thedi Kalvi'**
 - ✓ **The school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi** - launched a new website 'illamthedikalvi.tnschools.gov.in' for registration of volunteers to the state's ambitious '**Illam Thedi Kalvi**' campaign scheme at Mudaliarkuppam in Villupuram district
 - ✓ It is a statewide six-month long campaign that seeks to bridge the learning gaps among students from Class I to VIII, who have not attend physical classes for the last 18 months.
 - ✓ The campaign targets around 34 lakh students in state run primary and middle schools.
 - ✓ The handbook for the campaign was prepared by the **State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT)**
- **First Mobile Library in India - Melavasal - Tamil Nadu**
 - ✓ A bullock cart laden with books at Melavasal, a village near Mannargudi, on October 21, 1931 evoked the curiosity of people. It was perhaps the first mobile library in India.
 - ✓ The brainchild of Rao Bahadur S.V. Kanagasabai Pillai, a Mannargudi-based engineer, the library was inaugurated by S.R. Ranganathan, the father of Indian Library Science. Ninety years have passed since the mobile library started its journey.
- **E - Munnnetram and IT Nanban**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu CM M.K Stalin launches IT Department Portals
 - ✓ Tamilnadu Chief Minister M.K Stalin inaugurated two web portals name 'e-Munnnetram' and 'IT Nanban' developed by Information Technology Department on 22 October 2021.
 - ✓ He also released two Tamil computing softwares 'Keezhadi Keyboard' and 'Tamizhi - Tamizhinayam Unicode converter'.
- **Tamil Nadu Govt - Chief minister M K Stalin - announced a seven-member committee for social justice.**

✓ Suba Veerpandian	Chairman.
✓ K Dhanavel	Retired bureaucrat
✓ Swaminathan Devadoss	Former pro vice-chancellor of Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science and Technology
✓ Manushyaputhiran	Poet
✓ A Jaison	Expert in laws for Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Castes
✓ R Rajendran	Economic expert
✓ G Karunanidhy	Federation of All India Backward Classes general secretary

- ✓ Also CM has appointed a female member ,**Dr. Shanti Ravindranath**, representing the CPI state council, as a member to the social justice monitoring committee.

➤ **Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has increased the age limit for either of the parents, who have two girl children, from 35 years to 40 years to enroll under the Chief Minister's girl child protection scheme.
- ✓ As per the direction of Chief Minister M K Stalin, the department has increased the age limit by five years.
- ✓ The order has been issued to benefit more number of women, who were getting married late after their studies.

➤ **Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced that July 18 will be observed as Tamil Nadu Day.**

- ✓ In a statement, the chief minister said former chief minister C N Annadurai had moved a resolution in the state assembly on July 18,1967, to change the name of erstwhile Madras state as Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ On January 14, 1969, the law came into effect renaming the state as Tamil Nadu.

➤ **Special School at Kolappancheri**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated Sankalp, The Learning Centre and Special Needs School, set up at Kolappancheri, Poonamallee, is for students with autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability and young adults with special needs pursuing vocational training, according to a press release.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Commission**

- ✓ Retired judge of Chennai High Court Sivakumar has been appointed as the Chairman of Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Commission.
- ✓ Dalit Murasu editor Punitha pandian as Deputy Chairman.
- ✓ Lawyer Kumaradevan,
- ✓ writer Ezhil Illangovan,
- ✓ social activist Aanamalai Leelavati Dhanaraj,
- ✓ Lawyer Illanjelian,
- ✓ Professor K. Raghupathi are the members of the commission.

TAMIL NADU - EXCAVATION

➤ **Ancient Chinese potsherds, believed to be about 1,000 years old - have been discovered near a school in Thirupulani in Ramanathapuram district.**

- ✓ The potsherds were discovered by students of the Suresh Sudha Azhagan Memorial Government Higher Secondary School, Thiruppullani, near their school premises
- ✓ The potsherds belong to a period between 12th and 13th century AD and were made of porcelain and celadon having Chinese origin.

➤ **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) - Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - sets up the first ever Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) - Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company - to professionally manage three critical natural conservation missions of the state.
- ✓ The proposed company will manage three missions namely, Tamil Nadu Climate Change mission, Tamil Nadu Wetlands mission and Tamil Nadu Green movement mission.
- ✓ It will also develop collaborations and strengthen community engagement to build long term commitment for a net zero carbon future for Tamil Nadu.

- **Tambaram Corporation**
- ✓ The government - has declared the formation of the Tambaram corporation by promulgating an ordinance on November 4, 2021
- ✓ Governor RN Ravi has promulgated an Ordinance for upgrading Tambaram municipality as a municipal corporation.
- ✓ Tambaram is the 21st municipal corporation in Tamil Nadu.
- **Stanford University's list of the leading 2% of scientists**
- Anna University vice-chancellor R Velraj – has been named among the top 2% scientists in the world listed by Stanford University.
- **Principal Secretary - Finance Department**
- ✓ On November 6, the Tamil Nadu government - appointed N Muruganandam as principal secretary, finance department, replacing additional chief secretary S Krishnan.

- **Reservation For Widow and Destitute Women**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - passed an order to provide 25% reservation for widow and destitute women in jobs in anganwadi centres.
- ✓ The posts to be covered include Anganwadi Worker, Micro Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Assistants under the Integrated Child Development Program and nutrition organizer and cook under the MGR Noon Meal Program

- **The Porunai Museum**
- ✓ The Porunai museum – to come up on 13 acres close to the picturesque Sivanthipatti hillock on the outskirts of Tirunelveli city.
- ✓ The museum will exhibit artefacts excavated from archaeological sites at Adichanallur, Korkai and Sivakalai.
- ✓ These artefacts were collected at Sivakalai, Korkai and Adichanallur and artefacts that would be collected in the upcoming excavations will also be included.

- **Muthalvarin Mugavari**
- ✓ The government of Tamil Nadu – issued a directive to create a new department, Muthalvarin Mugavari.
- ✓ Special officer of CM in your Constituency, ShilpaPrabhakar Satish will head the new department.
- ✓ According to the government, a single website will be used to resolve petitions in the Muthalvarin Mugavari Department.
- **Flood Mitigation Panel Head**
- ✓ Officer who worked with Modi appointed flood mitigation panel head.
- ✓ Retired IAS officer V. Thiruppugazh, who served in Gujarat under the then Chief Minister Narendra Modi and also in the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Prime Minister, has been appointed by the DMK government to lead an advisory panel on mitigation and management of flood risk in the city.
- ✓ Mr. Thiruppugazh also happens to be the sibling of Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu.
- **Food Security Museum**
- ✓ Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food, and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal on 15 November 2021, virtually launched India's first Food Security Museum in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The museum showcases India's agriculture revolution from dependency to self-sufficiency.

- **Innuyir Kaappom Thittam**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu - has become the first state in the country to offer free 81 lifesaving emergency treatment procedures to accident victims for two days of their hospitalisation.
- ✓ The procedures worth 1 lakh can be availed at 609 empanelled government and private hospitals in the state.
- ✓ The scheme - **Nammai Kaakkum 48** (saving our lives in 48 hours) – was announced by the Government on November 18.
- ✓ The scheme will cover all those who don't have any insurance schemes.
- ✓ The state has set aside 50 crore for the first phase of implementation of the 'Innuyir Kaappom Thittam' (saving precious lives).
- **Silambam**
- Silambam or stick fencing is a pre-historic ancient martial art form which originated in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ On November 18, the Tamil Nadu government - included 'Silambam' as one of the sporting disciplines which will be eligible under the 3% sports quota for recruitment in public sector undertakings (PSUs) and government departments.
- **V O Chidambaram's Literary Works**
- ✓ On November 18, Chief Minister M K Stalin - unveiled books on freedom fighter V O Chidambaram's literary works at the Secretariat to mark the beginning of the year-long celebration of his 150th birth anniversary.
- ✓ The first volume of the compendium of VOC's works (V.O.C Pannool Thirattu) and the second volume of
- ✓ VOC's speech on 'Thirukkural' (V.O.C. Thirukkural Urai) were published by Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation (TNTBESC).
- **Helpline Number '14417'**
- ✓ The government - to print the helpline number '14417' in all the school textbooks to create awareness about child abuse and harassment among the student community as well the general public.
- ✓ The helpline number,14417, was created specifically for school students, teachers, and parents to extend counselling.
- **Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission**
- ✓ Vidya Mahambare, professor of Economics and Program Director, PGDM, at Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai - has been appointed on the expert committee of the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission.
- ✓ The appointment has been made for the commission's preparation of the state's draft policy on 'Employability and Skilling for a Transitioning Economy'.
- **Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children 2021**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on 20 November 2021 launched the Tamil Nadu State Child Policy.
- ✓ The policy has been formulated taking holistically the needs of the children like their growth targets in their various stages, nutrition, education, healthcare, etc.
- ✓ He also launched the Forensic DNA Profile Search Tool that would enable restoring the lost children to their parents.
- **Chennai Metropolitan Area Project**
- ✓ AIIB approves USD 150 million loans for Chennai Metropolitan Area project.
- ✓ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved \$150 million loans to India for the implementation of the Sustainable Urban services program for the Chennai metropolitan area (CMA).

➤ **Bala Sabhas**

- ✓ T.N. to get 'bala sabhas' in all panchayats.
- ✓ The creation of 'bala sabhas' at all village panchayats for children aged 12 to 18, on the lines of gram sabhas, the introduction of a child protection policy at all panchayats and urban bodies and a child safeguarding policy at all schools are among the provisions envisioned in the Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children, 2021, released by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday.

➤ **DNA Profile-Based Search Tool**

- ✓ On November 20, Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated a new DNA profile-based search tool at the Secretariat.
- ✓ The new device will help trace abandoned children, inter-state criminals and child sexual predators among others.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has become the first state in the country to get the state-of-the-art device as part of the efforts to modernise the state forensic department.

➤ **Swachh Survekshan Report**

- ✓ Chennai - improved its ranking in cleanliness in 2021 by securing 43rd spot in the Swachh Survekshan report for 2021 released on November 20.
- ✓ Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India
- ✓ It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aims to make India clean and free of open defecation.

➤ **Tamil Nadu - Investors' first Port of Call' Conclave**

- ✓ On November 23, the Tamil Nadu government - signed 59 MoUs for projects worth 35,208 crore across various sectors, including aerospace and defence, which are expected to create 76,795 direct employment opportunities.

➤ **FinTech Policy**

- ✓ On November 23, Chief Minister M K Stalin - unveiled a FinTech Policy for the state and released a handbook on aerospace and defence systems at the investment conclave in Coimbatore.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu FinTech Policy 2021 has set a vision to transform the State into a leading global destination for fintech firms by 2025 and aims to develop Chennai as a FinTech hub.

➤ **4GW Integrated Solar Photovoltaic Cell**

- ✓ Tata Group's solar power arm - is in talks with the Tamil Nadu government to set up a 4GW integrated solar photovoltaic cell manufacturing unit in Gangaikondan near Tirunelveli.

➤ **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Urban Index**

- ✓ Chennai - has been ranked 11th among 56 cities in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Urban Index.
- ✓ The NITI Aayog report considered 16 goals including 'no poverty', good health and well-being, quality education, reduced inequalities, climate action, life below water and on land and peace, justice and strong institutions to arrive at a composite score for the index.

➤ **National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5**

- ✓ T.N. ahead in Reproductive, Child Health.
- ✓ With significant improvements in several social and health parameters, when compared with the previous edition, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5 seems to have set the State on its regular path ahead yet again, particularly in reproductive and child health.

➤ Covid Vaccination

✓ 100% first installment dose district Kanchipuram.

- ✓ So far more than 76% of people in Tamil Nadu have been vaccinated with the first dose and 40% with the second dose.

Kanchipuram is the first district to get 100% first dose of vaccine.

➤ Nimirndhu Nil, Thunindhu Sol

- ✓ The Karur district administration - launched the initiative 'Nimirndhu Nil, Thunindhu Sol' to dispel fear among school girls to report sexual assault.

New Police Commissionerates

Chief Minister MK Stalin - inaugurated the new *Avadi* and *Tambaram* New Police Commissionerates in suburban Chennai on January 1, 2022.

The Tambaram commissionerate is headed by M Ravi, ADGP.

The Avadi commissionerate is headed by Sandeep Rai Rathore, ADGP.

Net Zero

The two mofussil bus terminuses coming up at Kuthambakkam and Kilambakkam - are likely to be the first public buildings in Chennai to be near net zero, using renewable energy generated on campus.

They will act as the hubs for generating solar power, which will also be used to recharge e-vehicles there.

Rani Velu Nachiyar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Rani Velu Nachiyar, the Sivaganga queen in Tamil Nadu who waged war against the British, on her birth anniversary on 03 January 2022.

She was the first Indian queen to wage war with the East India Company in India.

She is known by Tamils as Veeramangai.

Agro-industrial Corridor Project

Governor R.N. Ravi on Wednesday said the agro-industrial corridor project would commence next year. The project would address the "industrial infrastructure deficit in Cauvery delta districts by promoting agro-based industries.

The medical devices industry has been identified as a sunrise sector and in order to develop a comprehensive ecosystem for this industry, a medical devices park is being established over 150 acre.

The State will also be setting up the nation's first large-scale furniture park over 1,100 acre in Thoothukudi, the Governor said. These two parks would generate employment for around three lakh persons.

The government has declared January 12 as 'World Tamil Diaspora Day', which will be marked by special events every year.

Country Planning Act, 1971

The Tamil Nadu government - has decided to amend the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, to extend the validity of planning permissions from five years to eight years.

Chennai Airport

As per aviation analytics firm 'Cirium', India's Chennai airport is the only one from India to feature in the Top10 global list for On-time performance, in the year 2021. Chennai ranked 8th.

Bills To Create New Local Bodies

The State Government on Thursday introduced bills for establishing more municipal corporations in the State Legislative Assembly.

Municipal Administration Minister K.N. Nehru introduced the bills for creation of Municipal Corporations for Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Sivakasi, Karur, Tambaram and Kumbakonam.

He said considering the rapid pace of urbanisation in the State, it was imperative to reorganise the urban local bodies.

Thirukkural Conference 2022

Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi - inaugurated International Thirukkural Conference 2022 in Coimbatore on January 7.

The governor sought more commentaries with a spiritual perspective on Thirukkural and not just translations to make it more popular across the world.

He also recalled the works of former Madras Collector Francis Whyte Eliss to recognise the value of Thirukkural and for translating the work into English.

Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act

Term of co-operative societies cut to 3 years.

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Friday passed the Bill to further amend the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983 to reduce the term of the office of the board of directors of co-operative societies from five years to three years.

E-Vaadagai

On January 8, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched E-Vaadagai, a mobile app to help farmers get farm machineries on rent

E-vaadagai will help farmer's book machinery without having to visit agricultural offices.

Nemmeli Third Desalination Plant

Nemmeli third desalination plant to be ready by April 2023.

The 1,259.38-crore project is being implemented under the AMRUT scheme and with financial assistance from KfW (German Development Bank) at a 10.6-acre site in the same site of 100 mld desalination plant.

Universal Basic Income

Member of Economic Advisory Council to the Chief Minister Arvind Subramanian said he was in favour of the State introducing a universal basic income scheme.

An idea of a minimum basic income would help complete Tamil Nadu's social safety net project and help in individuals realising their potential, Despite having the technology and talent, Chennai had only three Unicorns (startups valued over \$1 billion) out of 80 in India.

Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) & 11 New Medical Colleges

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Chennai on 12th January 2022.

CICT is contributing to the promotion of classical Tamil by doing research activities.

PM Modi also inaugurated 11 new Government Medical Colleges across Tamil Nadu via video conference.

Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

On January 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced an assistance of 3,000 crore to Tamil Nadu in the next five years under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

The Centre's assistance would be used to address critical gaps in health infrastructure and health research, especially at the district level.

Natural Resources

The state government - has formed a new department, Natural Resources, by separating the subjects relating to mines and minerals from the industries department.

As per the order, the heads of the departments, directorate of geology and mining, Tamil Nadu Minerals and Tamil Nadu Magnesite will be brought under the control of the newly formed department.

The new department would be headed by Water Resources Minister, Durai Murugan.

Thanthai Periyar & Dr Ambedkar Award

On January 13, Chief minister M K Stalin - announced the state government's Thanthai Periyar award for social justice to Dravidian scholar and historian K Thirunavukkarasu and Dr Ambedkar award to retired judge of Madras high court, Justice K Chandru.

Revamped Pension Scheme

On January 13, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched a revamped pension scheme for temple priests and staff.

The government has enhanced the pension for priests and temple staff by 1,000.

New Doppler Weather Radar

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh - inaugurated a new doppler weather radar installed in the National Institute of Ocean Technology campus at Pallikaranai on January 14.

The new equipment is a dual polarised doppler weather radar capable of providing coverage in an area with a radius of 150km around Chennai.

John Pennycuik

On January 15, Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced that a statue of British engineer Colonel John Pennycuik, who built the Mullaperiyar dam in 1895, will be installed by the state government in a park in his native town of Camberley in the UK.

In a statement, the CM said he was happy to make the announcement on January 15, Pennyquick's birth anniversary.

The dam is currently operated by the Tamil Nadu government.

GI Tag

GI tag sought for Kumbakonam Vetrilai, Thoivalai Manikka Malai.

Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has received applications seeking GI tag for two famous products from Tamil Nadu - Kumbakonam Vetrilai and Thoivalai Manikka Malai.

Mayors of Municipal Corporations

On January 17, the State government - notified the reservations of the office of Mayors of municipal corporations.

Chennai and Tambaram Corporations will be electing Schedule Caste Women as Mayors in the coming urban local body elections as per the reservation of the posts, notified by the government on Monday.

The Avadi Mayor post has been reserved for Schedule Caste (general) candidates, while the Mayors of nine other Corporations would be women (general).

Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT)

The Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) - is planning to establish four classical Tamil chairs in the prominent universities in Southeast Asian countries during the next academic year (2022-23).

The Tamil chairs will be set up in countries having a large Tamil population and ancient cultural ties with Tamil Nadu.

Central Institute of Classical Tamil Releases Eight Books

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin released eight books published by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Chennai when he visited its new premises at Perumbakkam here on Monday.

The books are: Tholkappiya Aayvu, Dheivachchilayaar Uraineri, Ayngurunooru Kurinji, Ayngurunooru Paalai, Vaaymozhi Vaaypattu Kotpaattu Nokkil Sanga Ilakkiyam, Puthiya Nokkil Kalabirar Varalaaru, Dravidian Comparative Grammar - II and A Historical Grammar of Tamil.

He announced that the Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award for the years between 2010 and 2019 would be given away at a function at Anna Centenary Library on January 22.

Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation

The Tamil Nadu government - has appointed U Mathivannan as the chairman of the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation.

The agency was established in 1974 by then chief minister M Karunanidhi.

It was set up with an objective to implement economic development schemes, skill development and training programmes for scheduled tribes and scheduled castes.

Greater Chennai Corporation

Greater Chennai Corporation - has reserved 100 wards for women after cancelling its previous order that had allotted more than 50% wards to women.

As per the new order, 16 wards have been reserved for scheduled caste (women), 84 for women (general) along with 16 for scheduled caste (general).

The mayors of all three corporations under GCC – Chennai, Tambaram and Avadi – have been reserved for SCs with Chennai and Tambaram to have their first women mayors.

State Planning Commission (SPC) to Monitor Schemes

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday called upon the members of the State Planning Commission (SPC) to come up with comprehensive suggestions for the development of the State. He urged them to monitor whether the welfare schemes implemented by the government reached the people at the grassroots.

Development was to be achieved in various fronts – quality of life, life span, education, raising of children, eradication of poverty, public health, human rights, social justice and welfare of the marginalised communities.

Encouraging the commission to come up with guidelines to ensure development in all sectors, Mr. Stalin pointed out: “We have to agree that our development is not equally distributed. Industrial growth differs between districts and so is education. While poverty is low in some districts, it is high in other districts. You are aware of the financial situation. We need your suggestions on how to save funds. Revenue is generated only through registration and excise. We have to generate revenue from tourism, MSMEs, handicraft, handlooms, among other sectors.”

Republic Day Celebrations

The Republic Day celebrations of the Tamil Nadu government – will not include any tableaux of government departments this year, due to surge in Covid cases in Chennai. Instead, the state’s Republic Day tableaux rejected by the Centre will roll out on Kamarajar Salai in Chennai, complete with Subramaniya Bharathiyar, V O Chidambaram, Velu Nachiyar and Maruthu Pandiyar brothers.

The elements will appear with modifications in two tableaux, accompanied by a third tableau with the freedom fighters of Tamil Nadu summing up the theme ‘Tamil Nadu in Freedom Struggle’.

Police Commission

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has issued orders to constitute a new police commission and named retired Madras High Court judge C.T. Selvam as the head of the panel.

The commission will examine measures for the welfare of police personnel and the aspects related to policing and submit its recommendations within a specific time frame.

It will suggest measures to improve policing and the relations between the police and members of the public, prevent cybercrimes and promote policing with a humanitarian approach.

Korkai

A reconnaissance survey in the sea off the coast of Korkai in Thoothukudi district, which finds mention in Sangam literature, will be undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department in collaboration with the Indian Maritime University & National Institute of Ocean Technology.

From the first week of February, archaeological excavations would be undertaken at seven sites across the State. The excavations would be undertaken in Keeladi and nearby locations (Konthagai, Agaram and Manalur) in Sivaganga district (Phase VIII); Sivagalai in Thoothukudi district (Phase III); Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur district (Phase II); Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district (Phase II); Vembakkottai in Virudhunagar district (Phase I); Thullukarpatti in Tirunelveli district (Phase I); and Perumpalai in Dharmapuri district (Phase I).

CLAPP

On January 21, Chief Minister MK Stalin - launched a new online application ‘CLAPP’ at the Secretariat.

Using CLAPP, referring to Complete Leave App, police personnel of all ranks can now apply for leave and get it sanctioned immediately

The new mobile app has been designed to prevent delays, summary rejections or favoritism and at ensuring more transparency in the leave sanctioning process.

Alanganallur

On January 21, Chief Minister M K Stalin - said that the state government will build a state-of-the-art arena at Alanganallur with world class facilities to enable thousands of people to view its signature jallikattu event.

E-Seva Services

On January 22, the Tamil Nadu government - announced that it would provide e-seva services at private browsing centres at affordable costs.

Minister of information technology T Mano Thangaraj issued 36 licences to set up the e-seva services at private browsing centres.

At present, the state has 2,457 e-seva centres under the department.

The Hands Behind Keeladi Excavations

The archaeological excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district have highlighted how urbanised the Vaigai valley was as early as the 6th Century B.C. Now, an artist has documented the lives and work of the men and women involved in the excavation.

V. Saranraj's photographs have been displayed, under the title, 'Keeladi,' as part of the Chennai Photo Biennale (CPB) Edition-III at the Roja Muthiah Research Library at Taramani. They showcase the role of these workers in the excavation and the steps involved in the process before artefacts were presented.

Global Community Oscar Award 2021

Suriya, Jyotika, and Udhayanidhi are on the list for Global Community Oscars.

The mentioned awards recognize celebrities who have made a significant contribution to the strengthening of human communities and have made a significant impact internationally.

70 Civic Infrastructure Projects

The State government has given administrative sanction for 70 civic infrastructure projects by the Greater Chennai Corporation under the Namakku Naame Thittam. More works are expected to be taken up shortly.

Government has initiated the Namakku Naamae Thittam, where these projects can be undertaken if you have more than 33% contribution.

If you have 50% contribution then the donors themselves can execute the project. If it is more than 33% but less than 50% then tendering has to be done, but the remaining amount will be given by the government.

State's Sixth Tiger Reserve

The Tamil Nadu forest department - is planning a proposal to create the state's sixth tiger reserve in the Erode forest division.

The Erode division is home to up to 20 tigers besides elephants, leopards, wild dogs, wild boars, Indian gaurs, deer and other rare species in an area spread over 82,144 hectares.

A year back, the Centre has approved the Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve as India's 51st tiger reserve and Tamil Nadu's fifth.

Public Libraries Act

Public Libraries Act, Rules to be revisited.

Conscious of the problem of lack of funds being faced by public libraries and the consequent adverse impact on development works of the Libraries Department, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to revisit the Public Libraries Act, 1948, and the Public Libraries Rules, 1950.

Chola-Era Inscriptions

They belong to the period of Kulottunga I, Vikrama Chola and Kulottunga II.

Inscriptions of the Chola period were discovered at the Vishnu temple at Angur in Villupuram district.

They belong to the period of Kulottunga I (1070-1120), Vikrama Chola (1118-1135) and Kulottunga II (1133-1150).

T.N. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Corpn. Expo

Institute set up at a cost of 10 crore.

Inaugurating the Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Corporation exhibition in Anna University, Chennai, which has been set up at 10 crore, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday said the need for drones were on the rise.

All India Federation For Social Justice

On the occasion of Republic Day, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said he will soon launch an All India Federation for Social Justice, which will have “leaders from oppressed classes from all States”.

Addressing a national webinar on ‘Taking Forward The Struggle For Social Justice and Joint National Programme (JNP) for Social Justice Movement’, Mr. Stalin said, “The [proposed] federation will provide suggestions to all States on laws related to social justice.

Telecom Infrastructure Policy, 2022

The State government has formulated the Tamil Nadu Telecom Infrastructure Policy, 2022, aiming at developing a robust and secure state-of-the-art telecommunication network that would provide seamless coverage by easing the process of application, approval and installation of telecom infrastructure.

Millets to be Sold through Ration Shops

The State government has issued orders for selling minor millets through ration shops in Chennai and Coimbatore run by cooperatives and Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation on pilot basis.

The State government constituted a State-level committee for framing modalities for processing and value addition of minor millets and pricing. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies would be the chairperson of the panel, said the G.O. issued on January 25.

46 Lakh Jobs by 2030

Steps are being taken to open new industrial parks in Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Sivaganga, Theni, Kanniyakumari, Pudukottai, Dindigul and Tirunelveli. Work is in progress in six of these districts.

For setting up industrial complexes and development centres, SIPCOT will allocate land with 50% subsidy and 100% exemption from stamp duty.

Draft Policy for Elders

The Government of Tamil Nadu has framed a draft policy for senior citizens in an acknowledgement of the State's on-going demographic transition.

A Directorate for the Welfare of Senior Citizens is also being planned.

The draft document is based on Article 41 of the Constitution, which requires the State to secure the right to work, education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement.

Tamil Nadu had 13.6% of senior citizens last year. It is projected to have the second highest proportion of people aged 60 and above (after Kerala), with 18.2% in 2031.

Housing Scheme for Construction Workers

The State government has decided to launch a housing scheme for construction workers under which beneficiaries will be given an assistance of 4 lakh each.

There are two streams under the scheme, one of which is a beneficiary-led contribution and the other is the purchase of tenements of the Urban Habitat Development Board.

If the beneficiary opts for the other stream, the norms under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) will be followed with a maximum assistance of 4 lakh.

PM Lauds Coconut Vendor

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday praised M. Thaiammal, 43, a tender coconut-vendor at Udumalpet in Tiruppur district, for having donated 1 lakh to a government school in her locality.

In his monthly radio address to the nation, Mr. Modi explained how Ms. Thaiammal came to know that the Panchayat Union Middle School at Chinnaveerampatti was looking for funds to improve infrastructure. She donated 1 lakh from her savings.

Barrier-free Environment - 10 Government Buildings

The Collector's offices in Chennai and Coimbatore, and the Government College of Technology in Coimbatore are among the list of the 10 State government buildings, where barrier-free environment will be created under the Accessible India Campaign.

In the State capital, the Government Museum and the Directorate of Agriculture will have barrier-free environment for the benefit of disabled persons.

English Translation of Tamil Literary Works

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is likely to release a set of books, including The Cilappatikaram, translated into English under the 'Taking Tamil to the World project'.

'Taking Tamil to the World' is a collaboration between Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation (TNTB and ESC) and private publishers to promote the rich literary history and culture of Tamil Nadu.

State's Borrowing Less than Indicated

Tamil Nadu has so far borrowed 4,400 crore in the fourth quarter of FY 2022 through issue of bonds, known as State Development Loans, which is lesser than the indicated borrowing of 9,000 crore from January 4 to February 1, as per data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Aran

Pudukottai district administration - has launched an initiative called 'Aran' to help school children and adolescents open up on issues affecting their studies and mental health.

The initiative seeks to help children and young people access information and support related to their rights, needs, safety and protection, legal assistance, mental and physical health, sexual and reproductive health.

AquaMAP

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras - is establishing a new inter-disciplinary Management and Policy Centre called 'AquaMAP' to solve water problems in India.

NEET Bill

House will create history if it re-adopts NEET Bill today.

A history of sorts will be created on Tuesday if the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopts again a Bill seeking to dispense with the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) in the State.

This will be for the first time in the history of the State legislature that the House will re-adopt the same draft of the bill, which has been returned by Governor R. N. Ravi.

State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) - has given the nod for the first ever industrial housing project for labourers, besides the furniture park at Tuticorin.

The industrial park along with the housing facility would come up in a span of 353 acres of land as part of the Vallam -Vadagal expansion (part-II).

The state industries promotion corporation of Tamil Nadu would execute the industrial housing project.

Indian Institute of Technology

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras - have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) tool to study the processes involved in the transformation of biomass to gaseous fuel.

The research team used a Machine Learning method called Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) to study the reactions that occur during the conversion of lingo-cellulosic biomass into energy-dense syngas (gasification of biomass).

Tirukkural-Themed Calendars

Tirukkural-themed desktop calendars by the State Tamil Development Department and the Tamil Virtual Academy are on sale.

The desktop calendar with 365 Tirukkural themed paintings by children with month and dates could be used any year.

T.N.'s Success in Poverty Reduction

All the three editions of NITI Aayog, the Centre's policy think tank's implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), have one common feature -Tamil Nadu finishing on top with regard to Goal 1 - "No Poverty."

Keeladi - Eighth Part of Excavation

On February 11, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - inaugurated the eighth part of excavation at Keeladi in Sivaganga district via video conferencing at the State Secretariat in Chennai.

CM also launched the third part at Sivagalai in Tuticorin district and the first ever excavation at Vembakottai in Virudhunagar district, Perumbalai in Dharmapuri district and Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli.

The second phase of excavations in Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur district, and Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district were also launched during the occasion

The eighth part of the excavation at Keeladi and its cluster villages of Konthagai, Manalur and Agaram would carry forward the earlier discoveries of brick constructions.

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M)

On February 11, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) Pravartak Technologies Foundation - has partnered with Asha for Education to launch two rural technology centres in Tamil Nadu

Under the partnership, two Asha-IIT Madras Pravartak Rural Technology Centres were inaugurated in Kanakamma Chathram and Seethanjeri villages in Tiruvallur district

The centres, which will train students of classes 9 to 12, is being funded by IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation.

Green Methodology

Woman scientist granted patent for developing a green methodology.

Dr. E. Poonguzhali, a woman scientist at IIT Madras has been granted a patent for developing a green methodology for producing a medicinally important compound called Benzo[b]thiophene.

International Epilepsy Day

Nearly 3.94 lakh in State have epilepsy.

An awareness programme was organised to mark the International Epilepsy Day at the Government Stanley Hospital on Monday.

Inland Wetland Survey

Tirunelveli records 33,000 birds of 41 species in inland wetland survey.

After coastal wetlands, the survey for inland wetlands was done in Tamil Nadu covering 339 wetlands from 25 districts.

This comprised of 14 inland waterbird sanctuaries including the historical waterbird sanctuary such as Vedanthangal.

Salem hosted 97 inland wetlands which was the highest followed by Chennai with 28 wetlands.

Press Council of Tamil Nadu

Chief Minister M K Stalin - has given his consent to make appropriate amendments in law to establish an exclusive media body, the Press Council of Tamil Nadu.

The process of circulation and approval from the competent authorities for formation of Press Council of Tamil Nadu likely to be completed soon

The amended Tamil Nadu State News Media Representative Accreditation Rules, 2021 will be issued later as a government order.

Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission

The Tamil Nadu government - has sent a proposal to the Union government to designate 13 potential wetlands of international significance in the state as Ramsar site.

The proposal has been made as part of the 'Tamil Nadu wetlands Mission' with a sole purpose of promoting the wise use of wetlands for creating more livelihood opportunities for the local communities.

The State government has launched the Tamil Nadu Wetland Mission (TNWM) on August, 2021, for restoration of 100 wetlands over a period of five years.

IIT Madras

The researchers of IIT Madras have developed a special class of origami metamaterials to reduce shock. It has a constant value of Poisson's Ratio when subjected to stress.

This special class of Origami metamaterials has been developed by combining the Japanese art of paper folding (origami) and the existing material of choice.

Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women

A.S. Kumari has been named the Chairperson of the recently reconstituted Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women. The panel has seven new members.

167th birth anniversary of U V Swaminatha Iyer: Feb 19

He was a renowned Tamil Scholar who is admired for his contributions to the Tamil culture and language. He popularised works from the Sangam era and helped conserve precious heritage.

Iyer published over 90 books in his lifetime, on a variety of matters connected to classical Tamil literature, and collected over 3,000 paper manuscripts, palm-leaf manuscripts, and notes of various kinds.

OCEANS 2022

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Research Park and the National Institute of Ocean Technology are jointly hosting, for the first time in India, the OCEANS 2022 conference, a bi-annual event of global marine researchers.

The Department of Ocean Engineering is coordinating the event on behalf of the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Ocean Engineering Society and Marine Technology Society.

188 Vehicles for Ambulance Scheme

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin flagged off 188 new ambulances in a function at Chitlapakkam in Chengalpattu district on Wednesday.

He also distributed the medical kit to the 50th lakh beneficiary of the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' scheme and also witnessed the physiotherapy treatment given to the patient under the scheme.

Of the 188 new ambulances, four would be earmarked for service to people in hilly areas in Udhamandalam, Valparai, Arasur (Pollachi) and Mottampatti (Kallakurichi).

Panruti Cashews GI tag

The Tamil Nadu Cashew Processors and Exporters Association has applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Panruti cashews.

Panruti cashew is mainly cultivated in laterite, red and coastal sands.

Vadakkuppattu

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) - will begin the excavation of a site located at Vadakkuppattu village near Oragadam in Kancheepuram district from April 2022. Earlier, archaeologists have discovered potsherds and stone tools at this site, which is located at about 75 km south of Chennai

TANSIM

Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM) - has launched the third edition of TANSEED (Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund) to support early-stage startups based in the state with seed money.

Under the TANSEED scheme, eligible startups will be identified by an eminent jury and be given a grant funding support of Rs. 10 lakhs.

Ungalil Oruvan

On February 27, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi - launched the first volume of Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin's autobiography '*Ungalil Oruvan*' at *Chennai Trade Centre*.

In the first edition, the CM traces his school and college days, adolescence, early political contributions, marital life and the MISA (Maintenance of Internal Security Act) struggle during emergency, recalling 23 years from his birth on March 1, 1953 upto 1976.

Naan Muthalvan

On March 1, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched an ambitious new initiative titled "Naan Muthalvan"

The flagship scheme is a massive skilling and career guidance programme for school and college students in the state.

The initiative aims to improve the educational skills, knowledge, talent, and efficiency of 10 lakh students every year besides bridging the talent gap in the employment market

Vazhdhu Kattuvom

The Tamil Nadu government has undertaken a rural transformation project in partnership with the World Bank to promote rural enterprises in the farm, off-farm and non-farm sectors. While the World Bank provides 70% of the funding, the rest is borne by the State.

The Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP) now has an official brand name, Vazhdhu Kattuvom (We shall live and show), and looks beyond poverty alleviation to develop a business ecosystem that nurtures skills and fosters entrepreneurial capabilities among self-help groups (SHGs) and their households.

India's First Ambulance for Street Animals

India's first ambulance for street animals has been launched in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

It has been started by the Blue Cross of India in collaboration with the international animal welfare organization "Four Paw".

Chennai Mayor

R. Priya, 28, was elected unopposed in the indirect election to the post of Chennai Mayor on Friday. She belongs to the DMK.

Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi administered the oath of office to Ms. Priya, who is the 49th person to assume Mayoral office in the city.

Jal Jeevan Mission - TN

Nine hundred and eighteen habitations, spread over five districts, are going to have combined water supply schemes at a cost of about 1,473 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Of them, 667 are in Tiruvarur district; 109 in Tiruchi; 88 habitations and Sembedu village panchayat in Ranipet; 32 in Mayiladuthurai; and 22 in Tirunelveli.

State Disaster Mitigation Fund

The Tamil Nadu government has set up the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) for undertaking projects that are exclusively for the purpose of disaster mitigation. This fund is different from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

The SDMF has been constituted under Section 48 (1)(c) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, while the existing SRDF was constituted under Section 48 (1)(a) of the Act.

Top Borrower State - TN

The Tamil Nadu government has been the top borrower among States in the current fiscal 2022. Overall, the State has raised 65,400 crores through the issuance of bonds called State Development Loans (SDLs) in April-February 2022.

It is about 18% lower than the 79,500 crore raised during the same period in fiscal 2021.

After Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal are the top borrowing States.

Floating Solar Power Project

Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - inaugurated a 22MW floating solar power project of SPIC at Tuticorin on March 7

The project, estimated to generate 42 million units of electricity per annum, has been established at a cost of Rs 150.4 crore.

The floating solar plant, believed to be the one of country's largest, has a capacity of 25.3 MW DC/22 MW AC and has been set up on a 75-acre pond to support SPIC's power needs.

T.N.-Industrial Growth

The ultimate goal of the Tamil Nadu government is to ensure growth in all districts, said Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Thoothukudi on Monday.

Laying the foundation for establishing a world-class furniture park on a sprawling 1,156 acres of land at an estimated cost of 1,000 crore, situated close to the V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Mr. Stalin said he was confident that not only Thoothukudi, but every district in Tamil Nadu would witness industrial growth. "This is just the beginning," he said.

The furniture park, a first of its kind in the country, was the need of the hour for the State.

CM's Fellowship Programme

The State government has issued orders for implementing the Chief Minister's Fellowship Programme (TNCMFP) during 2022-24 at an estimated cost of 5.66 crore.

While 24 persons would get the fellowship for researching in 12 identified thematic areas (two fellows for each area) for synergies in implementation, monitoring and evaluation by grouping the various departments and schemes, another six would be in the Monitoring Cell of the Special Programme Implementation Department.

Indian Universities-South Zone Vice-Chancellors' Meet

The Central government introducing regressive ideas in the syllabus (of universities) is a worrisome development, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Friday. The best solution to this issue was to place education in the State List of the Constitution.

He was speaking virtually at the inauguration of the Association of Indian Universities-South Zone Vice-Chancellors' Meet held at Bharathiar University here.

'Sagar Parikrama' Program

Tamil Nadu – to remain part of the Centre's 'Sagar Parikrama' Program, that seeks to salute the country's freedom fighters, sailors and fishermen.

The Phase-I of the program was launched earlier in Gujarat by Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Parshottam Rupala as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative

Sagar Parikrama program is proposed to be celebrated in all coastal states/UTs.

Tamilnadu Petroproducts

Tamilnadu Petroproducts became world's first LAB manufacturing company to get BIS certification.

TPL (Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd.) is the world's first linear alkylbenzene (LAB) manufacturing company to be certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

TPL's 'Superlab' brand is one of the most well-known laboratory brands in the country.

Robotic Surgery Centre

Chief Minister M.K.Stalin inaugurated an advanced robotic surgery centre at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital (TNGMSSH), Omandurar Estate on Tuesday. The facility has come up at a cost of 34.60 crore.

The robotic system with two consoles was procured through Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation. Patients of specialty departments such as urology, surgical gastroenterology, surgical oncology, endocrine surgery and cardiothoracic surgery would benefit from the facility.

Samsung

Leading international consumer electronics and smartphone maker, Samsung - signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin and state industries minister Thangam Thennarasu on March 15.

Under the agreement, Samsung has proposed to invest Rs 1,588 crore to establish a new compressor manufacturing plant at Sriperumbudur near Chennai.

World Chess Olympiad in 2022

India is set to host the forty-fourth World Chess Olympiad in 2022 in [Chennai, Tamil Nadu](#). This event was moved out of Russia after its invasion of Ukraine.

World Chess Olympiad is the second major global chess event to be held in India after the World Championship match in 2013.

The Molluscs of Gulf of Mannar, India and Adjacent Waters

Chief Minister M K Stalin – released the first ever illustrated book on marine species, 'The Molluscs of Gulf of Mannar, India and Adjacent Waters' at the Secretariat on March 16.

The book was authored by three marine experts from Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Gujarat.

Though the biodiversity of Gulf of Mannar has been researched for more than 200 years, this is the first ever book on its documentation

Vembakottai

Minister for archaeology Thangam Thennarsu - launched the first phase of excavation at Vembakottai on the banks of Vaipar river near Sivakasi on March 16. Vembakottai is expected to be one of the most revealing archaeological sites in the region

The site at Vembakottai was on the right of Vaipar river where many pieces of shell bangles from the Sangam era, terracotta earrings and ring wells had been discovered earlier.

Tamil Nadu Data Policy, 2022

Aiming at harnessing data for effective decision-making, the State government has formulated the Tamil Nadu Data Policy, 2022.

It is expected to support policy-making, improve implementation of schemes, encourage value-added services and improve the quality of services.

A State-level empowered data governance committee, headed by the Chief Secretary, would provide strategic guidance for the data policy framework.

Credit Guarantee Scheme Portal

The Tamil Nadu government's Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises signed an agreement with the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) for developing a portal for implementing the Tamil Nadu Credit Guarantee Scheme (TNCGS).

The TNCGS, to be implemented jointly by the Department and CGTMSE, is expected to benefit micro, small and medium companies.

Kharif Marketing Season (KMS)

Paddy procurement records a marginal rise.

25.07 lakh tonnes procured till March 14, with Delta region getting the lion's share.

The State has witnessed a marginal rise in the procurement of paddy this year when compared to last year.

Till now (March 14), about 25.07 lakh tonnes have been procured during the current Kharif Marketing Season (KMS), which commenced on October 1, 2021.

Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women

The newly reconstituted [Tamil Nadu](#) State Commission for Women has appointed S. Kumari as its Chairperson.

This panel consists of seven members apart from the chairperson.

The Chairperson and members of the commission will have a three-year term of office. There is no change in the official members of this Commission.

State's First Full Budget

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister PTR Palanivel Thiaga Rajan - presented the state's first full budget for the financial year 2022-2023 to the Assembly on March 18, 2022.

This is the second Budget of the DMK government, and was presented in paperless form as an e-budget.

Urban sector, welfare schemes, education, and flood prevention measures were the key focus areas of the budget.

Highlights of Financial Aspects of the Budget

Education:

Tamil Nadu will launch a massive scheme 'Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme' to modernise government schools (including Adi Dravidar, Tribal & Kallar Reclamation Schools) over the next 5 years

Disaster warning systems:

In order to receive timely warnings on floods, the government will establish an advanced early warning system with super computers, a system of weather balloons, two weather radars, 100 automatic weather stations, 400 automatic rain gauges, and 11 automatic water level instruments.

Loan waiver:

A total of Rs 2,531 crore has been budgeted for waiver of agricultural loans, Rs 1,000 crore for waiver of jewel loans, and Rs 600 crore for waiving self-help group loans, totaling an amount of 4,131 crore.

Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiya scheme:

Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiya Marriage Assistance Scheme is being transformed as the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiya Higher Education Assurance Scheme in line with the changing times.

The earlier 'Thalikku Thangam' scheme or Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiya Marriage Assistance Scheme provided gold and financial assistance for women's marriages.

The new scheme is a higher education assurance scheme for all girl students who studied from Classes 6 to 12 in government schools.

They will be paid Rs 1,000 per month directly into their bank account till the uninterrupted completion of their undergraduate degree, diploma and ITI courses.

Funds for newly formed corporations:

A special fund of Rs.60 crore will be provided to create basic infrastructure in the six newly formed corporations of Tambaram, Kanchipuram, Kumbakonam, Karur, Cuddalore and Sivakasi at Rs.10 crore each.

Further, 28 newly created municipalities will receive Rs.2 crore each.

In the next two years, the Tamil Nadu government will establish District Central Libraries with modern infrastructure in the newly-created 6 districts at an estimated cost of 36 crore.

Social Media:

A new special "Social Media Monitoring Cell" will be established within the police department at the state headquarters to prevent the increasing crimes resulting from fake news and to tackle the menace of hatred on social media.

Environment:

The government will set up a botanical garden at a cost of Rs.300 crore near Chennai in partnership with Kew Gardens of London.

The Government announces 'Project Nilgiri Tahr' to protect & conserve the 'State Animal' of Tamil Nadu.

Green Fund

The State government will set up a 'Tamil Nadu Green Climate Change Fund' to fund climate change initiatives, mitigation and greening projects.

Eco-tourism Sites

Eco-tourism sites would be developed at Sethumadai in Coimbatore district, Manavanur and Thadiyan Kudisai in Dindigul district and Yelagiri in Tirupattur district in the public-private partnership mode.

A sum of 849.21 crore has been allocated to the Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department in this Budget.

Historical Significance:

3 sites - Courtallam, Boondi, and Dharmapuri excavation sites will be improved at a cost of Rs 10 crore.

Road infrastructure gets a big boost

About 2,250 crore had been allocated towards Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Project, 1,200 crore towards Chennai-Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor Project with the Asian Development Bank's assistance and 628 crore towards Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project-II in the Budget Estimates, he said.

IMH set for major upgrade

To provide quality mental health services, the Tamil Nadu government has planned to establish a Tamil Nadu Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (TNIMHANS) by upgrading the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), Kilpauk.

A provision of 40 crore has been made for the first phase of this project.

State to Form Human Resources Reforms Panel

The Tamil Nadu government will constitute a human resources reforms committee, which will propose a road map for reforms in human resource management within six months, Minister for Finance and Human Resource Management Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said in the Assembly on Friday.

48% jump in allocation for MSMEs

The Tamil Nadu Budget for 2022-2023, presented on Friday, has hiked the allocation for the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises by almost 48%.

Panel to Prepare Etymological Dictionary

The written works of Dravidar Kazhagam founder and social reformer 'Thanthai Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy will be published in print and digital editions in 21 Indian and world languages at a cost of 5 crore, the Tamil Nadu government said in the Assembly on Friday.

Tech, start-up hubs to be established

The Tamil Nadu government will set up an i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) hub at a cost of 54.61 crore in Chennai. This centre will coordinate efforts to use technology to solve complex challenges in the State, Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said in the State Legislative Assembly on Friday.

The Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM) would set up Regional Start-up Hubs in Erode, Madurai and Tirunelveli to ensure the development of the start-up eco-

system. An iconic State Start-up Hub Centre will be established by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) at Nandambakkam, Chennai at an estimated cost of 75 crore, he said.

Agriculture Budget of the State for the Year 2022-23

Tamil Nadu Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister MRK Panneerselvam - presented the second agriculture budget of the State for the year 2022-23 on March 19.

During his 110-minutes speech, the Minister announced a marginal increase in the budgetary allocation for agriculture and allied sectors, from Rs 32,775.8 crore in the current fiscal to Rs 33,007.7 crore for the next financial year.

Tamil Nadu is the third state in India to file a separate budget for agriculture after Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Highlights of the agriculture budget

The Tamil Nadu Government will take steps to achieve 126 lakh Metric Tonne of food grains production in the year 2022-23

The Tamil Nadu government will provide free electricity to all farmers across the state and has allocated Rs 5,157.56 crore for the same

“Sustainable Cotton Cultivation Mission” will be implemented at a budget of Rs.15.32 crore with Union and State Government fund, in order to enhance the cotton yield during the year 2022-23

The budget allocated 300 crore in 2022-23 for the ‘Kalaigharin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme’ which was announced in the first agriculture budget.

The project has been designed to be implemented in village panchayats identified under the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam every year.

Agriculture through Technology

Tamil Nadu government has allocated Rs 8 crore for digital agriculture

All technologies from seed to yield can be obtained electronically through Uzhavan Mobile Application.

The seven Agro-climatic zones, including the Cauvery delta, are to be divided into 1330 Micro Agro-climatic zones to formulate new profitable crop plan to farmers based on factors of production.

Gene pool will be created to preserve indigenous crops

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister M.R.K. Panneerselvam on Saturday announced the creation of a gene pool of indigenous varieties of fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants once widely cultivated in Tamil Nadu.

Recalling the late naturalist Nammazhwar’s words that the “seed is the weapon”, the Minister said a gene pool would be established to preserve traditional varieties of horticultural crops at the State’s horticulture farms.

Two Millets Special Zones to be formed in State

Millet festivals will be organised at State and district levels to create awareness on the importance of millet nutrition among farmers, entrepreneurs, farmer producer organisations, women self-help groups, voluntary organisations and consumers, he said.

381 cr. to be used to develop food parks

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister M.R.K. Panneerselvam on Saturday said adequate infrastructure would be established in three food parks through the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) at an estimated cost of 381.38 crore.

“The three food parks, registered by SIPCOT to be established on 451 acres of land at Theni, Tindivanam (Villupuram), Manapparai (Tiruchirapalli) taluks, have been declared ‘Mega Food Parks’ by the Centre.

Micro Forest

The Greater Chennai Corporation – has dropped the plan to set up 1,000 Miyawaki forests across Chennai and will instead grow micro forests with native species.

In the last three years, the corporation has created about 50 Miyawaki forests, which will stay. At present, the GCC has asked the environment department to fund the new ‘micro forest’ policy under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission.

Green Fellowship Programme

To actively involve youth in initiatives for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, the Tamil Nadu government has launched a Green Fellowship programme.

The objective of the programme is to engage youth in environmental policy design and implementation. They will monitor and evaluate the outcomes, communicate the impact of policies and deliver better services.

Narasingapettai Nagaswaram

The Narasingapettai Nagaswaram - has earned the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under the category ‘musical instruments of class 15’.

Tamil Nadu’s traditional wind instrument Nagaswaram, dating back to the 13th century, is an ancient musical instrument handmade by artisans with intricate craftsmanship.

TIDEL Neo

The knitwear hub of Tiruppur - will house the first 'TIDEL Neo' of the State.

‘TIDEL Neo’ refers to the setting up of ‘mini’ IT parks with an area of 50,000 to 1 lakh square feet in Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns with an aim of introducing the services sector across the state.

The IT park proposed in a built up area of 60,000 square feet will have a ground floor + 7 floors facility at Rakkiyalalayam village in Tiruppur

The new facility is proposed to be constructed at a financial outlay of Rs 32 crore.

Kulasekarapattinam

A small town panchayat in the southern district of Thoothukudi, known for its religious fervour during the Dussehra festival, will soon be on the global scientific map.

That primary identity will, however, change in the coming years as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) sets up its second spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam for launching satellites weighing less than 500 kg on its Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs).

Safeguard State Animal

'Project Nilgiri Tahr', with an initial allocation of 10 crore announced in the Tamil Nadu Budget for conservation and expansion of habitat for the State animal, has come at a time when its population has started declining in parts of its highly fragmented range. The montane grasslands of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) are estimated to be the second biggest habitat for the tahr after Eravikulam National Park in Kerala.

'Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board

2 more members for Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board.

A Bill adopted by the House amended the Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Act, 2011 to alter the composition of the Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board with the Chairman and members instead of the Managing Director and Directors.

Besides increasing the strength of the Board from 13 to 15, the Bill, introduced by Minister for Minorities and Non Resident Tamils' Welfare Gingee K.S. Masthan, made the Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils the ex officio Member Secretary of the Board.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

The foreign direct investment (FDI) in Tamil Nadu grew about 41.5% to 17,696 crore (about \$2.4 billion) in April-December 2021 from 12,504 crore (about \$1.7 billion) in the same period of 2020 (when the first wave of COVID-19 started).

Tamil Nadu's growth came despite a fall in the overall FDI flow into India by 16% to 3,19,976 crore in April-December 2021, compared with the same period of 2020.

UAE Visit

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday said memoranda of understanding with six major companies for investments to the tune of 6,100 crore in Tamil Nadu were signed during his visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Amazon

Amazon's biggest office in T.N. opens in Chennai.

CM inaugurates facility that will accommodate 6,000 staff.

Chandanraj Dakshayani

In a first, Chandanraj Dakshayani, a transgender - has been appointed as the panchayat secretary in the Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu.

Tiruvallur District Collector Dr Albijan Varghese selected her for the post in 2022 on compassionate grounds and gave the appointment order

On March 24, 2022, six years after a sex-change operation, Dakshayani, 30, was appointed secretary of Kodiveli panchayat in Tiruvallur district as the state's first transwoman panchayat secretary.

Oriyur and Marungur

The Ramanathapuram Archaeological Research Foundation - discovered traces of two ancient villages, Oriyur and Marungur, which could have been from the Sangam period, near Thondi in Ramanathapuram district.

UAE-based LuLu Group

The UAE-based LuLu Group - signed a memorandum of understanding with Tamil Nadu government to invest 3,500 crore in the state to set up shopping malls, hypermarkets and a food processing and logistics centre.

Totally, the chief minister-led delegation signed various MoUs with investors to attract 6,100 crore investments during the five-day visit to the UAE.

Tamil Nadu Urban Employment Scheme (TNUES)

The Greater Chennai Corporation - has rolled out the Tamil Nadu Urban Employment Scheme (TNUES), a minimum wage programme that would provide job opportunities for people living below the poverty line.

This scheme is similar to the MGNREGA scheme, which provides job opportunities in rural areas, while the TNUES will provide jobs in Chennai city.

Central Square

On March 30, Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated the 'Central Square' developed at a cost of 400 crore in front of Chennai Central railway station.

Under this project, a single tunnel will be constructed connecting Chennai Central, Metro Railway Station, Ribbon Building, Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and Park Railway Station.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

JICA to provide 4,710 cr. for Chennai Metro Rail Phase II project.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to approximately 4,710 crore (Japanese yen 73,000 million) for the construction of Chennai Metro Rail Phase II project.

Water Champion

Woman from Anaikatty named 'water champion'.

A tribal resident of Anaikatty in Sigur in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) buffer zone is one of 41 women water champions recognised as part of an initiative by the Government of India and the UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility (WGF).

S. Lalitha, a field assistant for the community well-being programme at Keystone Foundation, was recognised by the National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, the UNDP-India and the Stockholm International Water Institute "to underscore the critical role of women in water conservation and management."

Climate Literacy

Tamil Nadu government - has launched a massive project called 'climate literacy' for college and school students besides farmers and women.

Under the new initiative, farmers and SHGs will be involved in the climate literacy programme through departments concerned at the district level.

The new project aims to simplify the concept of climate change for the local community.

Corporation Launches 'Country's First' Gender Lab

The Greater Chennai Corporation has inaugurated a gender lab, said to be the first such initiative by an urban local body in the country.

The civic body has appointed three specialists in the first phase to launch the facility.

The three specialists, all women, will review every civic infrastructure project to suggest changes for improving the safety of women in public spaces.

Parandur and Pannur

The ministry of civil aviation - has selected Parandur and Pannur near Chennai for the city's second airport.

Parandur is located at around 70km and Pannur 60km from Chennai near Sriperumbudur on the Chennai-Bengaluru route.

The Tamil Nadu government had suggested Tiruporur, Parandur, Pannur and Padalam as the possible sites for the second airport.

The ministry studied the proposed sites and selected Parandur and Pannur.

Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC)

TNSDC realigning strategies to help government realise vision.

In an effort to bridge the gap between demand and supply of manpower requirements and to help the State government achieve its aim of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2030, the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) is realigning programmes and strategies, according to latest industry standards and requirements.

The primary focus of the TNSDC is to bring more industries into the training ecosystem.

Kaaval Uthavi

On April 4, chief minister MK Stalin - inaugurated the new updated mobile application 'Kaaval Uthavi' (police assistance) of Tamil Nadu Police at the Secretariat.

Using the newly released application, people can now virtually reach the city police control room in a few seconds just by clicking an emergency button on it.

Users can also file an online mobile complaint and share their current location using the application.

State Education Policy (SEP)

The Tamil Nadu government - constituted a 13-member panel to evolve its own State Education Policy (SEP).

The panel is to be headed by former chief justice of Delhi high court Justice D Murugesan.

The panel members include former chess world champion Viswanathan Anand, prominent Carnatic musician T M Krishna and former Vice-Chancellor of Saveetha University L Jawaharnesan.

Periyar Samathuvapuram

Stalin inaugurates Periyar Samathuvapuram in Villupuram.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday stressed the need for the country to emerge as a Samathuvapuram (equality village) and said Tamil Nadu and its Dravidian model would show the way to achieve this goal.

Metrolite

Coimbatore city may be the first city in the State to have a Metrolite system that will cover 45.87 km with 40 stations, making a halt at several important landmarks of the city, including Coimbatore Airport.

Global Investors' Meet (GIM)

On April 6, Chief Minister M K Stalin - said in the assembly that a global investors' meet (GIM) would be organised in Tamil Nadu by the end of 2023 to attract foreign investments and generate employment in the state.

The CM also said that the state officials will be going Switzerland to participate in the World Economic Forum's annual meet 2022 to attract investments into Tamil Nadu.

People's Movement for Clean Cities

Municipal Administration Minister KN Nehru announced a new scheme 'People's Movement for Clean Cities' (PMCC) to ensure cleanliness in urban local bodies by engaging all stakeholders.

He also announced that a Smart Governance System (SGS) would be launched for all urban local bodies to ensure proper service delivery, including provision of drinking water and other basic amenities.

Hong Fu Industrial Group

Leading Taiwanese shoemaker Hong Fu Industrial Group - plans to invest 1,000 crore over the next 3-5 years in Tamil Nadu to make sports shoes for global brands like Nike and Puma.

The unit will employ around 20,000 people, a majority of them women.

Hong Fu is world's second largest maker of sports shoes and other footwear with a large manufacturing presence, through multiple units in Vietnam.

Women Entrepreneurs Scripting a Silent Transformation

The 2021 edition of Women & Men in India, published last week by the National Statistical Office (NSO) of the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has an element of surprise for Tamil Nadu.

With about 10.87 lakh units, Tamil Nadu accounts for the highest number of women entrepreneur-owned establishments, which cover not only micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) but also nano units, promoted through platforms such as the self-help groups (SHGs).

The State's share is around 13.5 % of 80.5 lakh such establishments in the country. "No other State is even close to ours," observes an official in the State government, dealing with development issues.

Nagarum Kooturavu Vangigal

On April 8, Minister for Cooperation - announced that 34 banks-on-wheels (Nagarum Kooturavu Vangigal) will be introduced on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank and all district central cooperative banks at a cost of Rs 5.69 crore.

The mobile co-operative services will also provide key banking services, including mini-ATM services and tab-enabled banking facilities.

Testing TB along the same lines as COVID-19

Tamil Nadu plans to test for TB along the same lines as COVID-19.

Tuberculosis (TB) case findings that were hit in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic have improved with targeted interventions in the State.

Now, to reduce the TB burden to 44 per one lakh population by 2025, Tamil Nadu is aiming at testing more for TB along the same lines of COVID-19 to detect more cases.

Among the key objectives of the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) is to reduce the estimated TB incidence rate to 44 per one lakh population and reduce estimated mortality due to TB to 3 per one lakh population by 2025.

Research Park

Anna University to get 50 crore to establish research park.

The Higher Education Department has proposed to invest around 65 crore to develop research facilities in Anna University. The Department's budget is focused on improving infrastructure, including hostel and research facilities, in government colleges.

Anna University will receive 50 crore to establish a research park to be used for industry-related research and incubation centres to benefit around 20,000 students of undergraduate, postgraduate and engineering research.

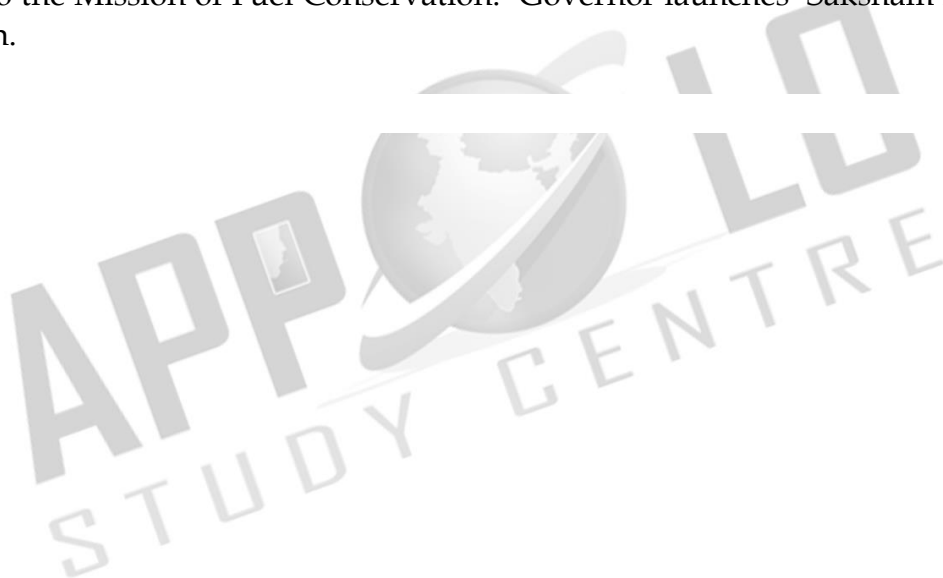
Government Focuses on Upgrading Schools

'7,500 smart classrooms will be set up'.

Minister for School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi has said 7,500 smart classrooms will be set up in elementary schools at a cost of 150 crore in the 2022-23 academic year.

Saksham 2020

Contribute to the Mission of Fuel Conservation. Governor launches 'Saksham 2020' awareness campaign.



STATE

➤ Karnataka government launches Krishi Sanjeevani Vans

- ✓ The 40 vans will reach out to the agriculture fields for testing water, soil and will also suggest remedies for pest control to improve yield.
- ✓ The Chief Minister of Karnataka, B.S. Yediyurappa on January 7, 2021, launched Krishi Sanjeevani Vans in Bengaluru.
- ✓

➤ Arunachal Pradesh likely to be India's prime producer of Vanadium

➤ Union Cabinet approves 850 MW Ratle Hydropower Project in J&K

- ✓ It is located on river Chenab in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.

➤ Maharashtra's Jail Tourism Initiative

- ✓ Maharashtra CM Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray launched the jail tourism initiative on January 26, 2021 on the occasion of 72nd Republic Day.

➤ First Human Milk Bank (HMB) - Ernakulam

➤ Narmadapuram, after the river Narmada

- ✓ The CM made the announcement while he was addressing the Narmada Jayanti programme that was held in Hoshangabad
- ✓ Hoshangabad city was named after Hoshang Shah who was the first ruler of Malwa
- ✓ The river is the 5th largest river across India.

Madhya Pradesh - has introduced night safaris in three national parks in the state to boost the tourism industry.

- ✓ The three parks are - the Bandhavgarh National Park, Kanha National Park and Pench National Park.
- ✓ **Orissa - 2nd Bio sphere reserve**
- ✓ Earlier, the protected archeological remains of Mahendragiri were listed in the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, thereby making it easier to declare as a biosphere reserve.
- ✓ The rich flora in Mahendragiri represents 40% of the reported flora of Odisha, consisting of around 1,358 species of plants.

➤ Solar Project near Union Territory of Ladakh

- ✓ Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council signed land agreement with SECI, the central agency implementing the National Solar Mission, for the solar project of 50-megawatt capacity
- **The dolphin population in Odisha**
 - ✓ In Bhitarkanika National Park, 342 dolphins – including 39 Irrawaddy dolphins, 22 bottlenose dolphins and 281 humpback dolphins were spotted in 2021
 - ✓ The 2021 dolphin census report also revealed that Gahiramatha located within Bhitarkanika National Park is the home of the state's largest population of dolphins.
- **Rajasthan becomes 1st State to commission Farm Based Solar Power Project under PM - KUSUM Scheme**
 - ✓ On April 1,2021, Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd (RRECL) commissioned India's 1st Farm - based Solar Power Project under the PM - KUSUM (PradhanMantri - KisanUrjaSurakshaevamUtthanMahabhiyan) scheme at Bhaloji village, Kotputi in Jaipur, Rajasthan
- **Sauropod dinosaurs**
 - ✓ In Meghalaya, 100-million-year old fossil bone fragments of sauropod dinosaurs have been found by researchers of the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- **"Mayflower 400"**
 - ✓ World's First Unmanned Vessel named "Mayflower 400" is set to Navigate Across the Atlantic.
- **"One Nation, One MSP, One DBT"**
 - ✓ Punjab and Haryana - have become the last two states in the country to implement direct cash transfer of the minimum support price (MSP) under the "One Nation, One MSP, One DBT" scheme of the government.
- **'Smart Kitchen Project'**
 - ✓ The project would be implemented through the Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE), a state-run chit fund and lending firm.
- **WEYAN-100% inoculation- first village in the country**
 - ✓ **Weyan village of Bandipora** district in Jammu & Kashmir - has become the first village in the country to record 100% inoculation of all people over 18 years for Covid-19
- **New National parks- ASSAM**
 - ✓ The two new national parks in assam are **Dihing Patkai and Raimona**. Assam already has **five national parks** – Kaziranga, Manas, Dibru-Saikhowa, Nameri and Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park.
 - ✓ Among them, Kaziranga & Manas are **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, while Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri and Orang are tiger reserves.

- ✓ With this, Assam will have the third highest numbers of national parks in the country after Madhya Pradesh (12) and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (9)
- **Goa - has become the first state in the country to be free of Rabies**
- **Pushkar Dhami sworn in as Uttarakhand Chief Minister**
 - ✓ Two-time MLA from Khatima in Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami was sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of the State along with an 11-member cabinet
- **Ladakh - First Union Territory**
 - ✓ The first Union Territory to vaccinate all residents and the migrant labourers, hotel workers and Nepalese citizens who live there, with the first dose of Covid-19 jab.
- **On July, the Assam cabinet - announced the creation of a "Department of indigenous faith and culture" to protect the culture and practices of people belonging to tribal and other indigenous communities.**
- **Balika Panchyat**
 - ✓ Kunariya village in Kutch district in Gujarat - to become the first village in the country to elect a **Balika Panchayat (Girls Council)**
 - ✓ The panchayat is aimed at addressing issues around female adolescents – of the girls, by the girls, for the girls - and empower women in the village
- **Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana'**
 - ✓ The new scheme was notified by Department of Social Welfare recently.
 - ✓ Under this scheme, Rs 50,000 ex gratia will be provided to every family who lost a member to Covid-19 infection.
 - ✓ Further, an additional pension of Rs 2,500 per month will be provided to the family members, if the deceased was sole breadwinner of the family.
 - ✓ Children who lost their both parents or one parent will also be provided Rs 2,500 per month till the age of 25 years alongwith the provision for free education.
- **Telangana's Ramappa temple, also known as Rudreswara temple - becomes the country's 39th world heritage site on July**
 - ✓ The historic Rudreswara temple, an architectural marvel created in stone, became UNESCO's first world heritage site in Telangana
 - ✓ Located at Palampet in Mulugu district, the iconic temple was voted for inclusion in the world heritage sites' list at the 44th virtual session of the World Heritage Committee of the UNESCO, which is currently underway at Fuzhou in China
 - ✓ This temple is known as Ramappa temple, named after the sculptor who, for 40 years, executed the work in the temple.
- **Odisha's Puri - becomes India's first city to provide 24x7 piped drinking water supply**
 - ✓ Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik launched "Sujal – Drink from Tap Mission" through a virtual platform
 - ✓ During the launch, the CM said Puri has joined international cities like London, New York and Singapore in supplying round-the-clock quality piped drinking water from taps.
- **Karnataka home minister Basavaraj Bommai - will be sworn in as the 23rd CM of the state on July**

- **Dholavira, a Harappan-era metropolis in the Kutch region of Gujarat - declared as 'UNESCO World Heritage Site' (WHS) on July**
 - ✓ The first representation for Dholavira's inscription was made in 2014 by the Government of India.
 - ✓ The ancient town, found in 1967 and excavated in 1989-90 for the first time, is the second biggest Harappan site after Rakhigarhi in India.
 - ✓ The formal announcement of Dholavira's new title was made during the ongoing 44th session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.
 - ✓ After Mohenjodaro in Pakistan, Dholavira is the second Harappan site to get the coveted tag in south Asia and the first from India.
- **Uttar Pradesh - has the maximum number of manual scavengers in the country (37,379 people), followed by Maharashtra (7,378) and Assam (4,295), based on two surveys carried out in 2013 and 2018**
- **Pink Protection**
 - ✓ The Kerala Police launched a new initiative called the **Pink Protection** project for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces.
 - ✓ The policy was drafted by the sports and youth affairs department of the state government.
- **India's first earthquake warning system - is ready for launch in Uttarakhand on August**
 - ✓ A new app, the **Uttarakhand Bhookamp** Alert app, has been developed by the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) and the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee
 - ✓ Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami will launch the Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert app.
- **Kakori Train Action**
 - ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government - has renamed a landmark freedom movement called "**Kakori Train Conspiracy**" as "**Kakori Train Action**"
- **Govt introduces "Bharat series (BH-series)" registration**
 - ✓ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has introduced a new registration mark for new vehicles i.e. "**Bharat series (BH-series)**". The vehicles bearing the BH-series mark will not have to require the assignment of a new registration mark when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one State to another
- **Karnataka has become the first state in the country to issue the order with regard to the implementation of the National Education Policy-2020.**
- **Kaziranga National Park (KNP)** in Assam has become the first national park in India to be equipped with satellite phones.
- **'My Pad, My Right'** project in Tripura
- **'Merakaam Mera Maan'**
 - ✓ Punjab to Launch 'Mera Kaam Mera Maan' Scheme to Help Unemployed Youth
- **The snow leopard - has been declared the state animal of the Union Territory of Ladakh**
 - ✓ The black-necked crane has been named the state bird of the Union Territory.

- ✓ The black-necked crane (*Grus nicricollis*) is listed as “near-threatened” on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, while the snow leopard (*Panther unica*) is named under “vulnerable” category.
- **The state of Uttarakhand - has decided to deploy women as Gypsy drivers and nature guides across all tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries.**
 - ✓ Two tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh – **Kanha Tiger Reserve-National Park** and the **Pench Tiger Reserve-National Park** – have women guides who accompany tourists to core tiger-inhabited areas.
- **Samagra Sikhsha Abhiyan (SSA)**
 - ✓ **Olympian Lovlina Borgohain as the brand ambassador of the Samagra Sikhsha Abhiyan (SSA) in the state of Assam.**
- **Uttar Pradesh Government launches ‘Matra Bhumi Yojana’ for the improvement of rural infrastructure**
- **‘Katley’ declared as state fish of Sikkim**
 - ✓ The Government of Sikkim has declared ‘Cooper Mahseer’ locally named as ‘Katley’ as the state fish. *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis* is the scientific name of the Cooper Mahseer
- **The Government of Chhattisgarh - signed MoU with Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to launch the ‘Millet Mission’ in the state**
- **Assam’s Rice Wine ‘Judima’ receives GI Tag**
 - ✓ Assam’s traditional **Judima wine** has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
 - ✓ It is made from rice and a certain herb and widely popular among the **Dimasa tribals**.
 - ✓ Judima is inseparable from the social and cultural life of the Dimasas.
 - ✓ This is the second product from the hill districts of Karbi Anglong and **Dima Hasao to get GI tag after ginger of Karbi Anglong** was awarded GI tag.
 - ✓ **Judima is the first beverage from the Northeast to get this honour**
- **Project Ponvakk.**
 - ✓ Kerala government introduces project ponvakk to stop **child marriages**
- **1st State to have 11 crore doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.**
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh - has become the first state in the country to have administered over 11 crore doses of the Covid-19 vaccine
- **‘Ramganga National Park’**
 - ✓ The tiger reserve was called ‘Ramganga National Park’ – after the Ramganga river that flows through it – before it was renamed in a tribute to Corbett.
- **‘Mera Ghar Mere Naam’ scheme**
 - ✓ Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi launches **‘Mera Ghar Mere Naam’** scheme
 - ✓ Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on October 11, 2021, announced a scheme ‘Mera Ghar Mere Naam’ to give proprietary rights to the people living in the houses within the ‘Lal Lakir’ of villages and cities.

- **'Desh Ke Mentor' Programme.**
 - ✓ Arwind Kejriwal, Delhi CM, launched the '**Desh Ke Mentor**' programme, nine lakh students studying in classes 9 to 12 will be able to search for a career.

- **India's Newest Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh.**
 - ✓ National Tiger Conservation Authority has approved the Chhattisgarh government's proposal to declare the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park & Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve.

- **Go to Village 2.0**
 - ✓ Manipur Govt launches Go to Village 2.0 in Thoubal district. In Manipur, the State Government revived its initiative to deliver governance at doorstep and bring inclusive development in the state with launching the Go to Village 2.0 in Thoubal district.
 - ✓ The Go to Village 2.0 had been launched to continue village to village visits of Government officials making sure that governance reaches every corner of the State.

- **Indus River Dolphin - The Most Threatened Species**
 - ✓ The Punjab Government - is set to start the **Census** of **Indus River dolphin**, the most threatened species, as part of a five-year project by the Centre.
 - ✓ The Indus river dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019
 - ✓ It is a freshwater dolphin that is found in river Beas.
 - ✓ The Indus river dolphin is classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

- **Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana**
 - ✓ The Delhi government - to provide free coaching to 15,000 students belonging to marginal communities and economically weaker sections this year under the Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana.

- **Open Defecation Free (ODF) Status**
 - ✓ Goa - has become the first state in the country to achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and has connected every household with electricity.
 - ✓ This was announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister, Anurag Thakur, recently.
 - ✓ The original ODF protocol was issued in the year 2016.

- **Shramik Mitra Scheme**
 - ✓ The Government of Delhi has launched the Shramik Mitra Scheme. It aims at ensuring that all construction workers in Delhi are informed and are able to avail benefits of government schemes.
 - ✓ As per the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia, the scheme will help in spreading awareness of the benefits of several government schemes among workers through Shramik Mitras.

- **World's Largest Solar Power**
 - ✓ Bhadla Solar Park, located in Rajasthan, is the World's largest solar power park.
 - ✓ The solar park is located in Bhadla, a dry & sandy region in Rajasthan.
 - ✓ It spans over 14,000 acres.
 - ✓ The Park comprises of 10 million solar panels at the park. These solar panels contribute to an operational capacity of 2245 MW.

- **Kaiser-i-Hind: Arunachal's State butterfly**
- ✓ State Cabinet of Arunachal Pradesh, headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, approved "Kaiser-i-Hind" as state butterfly on November 13, 2021.
- ✓ Kaiser-i-Hind' is a large and brightly coloured butterfly.
- ✓ It is an elusive swallowtail butterfly, which carries 'India' in its name.
- ✓ It is found in China and now it has been approved as the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.

- **Purvanchal Expressway**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 341-km long Purvanchal Express in Sultanpur district, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The expressway links state capital Lucknow with Ghazipur and has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 22,500 crore.
- ✓ The key feature of the Expressway is the 3.2 km long airstrip to enable landing and take-off of Indian Air Force fighter planes in case of emergency.

- **Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change**
- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet adopts declaration on climate change.
- ✓ The state cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, adopted the Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change-Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh. The declaration is aimed at lowering emissions and achieving sustainable development.

- **Pochampally in Telangana**
- ✓ The Pochampally village in Telangana has been selected as one of the best Tourism Villages by the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).
- ✓ The award will be given on the occasion of the 24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly on 2 Dec 2021 in Madrid, Spain.
- ✓ Pochampally is often referred to as the Silk City of India.

- **Best Performing Marine District**
- ✓ Balasore awarded 'Best Performing Marine District' in India.
- ✓ For the first time, a district from Odisha got this award.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh was awarded the Best Marine State, while Telangana got Best Inland State Award.

- **(SALT) Project**
- ✓ Government of Andhra Pradesh, Union government and the World Bank have signed legal agreements for a loan of \$250 million for the "Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) project".
- ✓ SALT project aims to improve the quality of learning for more than 50 lakh students in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

- **First Cyber Tehsil of India**
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has approved the proposal to create cyber tehsils in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ After this, MP will become the first state in the country to have a cyber tehsil. Cyber Tehsil will make the mutation process easy and people from anywhere in the state can avail of its benefit. With this, the process of conversion will become convenient in the cases of undisputed land.

➤ **STREET Project**

- ✓ Kerala Tourism - to launch 'STREET project' across seven districts to enrich visitor experience and take tourism deep into the interior regions of the state
- ✓ The STREET is an acronym for "Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism" hubs.
- ✓ The project is conceived by the Responsible Tourism Mission and inspired by the 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth' slogan of The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

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➤ **Major Dhyan Chand Sports University**

- ✓ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh and will be the first sports university in Uttar Pradesh.

➤ **Good Governance Index**

- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir will soon become the first Union Territory in the country to have a district level good governance index.
- ✓ Good Governance Index at the district level will enable each of the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir to rise to the level of some of the best administered districts of the country.

➤ **Open Defecation Free (ODF Plus) Villages**

- ✓ Telangana stood first in the country in the list of the highest number of open defecation free (ODF Plus) villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme till December 31, 2021.
- ✓ This was followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,432 villages.

➤ **1st LPG Enabled & Smoke-Free State**

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh has become the first LPG (Liquefied petroleum gas) enabled and smoke free Indian state.
- ✓ This success is backed by the Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme and HP Government's Mukhya Mantri Grihini Suvidha Yojana (GSY).

➤ **Sainik School Renamed After General Bipin Rawat**

- ✓ The Government of Uttar Pradesh has decided to rename the Sainik School at Mainpuri after the first Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat who died in a helicopter crash in December 2021.
- ✓ UP CM has decided to rename the Sainik School as General Bipin Rawat Sainik School.

➤ **India's First Paperless Court**

- ✓ The Kerala High Court is all set to become India's first paperless court.
- ✓ Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud inaugurated the smart courtrooms on 1 January 2022.

➤ **India's First Open Rock Museum**

- ✓ The Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first unique 'Rock' museum in Hyderabad.
- ✓ The Open Rock Museum in Hyderabad has been set up with an aim to educate and enlighten the masses about several lesser-known facts.
- ✓ The ages of the rocks range from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years of the Earth's history.

➤ **First Sanitary Napkin Free Panchayat in India**

- ✓ Kerala's Kumbalangi gram panchayat - has become the first sanitary napkin free panchayat in India.
- ✓ This was announced by the State Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on January 13
- ✓ The panchayat is moving towards this eco-friendly change under the Prime Minister's Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) scheme.

➤ **Food Security**

- ✓ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Odisha government have joined hands.
- ✓ They will improve the food security of small and marginal farmers by strengthening their resilience to climate change.

➤ **Smoke-Free State**

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh has become the first 'smoke-free state' in India.
- ✓ It has achieved this feat with the help of many welfare schemes like Ujjwala Yojana, Himachal Grihini Suvidha scheme, etc.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh has also become the first 100% LPG-enabled state in the country.

➤ **Vaccination Milestone**

- ✓ On January 23, Karnataka - achieved a vaccination milestone in inoculating 100% of the eligible population with one dose against Covid-19.
- ✓ Karnataka is the first state in the country with a population of above four crore to achieve this feat.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh was the first state in the country to vaccinate all eligible beneficiaries with at least *one dose*.

➤ **AVGC Center of Excellence**

- ✓ The government of Karnataka has launched India's first AVGC Center of Excellence (CoE) (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) in Mahadevapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ It is funded by the Department of Electronics Information Technology Biotechnology and Science & Technology.
- ✓ Karnataka became India's first state to set up such an AVGC CoE, it is also the biggest centre in Asia.

➤ **Graphene Innovation Centre**

- ✓ Kerala to get country's first Graphene Innovation Centre.
- ✓ The Digital University Kerala, along with CMET-Trichur will set up India Innovation Centre for Graphene.

- ✓ Graphene is the thinnest and strongest material in the world ever known and has good chemical stability.
- **Brain Health Initiative**
 - ✓ Karnataka has launched the 'Brain Health Initiative' undertaken by NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences) in association with NITI Aayog in the state.
 - ✓ It is a first-of-its-kind in the country.
 - ✓ Under this programme, the doctors will be trained in screening and treating mental health patients.
- **Happiness**
 - ✓ The Madhya Pradesh government - is planning to introduce 'happiness' as a subject in the syllabus of its high school and higher secondary school classes from the next academic session.
 - ✓ Once introduced, the State would be possibly the first state in the country where this subject will be introduced in schools.
- **National Single Window System (NSWS)**
 - ✓ Jammu & Kashmir - became the first Union Territory to be integrated with the National Single Window System (NSWS).
 - ✓ National Single Window System (NSWS), a 2020 budgetary announcement of the Government of India, is a digital platform that provides support to the investors in getting government approvals for projects.
- **India's 1st Bullet Train Station**
 - ✓ First glimpses of India's first Bullet Train station in Surat are finally out. The Ministry of Railways on February 10, shared the graphical representation of Surat's Bullet Train station to be constructed between Mumbai- Ahmedabad route.
 - ✓ National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) will be constructing this project that is scheduled to be completed by December 2024.
- **Medaram Jatara**
 - The historic Medaram Jatara, the largest tribal congregation in the country - begins in Telangana on February 16
 - ✓ Medaram Jatara is the **second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela**
 - ✓ It is celebrated by the **second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana - the Koya tribe.** Koya tribe is the **largest adivasi tribe of Telangana.**
- **Smart Card Arms License**
 - ✓ Delhi Police become the first to introduce 'Smart Card Arms License'.
 - ✓ In order to provide techno-friendly digital services to the citizens of Delhi, the Delhi Police has become the first police force in the country to introduce a 'Smart Card Arms License'.
- **Asia's Largest Bio-CNG Plant**
 - ✓ PM Modi will virtually launch Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant at Indore in Madhya Pradesh on 19 February 2022.
 - ✓ This Bio CNG plant will be run from 100% wet waste. The plant is built in PPP mode. 400 buses can be run daily with the gas generated from the Bio-CNG plant.

➤ **India's First Night Navigation Mobile App - In Rivers**

- ✓ Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched India's first Night Navigation mobile application for ferry services on the Brahmaputra River in Guwahati, Assam.
- ✓ The night navigation mobile application was developed by the transport department in association with K Raju, the principal scientist of IIT Madras and will survey the draft of the rivers.
- ✓ The first night journey of the IWT (Inland Water Transport) ferry between Guwahati and North Guwahati was started on 19 February 2022.

➤ **Per Capita Net State 2022**

- ✓ Telangana topped the Country in terms of Per Capita Net State 2022.
- ✓ Telangana became the top-performing state in India with a population over one crore in terms of the growth rate of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

➤ **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5**

- ✓ Odisha - topped the country at national level in full immunisation coverage with 90.5% of full immunization, as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5.
- ✓ The State has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 on March 7 for boosting full immunization coverage of the targeted women and children.

➤ **100% Women-Owned Industrial Park**

- ✓ India's first 100% women-owned industrial park - began operations in Hyderabad on March 8, International Women's Day.
- ✓ The FLO industrial park, the first-of-its-kind in the country, was established over 50 acres with an investment of Rs 250 crore.
- ✓ Promoted by the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) in partnership with the State government, the park has 25 units, representing 16 diverse green category industries, all owned and operated by women.

➤ **Indrayani Medicity**

- ✓ The state government of Maharashtra has announced to set up the country's first medical city named as 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof. It will come up in 300-acre of land area in Khed taluka of Pune.
- ✓ The project is estimated to attract investment worth over Rs. 10,000 crore.

➤ **AQVERIUM**

- ✓ Karnataka's Information Technology Minister N. Ashwath Narayan has inaugurated India's first-ever digital water data bank named 'AQVERIUM' in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ This digital water data bank provides insights and evidence from research and analytics thereby providing fundamental reliable information for tackling water pollution.

➤ **Udaan**

- ✓ 'Udaan' gives girls wings to a better future in rural Rajasthan.
- ✓ The Udaan project, launched by the Rajasthan government in collaboration with a development consulting group 'IPE Global', has made attempts to keep girls in schools

through their enrolment at the secondary level while ensuring that the eligible ones among them get their scholarships.

➤ **Punjab 18th Chief Minister**

- ✓ Aam Aadmi Party's Bhagwant Mann - took oath as Punjab 18th chief minister at a ceremony on March 16 in Khatkar Kalan, the native village of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.

➤ **Net-Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050**

- ✓ Mumbai became first South Asian City to set target.
- ✓ Mumbai, Maharashtra announced its detailed framework to 'zero out carbon emissions by 2050' and became the first city in South Asia to set such a target.
- ✓ Mumbai's target is 20 years ahead of India's target to reach net zero emissions by 2070.

➤ **Crop Diversification Index**

- ✓ Telangana - becomes the first state in the country to record crop diversification patterns in the form of an index.
- ✓ According to the crop diversification index, the state grows 77 varieties, with roughly 10 crops, predominantly grains, favored for diversification.
- ✓ Many districts in the state have index values ranging from 0 to 5, and the higher the score, the greater the agricultural diversification.
- ✓ The score will serve as a benchmark for future agricultural diversification in the state.

➤ **NeVA Programme**

- ✓ Nagaland has created history by becoming the first State Assembly in the entire country to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme to become completely paperless.
- ✓ Now members can use electronic devices to participate in House proceedings.
- ✓ NeVA is a Unicode compliant software having provision for easy access to various documents like list of questions, etc.

➤ **Carbon-Neutral Farming**

- ✓ Kerala is set to become the first State in the country to introduce carbon-neutral farming methods in selected locations, for which the government has set aside 6 crore in the 2022-23 Budget.
- ✓ In the first phase, carbon-neutral farming will be implemented in 13 farms under the Agriculture department and tribal areas, and steps are on to convert the State Seed Farm at Aluva a carbon-neutral farm.

➤ **First State to Implement Dynamic Maps**

- ✓ Bihar has become the first state in the country to implement the dynamic map for villages. Each time land ownership will change, the dynamic map will get automatically updated
- ✓ The aim of this initiative is to reduce legal disputes. According to the Bihar government, the state has received around 37,000 cases of land disputes and other issues since February 2021.

NATIONAL

➤ **Petroleum Ministry launches month-long 'SAKSHAM' Campaign**

- ✓ The Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Tarun Kapoor launched the campaign.
- ✓ SAKSHAM campaign will also spread awareness about 7 key drivers that were recently mentioned by PM Modi to help the country move towards the cleaner energy.

7 Key drivers for clean energy:

- Moving towards a gas-based economy
- Cleaner use of fossil fuels
- Reliance on the domestic sources to drive bio-fuels
- Increasing the use of electric vehicles to decarbonize the mobility
- Achieving renewable targets with the set deadlines
- Increase in the use of cleaner fuels like Hydrogen
- Digital Innovation across all the energy systems

➤ **India's first-ever driverless metro train in Delhi**

➤ **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**

- ✓ NITI Aayog and Flipkart, have come together to launch the revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform.
- ✓ The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a unified access portal which brings together women from different parts of India to realise their entrepreneurial aspirations.

➤ **New Science, Technology, Innovation Policy (STIP) 2021-22**

- ✓ The draft policy aims to transform the national STI environment with emphasis on PM Modi's Atmanirbhar call and global competitiveness.
- ✓ It has proposed new establishments and reforms through short, medium and long term mission-mode projects that will develop end-to-end science and technology ecosystem.
- ✓ The policy proposes creation of a national STI observatory that will act as a central repository for all data related to and generated from the STI ecosystem.
- ✓ Further, a technology support framework will be created to facilitate a two-way approach of creating indigenous technology and indigenization of technology.
- ✓ A strategic technology board will be constituted to act as a link connecting different strategic departments.
- ✓ An institutional architecture to integrate Traditional Knowledge Systems (TKS) and grassroots innovation into the overall education, research and innovation system will be established.

- ✓ The policy has proposed a Strategic Technology Development Fund to incentivize the private sector and Higher Educational Institutions.
- ✓ By-product (Spinoff) technologies resulting from larger projects will be commercialized and used for civilian purposes.
- ✓ Besides, each state has to set aside a percentage of the state allocation for STI related activities under a separate budget head.
- ✓ Foreign MNCs will collaborate with domestic private and public-sector entities on projects aligned to national needs and priorities
- ✓ An STI development bank will be set up to facilitate a corpus fund for investing in direct long-term investments in select strategic areas on various long and medium-term projects, commercial ventures, start-ups, technology diffusion and licensing.

➤ **Eighth warmest year in India**

- ✓ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) – has announced that the year 2020 was the eighth warmest year in India since nation-wide records commenced in 1901
- ✓ Annual rainfall over India as a whole was 109% of its long period average (LPA), based on the data of 1961-2010, last year.

➤ **40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica**

- ✓ The first ever Indian scientific expedition to Antarctica began in 1981.
- ✓ Dakshin Gangotri was the first permanent settlement of India in Antarctica built in the year 1983.
- ✓ Bharti was established in 2015 to collect evidence of continental break up and reveal the 120-million-year-old ancient history of Indian subcontinent.

➤ **India's first geothermal power project**

- ✓ It will be set up at eastern Ladakh's Puga village.

➤ **The PGIMER, Chandigarh - has launched the country's first ever 'PGI Amputee Clinic'**

➤ **Samagra Shiksha scheme will now be renamed after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**

- ✓ The Ministry of Education - has decided that the schools and hostels under the Samagra Shiksha scheme will now be renamed after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- ✓ The scheme was launched after subsuming three schemes namely, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Teacher Education (TE), the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

➤ **The fossil of world's oldest animal**

- ✓ Bhimbetka Rock Shelters are a UNESCO World Heritage Site for Paleolithic and Mesolithic cave art
- ✓ The discovery may have been the first ever fossil in India of a Dickinsonia - the Earth's 'oldest animal' - dating back 570 million years.

➤ **'Pey Jal Survekshan'**

- ✓ The pilot survey will cover 10 cities – Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur
- ✓ In this survey, data on drinking water, wastewater management, non-revenue water and condition of three waterbodies in the city will be collected.

➤ **e- chhawani**

- ✓ e-Chhawani project was launched with the aim of providing online municipal services for more than 20 lakh citizens.

➤ **'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative**

- ✓ The launch of the initiative is marked with the inauguration of the Ro-Pax vessel operations between the Neamatighat & Majuli, Dhubri-Hatsingimari and North-South Guwahati.
- ✓ This initiative also includes the inauguration of the Inland Water Transport Terminal at Jogighopa

➤ **SWAMIH Fund**

- ✓ SWAMIH stands for 'Special Window for Completion of Construction of Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Projects'
- ✓ The SWAMIH Fund is a 250-billion-rupee corpus set up by Indian government to complete the stalled housing projects.

➤ **National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)**

- ✓ The mission aims to create a digital infrastructure for various cities in the country
- ✓ During the event, several other digital initiatives of the Ministry including India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), SmartCode, Smart Cities 2.0 website and Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS) were also launched.
- ✓ The IUDX has been developed in partnership between the Smart Cities Mission and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru

□□ **PSLV-C51 - launched Amazonia-1**

□□ Amazonia-1 into a 755km sun synchronous polar orbit

□□ Amazonia-1 is an optical earth observation satellite designed, integrated, tested and operated by National Institute for Space Research, Brazil

□□ **The UNITYsat** is designed and built by three colleges -- Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology in Coimbatore, Jeppiar Institute of Technology in Sriperumbudur and GH Raison College of Engineering in Nagpur

□□ The other 14 satellites - including SindhuNetra, an Indian technology demonstration satellite, SAI-1 NanoConnect-2, a technology demonstration satellite from the US, and 12 SpaceBEEs satellites also from the US for two-way satellite communications and data relay - were launched through NSIL

□□ A picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a copy of Bhagavad Gita in SD card format are part of the nanosatellite Satish Dhawan SAT (SDSAT) built by Space Kidz India

□□ **'Sugamya Bharat' App**

□□ The —Sugamya Bharat App is a crowdsourcing mobile application that enables persons with disabilities and others to register complaints if they find a public space, utility or building inaccessible.

□□ The application will enable registered users to access information related to the guidelines and provisions on accessible buildings, transport and infrastructure under the Accessible India Campaign and other related issues

□□ **Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020**

□□ The EoLI is an assessment tool that evaluates quality of life and impact of various initiatives for urban development.

□□□□ The 'Quality of Life' covers aspects such as affordable housing, access to clean water, basic education, healthcare facilities, safety & security, and recreation avenues

□□ Chennai stood overall fourth in the ease of living index among cities in India with more than a million population

□□ Coimbatore stood seventh on the list.

□□ The ease of living ranking for cities with 'population less than a million' ranked Salem, Vellore, and Trichy in Tamil Nadu at fifth, sixth and 10th positions.

□□

□□ **—Sansad TV.**

□□ The Parliament of India - have merged two of the TV channels namely, Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV into an integrated channel —Sansad TV.

□□ This new TV channel will continue to 'live telecast' the house proceedings, provides news and the current affairs programme in Hindi as well as in English language.

□□The mission will focus on the commercial crops for honey bee rearing such as Gladiolus, Carnation, Canna, Marigold, Rose etc.

□□Currently, India only shares 0.6% of the global floriculture market despite having diverse agro-climatic conditions

□□ **‘Maitri Setu’**

□□To inaugurate the ‘Maitri Setu’ between India and Bangladesh via video conferencing on March 9, 2021

□□The ‘Maitri Setu’ is a bridge that has been built in the River Feni that flows between the Indian boundary in the state of Tripura and Bangladesh.

□□Built at the total cost of Rs. 133 crore, the 1.9 Km long bridge connects the Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.

□□After this bridge is operation, the state of Tripura will become the ‘Gateway of North East’ with having access to Chittagong Port in Bangladesh.

□□ **Use of Plastic**

□□The Union government - has proposed a ban on use of single-use plastic in two phases

□□Single - use plastic item

□□Easements with plastic items bann

□□□□

□□ **National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2021**

□□The bill aims to establish a statutory body or commission that frames policies and standards, regulates professional conduct and qualifications for allied healthcare professionals

□□There will be 12 seat representations from all states and Union territories on this commission with each state can also set up state-level commissions

□□The chairman and vice-chairman of the body will be selected for two years and they would be eligible for re-nomination for further two terms.

□□ **Bee farming as the foundation of a ‘sweet revolution’**

□□PM again pitched for bee farming as the foundation of a ‘sweet revolution’

□□The farmers from Darjeeling and Sundarbans to Banaskantha in Gujarat and Yamuna Nagar in Haryana have taken to bee farming to increase their income, said the PM

□ He referred his proposal for bee farming in 2016 at the Banaskantha meeting.

□□‘Amrut Mahotsav’, a celebration of 75 years of Indian independence.

□□ **TB Mukh Bharat Initiative**

□□During the event, the Ministry also published a guidance note on Joint Action Plan for the elimination of Tuberculosis (TB), a Special Edition of Tribal Ministry’s Publication ‘ALEKH’ on TB, and a document on Tribal Tuberculosis (TB) Initiative.

□□ **India - to be provided the ‘Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects’ (GGP), which is a financial assistance scheme of Japan**

□□The GGP is extended by Japan for development projects designed to meet the diverse basic human needs in more than 100 countries, including India

□□ Electoral Bonds

- The Government launches the electoral bonds as an alternative to the cash donations that are made to the political parties
- The bonds are part of government's efforts to bring transparency in the political funding.
- The electoral bonds for the elections can be purchased by any individual who is a citizen of India or by any agency established or incorporated in India.
- The political parties that are registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 will be eligible to receive the electora

➤ SUPACE - AI driven Research Portal of Supreme Court of India

- ✓ On 6th April 2021, the chief Justice of India (CJI) SA Bobde launched "Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency (SUPACE)" an Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven tool,
- ✓ which is 1st of its kind in the World that collects relevant facts and laws related to the case, thereby easing the research process for Judges.
- ✓ Efficient use of AI for collecting information related to the case, to reduce the workload of Judges.

➤ SARATHI Portal

- ✓ The Ministry of Road Transport - has created the National Register for Driving Licenses to eradicate duplication of driving licenses in the country.
- ✓ The states which are already on the SARATHI portal of National Informatics Centre have been instructed to migrate to the newly created national register.

➤ TikaUtsav - Vaccine festival

- ✓ The main objective of the festival is to vaccinate as many people as possible and focus on zero wastage of the anti-Covid-19 vaccine.
- ✓ Currently, three states - Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Gujarat - are receiving maximum number of vaccine doses.
- ✓ The Centre has planned to cover 250 million people included in "high priority" category by July 2021 under its vaccination programme.

➤ AahaarKranti

- ✓ The motto of the mission is "Good Diet-Good Cognition".
- ✓ Malnutrition is the major contributing factor to one-third child deaths in the country.
- ✓ Apart from children, 23% of women and 20% of men in the country are malnourished.

➤ EatSMART cities

- ✓ The main objective of the EatSmart Cities Challenge is to create an environment of right food practices and habits

➤ The "Tribunal Reforms Ordinance 2021"

- ✓ **The ordinance dissolved appellate tribunals under the following nine acts:**
- ✓ Cinematograph Act, 1952
- ✓ Copyrights Act, 1957
- ✓ Trade Marks Act, 1999
- ✓ Customs Act, 1962
- ✓ Airports Authority of India Act, 1994
- ✓ Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
- ✓ Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002
- ✓ Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001
- ✓ Patents Act, 1970
- **Indian Army - recently launched the first Green Solar Energy harnessing plant in Sikkim for the benefit of troops of the Indian army.**
- **Operation Samudra Setu II**
 - ✓ It deployed to carry liquid oxygen filled cryogenic containers from various countries to India
 - ✓ INS Talwar will transport 40 million tonnes of oxygen from Manama, Bahrain to Mumbai.
 - ✓ INS Kolkata will proceed to Doha to get medical supplies and then travel to Kuwait to get liquid oxygen tanks.
- **Renewable Energy market outlook 2021**
 - ✓ The International Energy Agency (IEA) – has submitted its latest ‘Renewable energy market outlook’ for the year 2021
 - ✓ India is expected to add three times more renewable energy capacity this year than it did last year and set new records by 2022.
 - ✓ The installed Solar generation capacity in India as of 30th April was 40.5 gigawatts and the capacity under installation was 36.48 gigawatts.
- **Tauktae Cyclone**
 - ✓ Tauktae cyclone has become the first cyclone to form in Arabian Sea
 - ✓ caused huge destruction to Gujarat coast after making landfall near the Union Territory of Diu late on May 17 as a **‘very severe’ cyclone**.
 - ✓ The name “Tauktae” has been given by Myanmar, which means **“gecko”**, meaning a highly **vocal lizard in Burmese**
- **“Oxygen park”**
 - ✓ In May 2021, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University designed **“Oxygen Park” in its premises in Coimbatore with Beema Bamboo**.
 - ✓ Beema Bamboo, a clone of Bambusa balcooa, is a higher biomass yielding bamboo species.
- **Taxi Ambulance**
 - ✓ Taxi ambulances used in Tamil Nadu during Covid-19 pandemic – has figured among a list of 14 best practices implemented by states, as identified by the centre
- **UNESCO - World Heritage Site-increased to 48**

- ✓ They are Ganga Ghats in Varanasi, **temples of Kancheepuram** in Tamil Nadu, **Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh**, Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra, Hirebenakal Megalithic site in Karnataka and BhedaghatLametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh
 - ✓ With this, the total number of sites in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites tentative list has increased to 48.
 - ✓ There are more than 400 megalithic funerary monuments in **Hirebenakal** Megalithic site.
 - ✓ The **Bhedaghat-Lametaghat** of the Narmada valley are referred to as the Grand Canyon of India
 - ✓ Several dinosaur fossil fuels have been found and the site exhibits huge marble rocks on the side of Narmada river.
- **'Yaas' - made landfall close to Bahanaga block**
- ✓ Cyclone Yaas is the second major storm to hit Indian coast after cyclone Tauktae Yaas, named by Oman in Persian language, refers to a Jasmine-like tree with a good fragrance
 - ✓ Tauktae, a Burmese name, was named by Myanmar, meaning 'gecko', a highly vocal lizard.
- **PM - CARES-for children**
- ✓ The government - has announced Rs.10 lakh fund, free education among other benefits to support the children orphaned by Covid-19 under 'PM CARES' for children scheme.
 - ✓ The government has announced the "**PM-CARES for Children**" scheme under which fixed deposits will be opened in the names of such children from the PM-CARES fund.
 - ✓ The total corpus of the fund will be Rs 10 lakh for each child.
- **"AmbiTAG"**
- ✓ AmbiTAG" is India's first indigenous temperature data logger developed for cold chain management by IIT-Ropar.
 - ✓ Shaped like a USB device, AmbiTag continuously records the temperature of its immediate surroundings "from -40 to +80 degrees in any time zone for a full 90 days
- **Model Tenancy Act (MTA)**
- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the PM Narendra Modi - approved the Model Tenancy Act (MTA) which aims to protect the interests of both tenants and landlords.
- **SDG - 2030 Niti Aayog**
- ✓ The SDG India Index was first launched in December 2018
 - ✓ It has become the primary tool for monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in the country
 - ✓ The index was developed in collaboration with the United Nations and India
 - ✓ It measures the progress at the national and sub-national level in the country's journey towards meeting the global goals and targets
 - ✓ **The first edition of the Index has covered 13 goals, 39 targets, and 62 indicators in 2018-19**
 - ✓ **The second edition of the Index has covered 17 goals, 54 targets and 100 indicators in the year 2019-20**
 - ✓ **The third edition of the index covers 17 goals, 70 targets, and 115 indicators.**
 - ✓ In 2015, all members of the United Nations adopted the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, consisting of 17 SDGs and a further 169 targets to be achieved by 2030
- **National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC)**

- ✓ Chief Justice of India N V Ramana - has unveiled an ambitious plan to set up a National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC) to build modern and self-sufficient judicial infrastructure across India.
 - ✓ Justice Ramana's plan envisages that the NJIC will be managed by a CJI-led committee comprising SC judges who would become CJIs in future.
 - ✓ The NJIC managing committee will also include finance secretaries to the Union/state governments and HC CJs having long tenures.
- **Ethanol - blended petrol**
- ✓ India - has advanced the target date for achieving 20% ethanol-blending in petrol by five years to 2025 from 2030
 - ✓ This was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 5, after the release of 'ethanol blending road map 2020-25' on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- **Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**
- ✓ The cabinet recently approved the sale of government stake in IDBI Bank
 - ✓ The government is hoping to conclude the sale of IDBI Bank stake during the current financial year
 - ✓ Among the dozen state-run lenders, **NITI Aayog is targeting Bank of Maharashtra, Punjab & Sind Bank, UCO Bank, Bank of India, IOB and Central Bank of India** for strategic disinvestment
 - ✓ Based on the current share price, the two entities are together valued at around ₹44,000 crore with IOB's market cap estimated at ₹31,641 crore.
- **YUVA - PM Scheme**
- ✓ The Ministry of Education - has recently launched "YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors"
 - ✓ YUVA stands for "Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors"
 - ✓ The scheme will be implemented by "National Book Trust of India" under Ministry of Education
 - ✓ Under the YUVA scheme, a total of 75 authors will be selected by an All-India Contest and the winners will be announced on August 15, 2021
 - ✓ The published books will be launched in January 2022 on the occasion of National Youth Day.
- **AISHE - Report**
- ✓ India - has a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of 27.1% in higher education, with the GER of women at 27.3% compared to men's 26.9%
 - ✓ All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) for 2019- 20 released on June.
- **'Operation Olivia'**
- ✓ Indian Coast Guard - have **launched 'Operation Olivia'** to protect the **endangered Olive Ridley turtles in Odisha**
 - ✓ Operation Olivia aims to protect the population of Olive Ridley turtles during their nesting seasons from May to December every year
 - ✓ **Initiated first during the early 1980s, Operation Olivia** is carried out off the coast of Odisha, the primary habitat range of the turtles, where they congregate along the coast for breeding and nesting.

- ✓ The Olive Ridley is classified as 'vulnerable' according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

➤ **Deep Ocean Mission**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister - has recently approved 'Deep Ocean Mission' project
- ✓ The Mission was proposed by Ministry of Earth Sciences
- ✓ It seeks to explore deep ocean for resources and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.
- ✓ The mission is to be implemented in a phase-wise manner.
- ✓ The United Nations (UN) has declared the decade, 2021-2030 as the 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development'
- ✓ The Government of India's 'Vision of New India by 2030' released in February 2019 highlighted the 'Blue Economy' as one of the ten core dimensions of growth.
- ✓

➤ **UNECOSOC - India**

- ✓ India - was recently elected to the United Nations, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the period 2022-2024 under Asia-Pacific States category.

➤ **NISHTHA**

- ✓ 'NISHTHA capacity-building programme' for Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)
- ✓ It was launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy as a national mission under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme in 2019-20.
- ✓ The initiative aims to develop the skill levels of the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage, thereby improving the quality of school education
- ✓ The training of NCERT's flagship program was conducted in an online mode on the NISHTHA portal

➤ **World Investment FDI inflows Report 2021**

- ✓ India - becomes the fifth largest recipient of FDI inflows, after receiving \$64 billion in 2020
- ✓ As per the report, the FDI inflows into the country has increased by 27% to \$64 billion in 2020, from \$51 billion in 2019

➤ **Divyangta khel Kendras**

- ✓ Union minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot - announced to set up five "Divyangta Khel Kendras" across the country
- ✓ The proposed centres will support the interest of Divyangjans (Disabled persons) in sports for their good performance in Paralympics.

➤ **First genetically Modified Rubber Plant**

- ✓ The world's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant - was planted in a Rubber Board research farm in Assam on June
- ✓ The plant was developed at the Kerala-based Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), located in Puthuppally, Kottayam

➤ **CCRISP - World bank**

- ✓ The World Bank - has approved a \$500 million programme to support India's informal workforce, including gig workers and migrants

- ✓ Of the total commitment, \$112.5 million will be financed by a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), World Bank's concessionary lending arm
 - ✓ The latest assistance is granted further to the \$1.15 billion committed already by World Bank to support schemes in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
 - ✓ This aid is offered as per a program called 'Creating a Coordinated and Responsive Indian Social Protection System (CCRISP)
- **ZyCoV - D Plasmid DNA Vaccine**
- ✓ Ahmedabad-based Zydus Cadila - has applied for emergency use authorisation (EUA) to the Drug Controller General of India for ZyCoV-D, its plasmid DNA vaccine against Covid-19
- **Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation Bill, 2021**
- ✓ As per the new bill, any person committing an offence of "trafficking in persons" shall be punished with imprisonment not less than seven years but which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to a fine of at least one lakh rupees.
- **NIPUN Bharat**
- ✓ The initiative will be undertaken by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
 - ✓ NIPUN is the short form for 'National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy'
 - ✓ The programme intends to provide an easily accessible environment for basic education and numerical knowledge.
 - ✓ Under the initiative, every child will be provided the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of class 3, by 2026-27
- **'Financial Literacy Workbook' for Class 6 students**
- ✓ The book has been prepared by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
 - ✓ The book will be used in "Financial Literacy" subject offered as an elective subject for Class 6
 - ✓ It has been designed to improve the student's knowledge in banking and payment areas.
- **On July, the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) was made part of the finance ministry**
- ✓ The move is intended to speed up the privatisation process and gain more control over state-run-enterprises
- **Union Minister for Road transport - Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the country's first commercial liquified natural gas (LNG) filling station in Nagpur on July**
- **LIC to be Privatised**
- ✓ The Union Cabinet - has approved the share sale of the state-run insurance giant, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
 - ✓ The government aims to complete strategic sale of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Shipping Corp, Container Corporation, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd, Pawan Hans and Air India, among others, by March 2022.
 - ✓ Besides, IDBI Bank would be privatised in the current fiscal

- **The centre - had recently released Unified District Information System for Education Plus report (UDISE+) for 2019-2020.**
 - ✓ UDISE+, which was launched in 2018-2019, is the largest Management Information Systems on school education.
 - ✓ It covers 1.5 million schools, 8.5 million teachers and 250 million children.
 - ✓ It is an advanced and improved version of UDISE that was launched in 2012-2013 by integrating DISE for elementary education & SEMIS for secondary education.
 - ✓ UDISE+ helps in measuring education parameters across classes 1 to 12 in government as well as private schools in India

- **“Khadi”**
 - ✓ Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) - has secured trademark registration for its brand name “Khadi” in three countries - Mexico, Bhutan and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- **The Centre - has moved a proposal to amend the 102nd constitutional amendment Act, enacted in 2018, to restore state’s power to decide OBCs**
 - ✓ The proposal will overturn the May 5 Supreme Court judgment in the Maratha reservation case by a 5-judge Constitution Bench
 - ✓ As per the verdict, only the President can declare any community as OBC based on the recommendation of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
 - ✓ The proposal seeks to restore the rights of states to identify the OBCs for the “state list” of castes eligible for Mandal reservations in education and employment under state governments.
 - ✓ The 102nd Constitution Amendment adds two clauses in Article 342 as Article 324A on the President declaring any socially or educationally backward class, in consultation with the state governor.
 - ✓ The draft Bill was readied by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 - ✓ It seeks to add a clarification clause in Article 342A that the state governments shall have the power to identify and include the OBCs or socially and educationally backward classes in their respective lists The third clause will have to be inserted as Article 342A(3)
 - ✓ Accordingly, the third clause will state that the power to notify the OBCs on the state list would be with the state governments.

- **In a landmark decision, the Union government - has announced a 27% reservation for OBC, and a 10% reservation for EWS candidates in the All India Quota for UG and PG medical/dental courses in state-run colleges from the current academic year 2021-22 onwards**
 - ✓ The All India Quota (AIQ) Scheme was introduced in 1986 under the directions of the Supreme Court
 - ✓ It seeks to provide merit-based opportunities to students from any state aspiring to study in a good medical college in another state

- **The Geological Survey of India (GSI) - has taken up seven lithium exploration projects in Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan**

- **KVIC project ‘BOLD’ to boost tribal income**

- ✓ KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) has launched Project BOLD (Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Draught), a first of- its-kind exercise, to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.
- **NTPC Ltd., India's largest power generator is set to construct the country's single-largest solar photovoltaic project at Rann of Kutch region in Khavada, Gujarat.**
 - ✓ The solar power park will have a capacity of 4.75 Gigawatt (Gw)/4750 MW.
- **The union government has created a Ministry of Cooperation to boost the Indian cooperative movement and give a fillip to the indigenous enterprises.**
 - ✓ The new ministry of Cooperation will work to realise the vision of "Sahkar -se -Samridhhi" and will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework
- **IOC to set up first 'green hydrogen' plant at Mathura**
 - ✓ State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), India's largest oil firm, will build the first 'green hydrogen' plant of the country at its Mathura refinery, to meet the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy.
- **Government to set up Indian Heritage Institute in Noida**
 - ✓ The government has decided to set up the Indian Institute of Heritage at Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Digital Platform "Kisan Sarathi" launched to facilitate farmers**
 - ✓ In order to facilitate farmers to get 'right information at right time' in their desired language, a digital platform namely 'KisanSarathi' was launched.
- **Centre launches 'Matsya Setu' mobile app for Indian aqua farmers**
 - ✓ The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Giriraj Singh has launched a mobile app named 'Matsya Setu' on July 06, 2021 for fish farmers.
- **The 14 tiger reserves of India that have received prestigious global accreditation from CA|TS are:**
 - ✓ Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserves, Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka
 - ✓ Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala
 - ✓ Sunderbans Tiger Reserve, West Bengal
 - ✓ Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh
 - ✓ Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar
 - ✓ Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra
 - ✓ Satpura, Kanha and Panna Tiger Reserves, Madhya Pradesh
 - ✓ Orang, Manas and Kaziranga in Assam
- **BRO (Border road organization)- World Highest Road**
 - ✓ The Border Roads Organisation - has constructed the world's highest road in eastern Ladakh at an altitude of 19,300 feet.
 - ✓ The world's highest motorable road at **Umlingla Pass** is constructed at an altitude of 19,300 ft, bettering previous record of a road near volcano Uturuncu in Bolivia at 18,953 ft

- ✓ The 52-km long tarmac road through Umlingla Pass connects the important towns in Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh.
- **Lok Sabha - passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021, for setting up a central university in the name of 'Sindhu Central University' in Ladak**
- **Constitution Amendment Bill** Rajya Sabha - passed three bills –
 - ✓ 1. the Constitution (Scheduled Tribe) Order (Amendment) Bill,
 - ✓ 2. the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill and
 - ✓ 3. the Essential Defence Services Bill.
- **PMG-DHISHA(pradhan mantri grameen digital saksharata abhiyan)**
 - ✓ It is a government initiative launched with an objective to impart digital literacy among the people residing in rural areas
 - ✓ Under the **PMGDISHA** scheme, people in the rural area will be trained to operate a computer, tablet, smartphones, etc.
 - ✓ They will be provided training on how to access the Internet, government services, undertake digital payment, compose e-mails, etc.
- **Kandla Special Economic Zone (KASEZ)**
 - ✓ It has become the **first Green SEZ** in the country after receiving the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - to launch Ujjwala 2.0 that provides free cooking gas connections to poor families through domestic LPG cylinder connections at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh on August**
- **Lok Sabha - passed the 127th The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021** that seeks to restore the power of states to identify backward castes.
- **PM - DAKSH**
 - ✓ The 'Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana' is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from the year 2020-21.
 - ✓ Now, any person can get all the information related to skill development training in one place by visiting the 'PM-DAKSH' portal.
- **PM - e Vidya**
 - ✓ The Minister mentioned **about PM eVidya programme** launched with a mix of online, television and radio modes through various initiatives **SWAYAM, DIKSHA, SWAYAM PRABHA etc**
- **PM announced Rs 1,625 crore for women SHGs**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with members of women self-help groups (SHGs) under the “**Aatmanirbhar Narihalti se Samvad**” event on August 12, 2021 across the country and announced to release capitalisation support funds of Rs 1,625 crore.
 - ✓ Highlights Capitalisation support fund will benefit over 4 lakh SHGs.

- **“Gati Sakthi” - National Infrastructure plan.**
 - ✓ India to launch a 100 trillion rupee (\$1.35 trillion) national infrastructure plan called "Gati Shakti" that will help boost productivity of industries, generate jobs and boost the economy.
- **National Hydrogen Mission**
 - ✓ The launch of **the National Hydrogen Mission** was announced by PM Modi. The aim is to make India a global hub for the production and export of green hydrogen.
 - ✓ The proposal for the National Hydrogen Mission was made in the Budget 2021 to launch NHM that would enable the generation of hydrogen **“from green power sources”**.
 - ✓ Hydrogen fuel is a **zero-emission fuel burned with oxygen**. It can be used in fuel cells or internal combustion engines. It is also used as a fuel for spacecraft propulsion.
- **Four more wetlands from India - have been recognised as Ramsar site of international importance**
 - ✓ The **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary**, a human-made freshwater wetland and the largest one in Haryana, supports more than 10 globally threatened species
 - ✓ The **Sultanpur National Park** from Haryana supports more than 220 species of resident, winter migratory and local migratory waterbirds, along with supporting more than 10 globally threatened and critically endangered birds
 - ✓ The **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary** from Gujarat lies on the Central Asian Flyway and supports more than 320 bird species
 - ✓ The **Wadhvana Wetland** is important as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway.
- **NTPC commissions India’s largest floating solar PV project**
 - ✓ The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited on August 21, 2021, commissioned India’s largest floating solar PV project of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ The 2000 MW coal-based **Simhadri thermal station** is the first power project that implemented an open sea intake from the Bay of Bengal.
 - ✓ Generate electricity from more than 1 lakh solar PV modules that will aid in lighting up approximately 7,000 households.
- **Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman - launched a four-year road map for a Rs.6-lakh-crore asset monetisation plan.**
 - ✓ **The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** lists out the government’s infrastructure assets to be sold over the next four years.
- **The National Asset Monetisation Pipeline -NITI Aayog**
 - ✓ The assets include roads and highways, pipelines, power transmission lines, telecom towers, railways station re-development, private trains, tracks, goods sheds, dedicated freight corridor, **15 railways stadiums, 25 airports, 31 projects in nine major ports, 160 projects in coal mining, 761 mineral mining blocks, two national stadia, re-development of colonies** and hospitality assets
 - ✓ There are over 20 asset classes across 12 ministries, which have been identified for the pipeline and these **are brownfield de-risked assets**, which will be offered for private investment.

- ✓ **Railway is the second biggest sector, after road, identified in the ambitious national monetisation plan**
- ✓ **A total of 400 stations, 90 passenger trains, railway stadiums and colonies, and the famed Konkan and hill railways are among the assets identified by the government for monetisation**
- ✓ **Railway assets would contribute 26% of the Rs 6 lakh crore National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).**
- **Operation Devi Shakti**
 - ✓ **Operation Devi Shakti name has been given by India to its operation of evacuating its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan.**
- **e-Sharm Portal: Centre to launch National Database for Unorganised Workers on August**
 - ✓ **Union Labour Ministry will launch e-Sharm Portal-National Database for Unorganised Workers on August.**
 - ✓ **The portal will be launched for the overall welfare of crores of unorganized workers of the country after seven decades of independence.**
- **On August, Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman - announced changes in the pension scheme for state-run bank employees**
 - ✓ **The pension payout to bank staff was hiked by 30% of last drawn salary, as per the new announcements.**
- **Madhya Pradesh becomes 2nd state to implement National Education Policy 2020**
 - ✓ **Madhya Pradesh on August 26, 2021, became the 2nd state after Karnataka to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**
 - ✓ **CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the implementation of the Policy in the presence of Governor Mangubhai Patel.**
 - ✓ **The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was launched by the Centre on July 29, 2020**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - praised his government's flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana' as it completed seven years with total deposits of over Rs 1.46 trillion**
- **PFRDA increases the entry age in National Pension System (NPS) to 70 years**
 - ✓ **The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the entry age for the National Pension System (NPS) from 65 years to 70 years.**
- **India's nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 Mega Watts by 2031 from the current 6,780 MegaWatts.**
- **There are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MW in operation and one reactor, KAPP-3 (700 MW) has been connected to the grid on January**
- **India - is the most polluted country in the world, with more than 480 million people or about 40% of its population exposed to pollution**
 - ✓ **This was revealed in the annual Air Quality Life Index report from the University of Chicago released on September**
 - ✓ **Delhi is the most impacted state in the entire country, with the average person losing 9.7 years of life as compared to average life expectancy if WHO standards were being met.**
 - ✓ **Uttar Pradesh is the second ranked state with an average person losing 9.5 years of life.**

➤ **Smog**

- ✓ Delhi chief minister **Arvind Kejriwal** - inaugurated India's first-ever smog tower at **Baba Kharak Singh Marg** in the Connaught Place recently
- ✓ "IQAir", a Switzerland-based air quality technology company that measures air quality levels of selected cities based on PM2.5 concentration, ranked Delhi the world's most polluted capital for the third straight year in 2020.

➤ **Two teachers from Tamil Nadu, who received the award from the President, are K Asha Devi and D Lalitha**

- ✓ **Asha Devi** is the headmistress of the Panchayat Union Middle School at Piratiyur
- ✓ She was the recipient of numerous awards, including the State government's 2019 Best PTA Teacher Award
- ✓ **D Lalitha** is the Headmistress of Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Modakurichi.
- ✓ She has been teaching Physics to students for the past 19 years
- ✓ The day marks the beginning of **Shikshak Parv-2021** under the Ministry of Education.

➤ **Shikshak Parv - 2021**

- ✓ On September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the National Digital Educational Architecture (N-DEAR), which is likely to play a major role in eradicating inequality in education and its modernisation.

➤ **Subramania Bharathi Chair at BHU**

- ✓ PM Modi announced the setting up of the Subramania Bharati **chair** in the memory of Legendary Tamil Poet Subramania Bharati at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) for Tamil
- ✓ The chair has been established on **the occasion of the 100th death anniversary** of Subramania Bharati (11th September 2021).
- ✓ The chair will be recognized in the faculty of arts at Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

➤ **PM launches Sansad TV, calls it voice of the House**

- Sansad TV, a news channel combining the Lok Sabha TV and the Rajya Sabha TV was launched.

➤ **The 45th GST council Meeting - was chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on September 17, 2021 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

- ✓ It had also decided to charge 5% GST on services by cloud kitchens and food delivery platforms like **Zomato** and **Swiggy** with effect from January 1, 2022
- ✓ The food delivery aggregators will have to collect and deposit 5% GST with the government, in place of restaurants, for deliveries made by them
- ✓ Meanwhile, the council has decided to revise GST rates to correct Inverted duty structure anomalies in footwear and textile sectors, which is to be implemented from January 1, 2022

➤ **NITI Aayog Partners Byju's to educate children in 112 aspirational districts**

- ✓ Government think tank NITI Aayog has entered into partnered with edtech major Byju's, to provide free access to Byju's high-quality and tech-driven learning programmes to children from 112 Aspirational districts of the country.

➤ **Niti Aayog tie-up with ISRO, CBSE launch 'Space Challenge' for school students**

- ✓ Niti Aayog's **Atal Innovation Mission** in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE has launched 'Space Challenge' for school students across India.
 - ✓ This challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country who not only are associated with schools having **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) labs** but for all the non-ATL schools as well.
 - ✓ The aim of this challenge is to enable innovation among young school students to create something in the space sector that will not only help them learn about the space but create something that the space programme can use itself
- **The month-long 'POSHAN Maah'** or National Nutrition Mission under **POSHAN Abhiyan** - is being observed across the country in the month of September
- **Trans - Fat free by 2022.**
- ✓ As per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) study, India is all set and is on the right track to become industrial **trans fat-free by 2022.**
 - ✓ In India, only **1.34 percent** of the newly tested processed food samples shows more than the permissible levels of ingredients.
 - ✓ FSSAI cited pan-India survey results and dismiss the perception of excessive use of industrial **trans fats** in processed food products.
 - ✓ India has mandated to reduce the limit of industrially **produced trans fats to 2 per cent in order make India free from the industrially produced** trans fats by 2022, one year ahead of the WHO guidelines.
- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**
- ✓ The world's largest healthcare scheme **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** has completed three years. It was launched on September 23rd, 2018.
- **PM Modi to roll out National Digital Health Mission**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (on September 27, 2021) will announce the nationwide rollout of the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), which has been renamed as Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM).**
 - ✓ Under this, a unique digital health ID will be provided to the people, which will contain all the health records of the person. The id will be created using details such as Aadhaar and the user's mobile number.
- **On September 29, the Centre - launched the Prime Minister POSHAN scheme or PM-POSHAN scheme for providing cooked hot meal in government and government-aided schools**
- ✓ The existing Mid-Day Meal scheme will be renamed as the National Scheme for **PM Poshan Shakti Nirman.**
 - ✓ The Mid-Day meal scheme was initially launched by the Narasimha Rao government in the year 1995
 - ✓ The scheme will be extended to students studying in pre-primary or Balvatikas running in government and government aided primary schools.
- **Digi Saksham Programme.**
- ✓ The government of India promotes **Digital Education in Youth**, so it has launched the 'Digi Saksham Programme'. The program is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Employment and Microsoft India. .

- ✓ Programme will be implemented in the field by “Aga Khan Rural Support Programme India (AKRSP-I)”.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0.**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) along with **the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation** and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMTUT 2.0). These schemes were launched at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
 - ✓ Both the schemes, SBM-U 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0, are in line with the vision of PM Narendra Modi.
 - ✓ These schemes are designed to realize the aspiration of making all cities Garbage Free and Water Secure.
- **Ganga Rejuvenation programme**
 - ✓ The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) - declared the popular comic book character ‘Chacha Chaudhary’ as the mascot of the Namami Gange – Ganga Rejuvenation programme.
 - ✓ The NMCG has tied-up with Diamond Toons to develop and distribute comics, e-comics and animated videos.
- **‘PRANA’**
 - ✓ Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) - recently launched ‘PRANA’, a national portal to regulate air pollution
 - ✓ PRANA, meaning ‘Life’ in Sanskrit, is a portal for regulation of air pollution in 132 cities across the country.
- **Amazon Future Engineer**
 - ✓ The main goal of Amazon future engineers is to give students early exposure and access to computer science education through in-person contact, blended and online learning formats.
- **Tatas will own a 100% stake in” Air India”**
 - ✓ The Tatas will own a 100% stake in Air India, as also 100% in its international low-cost arm Air India Express and 50% in the ground handling joint venture, Air India SATS.
 - ✓ Apart from 141 aircraft and access to a network of 173 destinations, including 55 international ones
 - ✓ , Tatas will also have the ownership of iconic brands such as Air India, Indian Airlines and the Maharajah
- **‘Mission “Kavach Kundal”**
 - ✓ The state government of Maharashtra has launched a special Covid-19 vaccination drive named as Mission Kavach Kundal, with the target of inoculating 15 lakh people everyday
- **Health benefit Package under “Ayushman Bharat “revised.**
 - ✓ Ayushman Bharat, the health insurance scheme, will now offer a healthcare cover to transgender people and support sex-change operations.
 - ✓ The addition is part of the **National Health Authority’s (NHA)** revised Health Benefits Package, or HBP 2.2. The HBP 2.2 is expected to be rolled out from November, 2021.
 - ✓ Under the revised HBP 2.2, rates of health packages have been increased by 20 per cent to 400 per cent.

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) gives a medical cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for free treatment at all public and empanelled private hospitals for 53 crore beneficiaries.**
 - ✓ This benefit will now be extended to transgender people under the government's new scheme, Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE). The health cover will include medical support and medical intervention for transgender persons
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will virtually launch the Indian Space Association (ISpA)**
 - ✓ **Indian Space Association (ISpA)** is the premier industry association of space and satellite companies, representing the Indian space sector
 - ✓ During the event, the PM will also interact with representatives of the space industry on this occasion.
 - ✓ The ISpA will undertake policy decisions and engage with all stakeholders in the Indian space domain, including the government and its agencies.
- **Covaxin for 2 - 18 years**
 - ✓ The central drugs regulator's subject expert committee - approved the restricted emergency use (EUA) of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin in children and adolescents between 2 and 18 years of age
 - ✓ Covaxin is the second Covid-19 vaccine to be approved for emergency use among children in India after Zydus Healthcare's ZyCoV-D, meant for children above 12 years of age.
 - ✓ The indigenous vaccine will be administered in two doses, with a gap of 20 days between the first and second dose.
- **100 New Sainik Schools**
 - ✓ The Union Cabinet - approved the proposal to affiliate 100 new or existing schools in the Government and Private sector to the Sainik School Society, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Defence
- **PM Modi dedicates 7 new defence firms to the nation on Dussehra**
 - ✓ PM Narendra Modi dedicated the seven new defence companies to the nation on 15 Oct 2021 on the occasion of Vijayadashami.
 - ✓ The new companies are: Munitions India Limited (MIL);
 - ✓ Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI);
 - ✓ Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWE India);
 - ✓ Troop Comforts Limited (TCL);
 - ✓ Yantra India Limited (YIL);
 - ✓ India Optel Limited (IOL); and
 - ✓ Gliders India Limited (GIL).
- **'Good Samaritans'**
 - ✓ Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways - recently launched a reward scheme for 'Good Samaritans'
 - ✓ Under the scheme, a cash award of Rs 5,000 will be given to any individual who save the life of a road accident victim by rushing him/her to hospital within the 'golden hour' of the accident.
- **India - completed a vaccination milestone of 100 crore doses on 21st October 2021**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi on the day when the 100th crore vaccine shot was administered by S Christina to Arun Kumar Rai.
- **India's first Banni buffalo IVF calf born**
 - ✓ A "Banni" buffalo belonging to a dairy farmer **from Dhanej village in Gir Somnath** gave birth to an IVF male calf, in what the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying called the birth of the first calf of the breed born using in-vitro fertilisation (IVF).24-Oct-2021
- **Civil Aviation Minister launches Krishi UDAN 2.0**
 - ✓ The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched "Krishi Udan 2.0 scheme".
 - ✓ Under "Krishi Udan 2.0 scheme", cargo-related infrastructure will be built in airports of hilly, tribal, and north-east regions. Such infrastructure will help in assisting farmers to transport agriculture products.
 - ✓ Under **Krishi Udan 2.0**, central government has planned for granting full waiver of airport charges at select airports.
 - ✓ Waiver would be given even if agricultural cargo is lower than 50 per cent of total chargeable weight carried.
- **'Kushinagar Hub of Buddhist Tourist Circuit**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport in Uttar Pradesh, which will help connect key Buddhist pilgrimage sites.
 - ✓ Kushinagar is an important Buddhist pilgrim destination, and is believed to be the final resting place of Gautam Buddha.
- **Nechiphu Tunnel**
 - ✓ Union defense minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of the Nechiphu Tunnel on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **'Net zero' goal by 2070**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - committed India to becoming a 'carbon neutral' country through a 'net zero' goal by 2070 along with major targets on renewables and reductions in greenhouse gases by 2030.
 - ✓ This is the first time such a 'net zero' goal has been set for the country
- **5th edition of "Ganga Utsav 2021"**
 - ✓ The 5th edition of the three-day-long Ganga Utsav has been organised from November 01 to 03, 2021 in virtual format.
 - ✓ The "Ganga Utsav 2021 - The River Festival " will not only celebrate the glory of the river Ganga but all the rivers of the country to promote the celebration of 'Nadi Utsav' (River Festival).
 - ✓ The 2021 celebrations will be part of the 75 years of Independence and Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- **India-World Bank sign MoU - Strengthen Health Systems in Meghalaya**
 - ✓ Indian government and the World Bank have signed MoU for a \$40 million project for improving the quality of health services in Meghalaya.
- **SpaceX Incorporates Subsidiary in India**

- ✓ Elon Musk-owned SpaceX has incorporated its wholly-owned subsidiary in India on November 1, 2021 to start local broadband operations.
- ✓ The satellite broadband arm of SpaceX, Starlink, aims to start broadband services in India from December 2022. It has 2 lakh active terminals subject to permission from the Indian government.
- **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)**
- ✓ The Ministry of Rural Development – signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Walmart-owned Flipkart to bring more women businesses into the e-commerce fold.
- ✓ Flipkart, India’s homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has signed the agreement under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) on November 2.
- **Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)**
- ✓ The government - decided to restore the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).
- ✓ The scheme was suspended in April 2020 so that funds could be used in the fight against Covid-19 during the FY 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- ✓ An MP will get 2 crore for development activities for 2021-22.
- ✓ From the next financial year, the stipulated annual grant of 5 crore will be given to each MP.
- **Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme**
- ✓ Union Cabinet approves higher ethanol prices under Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme.
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on November 10, 2021, cleared higher ethanol prices derived from different sugarcane-based raw materials for sugar season 2020-21 under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme to facilitate setting up advanced biofuel refineries in India.
- **Bhumi Samvaad**
- ✓ The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh has inaugurated ‘Bhumi Samvaad’.
- ✓ It is a national workshop on the digital India land record modernization programme.
- **Centre to Roll Back Three Farm Laws**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that his government will repeal the three contentious agricultural laws and requested protesting farmers to go back to their fields and homes.
- **The Three Contentious Bills:**
- ✓ The Farmer’s Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020.
- ✓ The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.
- ✓ The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill.
- **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 (PESA)**
- ✓ The Centre - has asked Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha to expedite notification and implementation of the rules of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 (PESA).
- ✓

- **India's Cleanest City**
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh's Indore city has been declared as India's cleanest city for 5th time in a row under the Centre's Swachh Survekshan 2021 on 20 November 2021.
- ✓ Surat (Gujarat) and Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh) grabbed the second and third positions respectively.
- ✓ Among Indian states, Chhattisgarh has bagged top position as the country's cleanest state.

- **Bharat Gaurav" Trains**
- ✓ The Indian Railways - has decided to allow travel and tour operators, state tourism entities and any interested party to run theme-based "Bharat Gaurav" trains.
- ✓ They can run these trains on any route of their choice and will be free to determine the fares as well.

- **Primary Health Care in India**
- ✓ The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed loan agreement worth \$300 million on November 23, 2021 to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas.
The programme will be implemented in urban areas across 13 states.

- **Noida International Airport**
- ✓ On November 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - laid the foundation stone for the Noida International Airport at Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The airport, which would be one of the largest in Asia, is located at about 72 kilometres of the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- ✓ The first phase of the airport is scheduled to be completed by 2024.
- ✓ It will also be India's first net zero emissions airport.

- **Wage Rate Index (WRI)**
- ✓ Union Labour Ministry has released the new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year 2016=100, which will replace the old series with a base of 1963-65 =100.
The government periodically revises the base year for major economic indicators to reflect the changes in the economy and to capture the wage pattern of workers.

- **World's Tallest Pier Bridge**
- ✓ The Indian Railways is constructing the tallest pier railway bridge of the world in Manipur.
- ✓ The bridge is being built at a height of 141 metres.

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- ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - released the 10th installment of financial benefit under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme on January 1, 2022.
- ✓ The scheme, funded entirely by the Government of India, aims to provide financial support to poor and marginalised farmers.
- ✓
- ✓ **Padhe Bharat**

- ✓ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan - launched a 100-day reading campaign 'Padhe Bharat' on January 1, 2022.
- ✓ The launch of the reading campaign is in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which provides importance to the promotion of joyful reading culture for children.
- ✓
- ✓ **Kalpana Chawla Space Science Research Centre**
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science and Technology (KCCRSST) at Chandigarh University on January 03, 2022.
- ✓
- ✓ **25th National Youth Festival**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - chose Puducherry to hold the 25th National Youth Festival.
- ✓ The Prime Minister is expected to inaugurate the festival and address the youth.
- ✓ The festival will be held under the theme, 'Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva' meaning 'Capable Youth, Strong Youth' from January 12 to 16, 2022.
- ✓
- ✓ **One District-One Product**
- ✓ Food Processing Industries Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras has launched six brands developed as part of the 'One District-One Product' approach.
- ✓ They were launched under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME) in New Delhi on 5 Jan 2022.
- ✓
- ✓ **The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF)**
- ✓ The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India have entered into a partnership to enhance the effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (formerly mid-day meal scheme).
- ✓ India was strategically important for School Meals Coalition that was launched in 2020 with WFP as a coordinating body, as it implemented the largest school feeding programme in the world.
- ✓
- ✓ **Green Energy Corridor Phase 2**
- ✓ The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the Green Energy Corridor phase 2 with an outlay of Rs. 12,000 crores.
- ✓ The second phase of the Scheme will help in achieving the target of 450 GW installed Renewable Energy capacity by 2030.
- ✓
- ✓ **Vaccination Programme**
- ✓ On January 7, India - has reached the historic milestone of administering *150 crore vaccine doses* to its citizens in its vaccination programme.
- ✓ According to health ministry, over 91% of the adult population has received at least one dose, while over 66% have been fully vaccinated.
- ✓
- ✓ **National Water Awards-2020**
- ✓ UP tops in 'Best State Category' in National Water Awards-2020.
- ✓ The 3rd National Water Awards-2020 was announced on January 7, 2022, by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh has secured top position in the 'Best State Category', followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
- ✓

✓ **Introduction Of Cheetah In India**

- ✓ The Union government announced an action plan for adopting Cheetah in India on 5 January.
- ✓ During the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the environment ministry issued the "Action Plan for Adoption of Cheetah in India."
- ✓ In India, 50 cheetahs would be introduced over the next five years as part of the action plan.

✓ **Veer Bal Diwas**

- ✓ On January 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced the government decision to observe December 26 as 'Veer Bal Diwas' in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh's sons.

✓ **Cleanest Medium City**

- ✓ Noida has bagged the Cleanest Medium City in Swachh Survekshan 2021.
- ✓ It is an annual survey of hygiene, cleanliness, and sanitation in India.

✓ **The Republic Day celebrations**

- ✓ The Republic Day celebrations - will now begin every year from January 23 instead of January 24 to include the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- ✓ The advancement by a day is in line with the government's focus on commemorating important aspects of India's history and culture.
- ✓ Last year, the Centre had decided to observe Netaji's birth anniversary on January 23 as "Parakram Diwas".

✓ **World's Largest Khadi National Flag**

- ✓ The world's largest national flag, made of Khadi fabric was put to display to celebrate the "Army Day" on January 15, 2022.
- ✓ It was displayed at Longewala, along the India - Pakistan Border in Jaisalmer. Longewala was the centre stage of the historic battle of 1971 between India and Pakistan.

✓ **National Technical Textiles Mission**

- ✓ Government clears 20 projects under National Technical Textiles Mission.
- ✓ The Ministry of Textiles has cleared 20 strategic research projects worth 30 crores in the areas of specialty fibers and geotextiles.
- ✓ These strategic research projects fall under the government's flagship program 'National Technical Textiles Mission.'

✓ **Collarwali Tigress**

- ✓ India's "Supermom" tigress, popularly known as 'Collarwali', has passed away at Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Madhya Pradesh, due to old age.
- ✓ 'Collarwali' tigress was known for giving birth to 29 cubs during her lifetime. It is believed to be a world record.
- ✓ She gained the Collarwali title as she became the first tigress in the park to be fitted with a radio collar in 2008.

✓ **National Commission For Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for three years beyond 31.3.2022.
- ✓ The total implication of the extension for three years would be approximately Rs.43.68 crore.

✓ The major beneficiaries would be the Safai Karamcharis and identified manual scavengers in the country since the NCSK for 3 more years beyond 31.3.2022. The number of Manual Scavengers identified under the MS Act Survey as on 31.12.2021 is 58098.

✓

✓ **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**

✓ On January 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced that he would unveil a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate on January 23, the 125th birth anniversary of the legendary freedom fighter.

✓ On the day, a special programme will be held to honour the winners of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Apada Prabandhan Award, which is given to recognise the contributions in the area of disaster management.

✓

✓ **Tiger Reserve Status**

✓ The Centre - has given its approval of granting tiger reserve status to three new sites and agreed in-principle to give its nod to two more.

✓ These five new sites are expected to be formally declared tiger reserves (TR) in India by the end of this year, taking the total number of tiger reserves to 56.

✓ All 5 new sites are expected to be formally notified before Global Tiger Summit which is to be held at Vladivostok.

✓ Srivilliputhur Meghamalai in Tamil Nadu was the last one (51st) that was formally notified as a tiger reserve in 2021.

✓

✓ **Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI)**

✓ Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh - released the revised Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI) Guidelines prepared by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on January 20, 2022

✓ The release of RADPFI guidelines would supplement the efforts of the Centre such as the SVAMITVA scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj and RURBAN Mission of Ministry of Rural Development and facilitate better utilisation of Geospatial information.

✓

✓ **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)**

✓ Banaras Hindu University (BHU) - has become the first university in the country to introduce "Hindu dharma" in its regular curriculum.

✓ The university has started a two-year postgraduate course in Hindu studies, which is an interdisciplinary programme, in line with the New Education Policy 2020

✓ This is the first such course offered by any university in the country.

✓

✓ **Parakram Diwas**

✓ 23 January 2022, marked the 125th birth anniversary of freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

✓ The day will also be celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas' from 2022 onward.

✓

✓ **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**

✓ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) - launched Season 2 of India Cycles4Change challenge and Streets4People Challenge in an online event.

✓ Under the 'Streets for people Challenge', 38 cities innovated important streets each by prioritizing them for pedestrians.

✓ The Smart Cities Mission has been organising inter-city challenges since 2020, for making public spaces more people-friendly.

✓ These challenges are organised in line with "2006 National Urban Transport Policy".

- ✓ **Abide With Me Hymn**
- ✓ The song "Abide with me" is traditionally sung during the Republic Day procession is replaced by Kavi Pradeep's "Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon."
- ✓ It was written during the India-China war by Kavi Pradeep. It was first sung by Lata Mangeshkar on 27 January 1963. It was composed by C Ramachandra.
- ✓
- ✓ **R-Day Celebration**
- ✓ Flypast and State tableaux mark R-Day celebration at Rajpath.
- ✓ First woman Rafale fighter jet pilot Shivangi Singh was part of IAF turnout.
- ✓ **Drone Certification Scheme**
- ✓ On January 26, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) - notified a drone certification scheme to make certification of drones simpler, faster and transparent.
- ✓ The drone certification scheme was notified under Rule 7 of the liberalized Drone Rules, 2021.
- ✓ The move is in line with Centre's bid to make India the "drone hub of the world" by 2030.
- ✓
- ✓ **6% of MSMEs Owned by SC Entrepreneurs**
- ✓ Maharashtra tops India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes with as many as 96,805 enterprises.
- ✓ The proportion of enterprises owned by Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs in the overall national tally of MSMEs is 6%.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu with 42,997 enterprises and Rajasthan with 38,517 units occupy the second and third slots, according to the number of SC-owned enterprises covered under the Udyam system of registration.
- ✓
- ✓ **Villages of Excellence**
- ✓ India to convert 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence.'
- ✓ The Centre has decided to convert as many as 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 states with technical assistance from the Israeli government.
- ✓
- ✓ **Spice Exchange Portal**
- ✓ The Spice Board of India - recently launched the Spice Exchange Portal, which will connect the Indian spice exporters with buyers from all over the world.
- ✓ The spicexchangeindia.com is a 3D virtual platform created exclusively for spice exports.
- ✓ The first-of-its-kind platform was developed by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ **India's First Geological Park**
- ✓ The first 'geological' park of country will be built at Lamheta village on the banks of river Narmada in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Approval for the park has been granted by Geological Survey of India, under ministry of mining.
- ✓ Significantly, this site is already present in the tentative list of UNESCO's geo-heritage for the protection of natural heritage.
- ✓
- ✓ **Union Budget**
- ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 1 February 2022 presented the Union budget 2022-2023.

- ✓ The government has decided to levy 30% tax, the highest tax band in the country, on income arising out of the sale of digital assets.
- ✓ Digital rupee will be issued using blockchain technology by the RBI starting 2022-23.
- ✓
- ✓ **Budget: e-Passports**
- ✓ The government will issue e-passports in the financial year 2022-23.
- ✓ The e-passport will use Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) and biometrics to verify the identity.
- ✓
- ✓ **Budget 2022-23**
- ✓ The Centre will be launching a National Tele Mental Health program.
- ✓ A record 25,000 km of National Highways will be built.
- ✓ A National Master Plan on Expressways will be formulated in 2022-23, to facilitate faster movement of people and goods.
- ✓ Around 68% of the capital procurement budget for Defence has been earmarked for domestic industry to promote Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ✓
- ✓ **Union Budget - 2022-23**
- ✓ On February 1, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman - presented the Union Budget for 2022-23 and tabled the Finance Bill 2022 to the Parliament.
- ✓ The Union Budget focused on 4 pillars of development - PM Gati Shakti, investment financing, productivity enhancement, energy transition and climate action
- ✓ During her speech, the FM announced laying the foundation for "Amrit Kaal", a new term for the 25-year period in the run-up to India at 100.
- ✓
- ✓ **Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022**
- ✓ The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India has announced the "Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022".
- ✓ It has been launched under its "Waste to Wealth" Mission.
- ✓ It will empower young innovators who are engaged in community work of waste management, waste awareness campaigns, etc. as Swachhta Saarthis and implement actions to reduce waste for a greener planet.
- ✓
- ✓ **Sagarmala Scheme**
- ✓ The Union government - has announced to develop Puducherry port in three phases at a cost of 304.8 crore under the Sagarmala scheme to utilize it as a feeder port for Chennai port.
- ✓ As per the Union Minister, Chennai Port Trust and Puducherry Port Department signed a memorandum of understanding in March 2017 with the approval of the Union shipping ministry to utilize port in Puducherry as a feeder port to Chennai port.
- ✓
- ✓ **Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures" (OECM)**
- ✓ The Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, Haryana - has been declared as India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site.
- ✓ This was informed by the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change on the occasion of World Wetlands Day on February 2.
- ✓
- ✓ **Statue Of Equality**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality' commemorating the 11th-century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya and dedicated to the nation the 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad.
- ✓
- ✓ **Indradhanush 4.0**
- ✓ On February 7, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya - virtually launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0.
- ✓ The fourth round of the Universal Immunisation Programme aims to protect children and pregnant women from life-threatening diseases.
- ✓ Under this world's largest inoculation drive, annually over 3 crore pregnant women and 2.6 crore children are covered.
- ✓
- ✓ **Operation AAHT**
- ✓ The Railway Protection Force has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking. As part of "Operation AAHT", special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- ✓ The Railways, which operate about 21,000 trains across the country daily, is the most reliable mode of transportation for the traffickers who often move their victims on long-distance trains.
- ✓
- ✓ **Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray (NONS)**
- ✓ On February 9, Glenmark pharmaceuticals - launched the first ever nasal spray in India to treat high-risk adult patients suffering from Covid-19.
- ✓ The high-risk patients include non-vaccinated patients, patients in the middle and older age group and patients with co-morbidities.
- ✓ The company has launched Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray (NONS), named FabiSpray, in partnership with Canadian pharmaceutical company SaNOtize Research & Development Corp.
- ✓
- ✓ **Biomass-Based Hydrogen Plant**
- ✓ India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up at the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Everyday this plant will produce one tonne of hydrogen, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock.
- ✓
- ✓ **Indian Railways Management Service (IRMS)**
- ✓ On February 9, the Centre - formally notified the unification of eight services related to Indian Railways under the Central Civil Services into the newly created Group 'A' Central service called 'Indian Railways Management Service' (IRMS).
- ✓ With the unification, railways is left with just two departments, namely the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Medical Service Department (MSD).
- ✓
- ✓ **Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH)**
- ✓ Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) - announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative.
- ✓ The tie-up seeks to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions.

- ✓
- ✓ **PMKSY till March 2026**
- ✓ The 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till March 2026.
- ✓ The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- ✓ The scheme aims for the overall growth and development of the food processing sector.
- ✓
- ✓ **100th Textile Train**
- ✓ The Mumbai Central Division of the Western Railway zone - has achieved a milestone of operating the 100th Textile train in the country.
- ✓ The textile trains are significant for textile market of Surat region because they are economical, faster and safer mode of transport.
- ✓
- ✓ **Section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act**
- ✓ On February 14, the government - has blocked 54 Chinese apps under Section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act over privacy, security, and espionage concerns.
- ✓ The request for blocking of apps was received from the home ministry under an emergency provision in the Information Technology Act.
- ✓
- ✓ **New Frontiers Program**
- ✓ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to host "New Frontiers" program.
- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is conducting a program on renewable energy namely "New Frontiers" as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ✓ A meeting on "Roadmap to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070" will be held on 18 Feb.
- ✓
- ✓ **Digital Maps of all Villages**
- ✓ India plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities.
- ✓ An ongoing scheme, piloted by the Panchayati Raj Ministry, called SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2020.
- ✓
- ✓ **National Hydrogen Policy**
- ✓ India will launch the first part of the National Hydrogen Policy on 17 February 2022.
- ✓ The policy is aimed at boosting green hydrogen production in the country.
- ✓
- ✓ **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)**
- ✓ The Centre - to soon roll out the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) to drastically reduce logistics costs and make Indian goods competitive.
- ✓ The Platform aims to integrate about 24 logistics systems across 6 ministries and departments to provide real time data to all stakeholders and ensure efficient movement of goods through different modes.
- ✓
- ✓ **Biosafety Level-3 Mobile Laboratory**
- ✓ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has announced that India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory was launched in Nashik, Maharashtra, on 18 Feb 2022.
- ✓ It has been set up to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections that are highly infectious and of lethal potential to human beings.
- ✓ It has been designed by the Indian Council of Medical Research.
- ✓

- ✓ **India's First Water Taxi Service**
- ✓ India's first water taxi service was inaugurated in Maharashtra on Thursday connecting the Navi Mumbai area to mainland Mumbai.
- ✓ Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated the Belapur jetty while Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbanand Sonowal flagged off the service.
- ✓
- ✓ **Kisan Drones**
- ✓ On February 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – virtually flagged off 100 'Kisan drones' for spraying pesticides and farm chemicals in different cities and towns of India.
- ✓ He also addressed a group of farmers gathered at Manesar near Gurgaon, from where the "Drone Kisan Yatra" was flagged off.
- ✓ The PM labelled it as a "milestone" for Indian agriculture and said new technologies would bring a "world of opportunities for farmers and youth"
- ✓
- ✓ **Asia's Biggest Bio-CNG plant**
- ✓ Prime Minister on 19 February 2022 inaugurated Asia's biggest Bio-CNG plant in Madhya Pradesh's Indore via video conferencing.
- ✓ The PM said that the work is on to set up similar gobar dhan Bio-CNG plants in 75 big municipal bodies across the country in the next two years.
- ✓ The campaign will help a lot in making India's cities clean, pollution free, clean energy.
- ✓
- ✓ **Integrated Plant Nutrition Management Bill**
- ✓ The fertiliser ministry - has proposed to bring an 'Integrated Plant Nutrition Management Bill' to promote the use of bio fertilisers and non-chemical fertilisers.
- ✓ In the proposed Bill, the ministry has recommended the setting up of a regulatory body to control prices, supply and import of fertiliser
- ✓ As per the draft Bill, the Centre may fix the maximum price at which fertilisers would be sold.
- ✓
- ✓ **India Tourism Vision Document 2035**
- ✓ Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) has released the FAITH 2035 vision document.
- ✓ It contains goals and an execution path for making Indian tourism preferred and loved by the world by the year 2035.
- ✓ The vision document has been launched commemorating the 75th year of Indian independence.
- ✓
- ✓ **Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate Programme**
- ✓ Union Ministry of Science and Technology has selected three institutions in Madhya Pradesh to organise this programme.
- ✓ It is a week-long, nationwide programme of competitions and lectures for school students and collegians.
- ✓ The Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate programme was launched with the aim of attracting students to scientific knowledge of articles of daily use.
- ✓
- ✓ **Signature Tune of Vande Bharatam**
- ✓ In a celebration under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the event on International Mother Language Day named "Ekam Bharatam" along with a cultural evening was hosted by the Ministry of Culture at IGNCA, Delhi on 22nd February 2022.

- ✓ The signature tune for “Vande Bharatam” composed by Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej and Oscar contender Bickram Ghosh was released by Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi.
- ✓
- ✓ **Draft India Data Accessibility & Use Policy, 2022**
- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) - has released the draft data policy titled as, “Draft India Data Accessibility & Use Policy, 2022” for public consultations and feedback.
- ✓ This policy is seen as an upgrade to the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) and the Open Government Data Platform India.
- ✓
- ✓ **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**
- ✓ On February 26, the Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi - approved the nationwide roll-out of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) with a five-year budget of 1,600 crore.
- ✓ The Digital Mission was one of focus areas of Union Budget 2022-23
- ✓ It aims to create an online platform to enable interoperability of health data within the health ecosystem.
- ✓
- ✓ **Photovoltaic Plant**
- ✓ Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) - has installed a 1.7 MW solar photovoltaic plant at Bina in Madhya Pradesh for the Indian Railways.
- ✓ This is the first such Solar Power Plant commissioned on the Indian Railways network to directly feed power to traction systems.
- ✓ To become ‘Net Zero Carbon Emission’ Rail Network, the Indian Railways had developed plans to set up 20 GW capacity solar power plants by utilizing its vacant land by 2030.
- ✓
- ✓ **Operation Ganga**
- ✓ On February 27, 2022, the ministry of external affairs set up 24×7 control centres in order to assist the evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine.
- ✓ India also launched a multi-prong evacuation plan titled ‘Operation Ganga’.
- ✓ **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)**
- ✓ Union Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Minister Dr Jitendra Singh - launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) virtually on the occasion of National Science Day 2022.
- ✓ It would undertake activities related to international monsoon research that would be identified under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.
- ✓
- ✓ **Arogya Vanam**
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a hub of medicinal herbs and plants ‘Arogya Vanam’ at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and First Lady Savita Kovind in New Delhi on March 1, 2022.
- ✓ The objective of this Arogya Vanam is promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on human body.
- ✓
- ✓ **Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates**
- ✓ The Centre - has approved the proposal for continuation of the seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme ‘Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates’.

- ✓ The approval has been given for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs.1,452 crore.
- ✓ The scheme enables migrants and repatriates to earn a reasonable income and to facilitate their inclusion in mainstream economic activities.
- ✓
- ✓ **Stree Manoraksha Project**
- ✓ The 'Stree Manoraksha Project' has been launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru.
- ✓ This was launched with the aim to improve women's mental health across India.
- ✓
- ✓ **Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav**
- ✓ The government - launched a new nation-wide campaign 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav' on the eve of the International Women's Day.
- ✓ The campaign is being launched by the Ministry of women and child development (MoWCD) in partnership with the ministry of education (MoE) and Unicef India.
- ✓ It aims to bring out-of-school girls back into the formal education system through a convergence model between MoWCD and MoE.
- ✓ The campaign has been launched with the objective of enhancing enrolment and retention of an estimated four lakh out-of-school adolescent girls between 11-14 years of age in school.
- ✓
- ✓ **Prasar Bharati**
- ✓ India's public service broadcaster Prasar Bharati - has tied up with the Over the Top platform, Yupp TV.
- ✓ The agreement between Yupp TV and Prasar Bharati is part of the broadcaster's "vision" to expand the global reach of Doordarshan's DD India and to showcase India's culture and values to the world.
- ✓ With the tie-up, DD India is now available on the OTT platform of Yupp TV in the USA, UK, Europe, Middle East, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.
- ✓
- ✓ **SAMARTH**
- ✓ Entrepreneurship promotion drive for women - "SAMARTH" launched.
- ✓ Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane launched a special entrepreneurship promotion drive for women -"SAMARTH", on 7 March 2022 in New Delhi.
- ✓ It will provide them an opportunity to be self-reliant and independent by undertaking self-employment opportunities.
- ✓
- ✓ **'Donate a Pension' Scheme**
- ✓ The Union Labour and Employment Ministry on Monday launched the "donate a pension" scheme allowing any citizen to pay the premium amount on behalf of an unorganised worker under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme.
- ✓ The pension scheme, which was launched in 2019, allows unorganised sector workers between the age of 18 and 40, who earn up to 15,000 a month, to enroll by paying a premium amount between 55 and 200, depending on the age, that would be matched by the government.
- ✓ On reaching the age of 60, the beneficiaries would get a 3,000 monthly pension. As of March 3, the scheme had 46.34 lakh enrollments, according to the Labour Ministry's portal.
- ✓
- ✓ **Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY)**

- ✓ The Centre has approved an allocation of Rs 3,274.87 crore for the continuation of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY), under which freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given pension and other financial benefits, till 2025-26.
- ✓ The decision shows the commitment of the government to remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters and take inspiration from them during the year of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ✓
- ✓ **Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act**
- ✓ On March 9, the government - approved an amendment to the second schedule of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act
- ✓ The amendment seeks to fix royalty rates of minerals such as potash, emerald and platinum group of metals.
- ✓ It would also ensure the auction of mineral blocks for glauconite, potash, emerald, platinum group of metals, andalusite, and molybdenum.
- ✓ The move would lead to a reduction in imports of these minerals.
- ✓
- ✓ **MSME Innovative Scheme**
- ✓ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) - launched the MSME Innovative scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR) and the MSME Idea Hackathon 2022.
- ✓ The new innovation scheme will be launched with the combination of existing sub-schemes around incubation, design, and intellectual property rights (IPR) for MSMEs. **Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Tatyra Rane**, launched the scheme on March 10.
- ✓
- ✓ **National Medical Devices Policy 2022**
- ✓ On March 12, the government - released the draft policy exclusively for the medical devices industry, which is currently regulated as medicines.
- ✓ The proposed National Medical Devices Policy 2022 aims to put in place a comprehensive set of measures for ensuring sustained growth and development of the MedTech Sector
- ✓ The medical devices sector in India is an essential and integral constituent of the Indian healthcare sector for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of all medical conditions, diseases, illnesses, and disabilities.
- ✓
- ✓ **Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences**
- ✓ Union Minister for Space Jitendra Singh - inaugurated the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences at the Central University of Jammu on March 12.
- ✓ This is North India's first big space centre and the country's second-of-its-kind space training institute after the Thiruvananthapuram hub.
- ✓
- ✓ **National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC)**
- ✓ The Union Cabinet - approved recently the setting up of the National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) to monetise surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other agencies linked to the Government.
- ✓ The fully wholly owned government of India company, coming under the Ministry of Finance, will fast track the monetisation of land and non-core assets of public sector entities.
- ✓
- ✓ **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM)**
- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has approved recently the establishment of a WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

- ✓ This would be the first and only global outposted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.
- ✓ The deal for setting up the centre was done between the Government of India and the World Health Organization (WHO) by signing a Host Country agreement.
- ✓
- ✓ **Detailed Project Reports' (DPRs)**
- ✓ On March 14, the Centre - announced a plan to rejuvenate 13 rivers spread across 24 states and two Union territories, through forestry intervention.
- ✓ In this regard, Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav jointly released 'detailed project reports' (DPRs) of 13 rivers with Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- ✓ Under the proposed plan, various afforestation programmes and related activities will be taken up in the catchment areas of these rivers.
- ✓
- ✓ **Steel Slag Road**
- ✓ The country's first 'steel slag road' - has come up in Surat, after the successful completion of the 1.2 km six-lane connectivity stretch of the Hazira Port.
- ✓ The new technique will also pave the way for utilisation of huge mounds of steel slag lying as waste across the country.
- ✓ This research project under the steel ministry was sponsored by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel under the technical guidance of the Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI).
- ✓
- ✓ **Four-Year-Undergraduate Programme (FYUP)**
- ✓ On March 17, the University Grants Commission (UGC) - released the new four-year-undergraduate programme (FYUP) and the revised PhD regulations.
- ✓ As per the new guidelines, the 160-credit FYUP will replace the present three-year choice-based credit system (CBCS) and enable students to directly join PhD programmes upon completion of four-year degree programmes.
- ✓
- ✓ **Sujalam 2.0**
- ✓ On March 22, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - has launched the Sujalam 2.0 campaign for greywater management through video conference.
- ✓ The campaign was launched by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti to mark the World Water Day, 2022.
- ✓ Under the Campaign, government will mobilize communities, panchayats, schools, anganwadis to undertake greywater management.
- ✓
- ✓ **220 New Airports by 2025**
- ✓ Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia stated that the Government has set a target of building 220 new airports by 2025, citing the Civil Aviation industry as a critical component of India's economy.
- ✓ In response to the Civil Aviation Ministry's requests for grants for 2022-23, Scindia stated that India has made progress in both domestic and foreign travel during the COVID-19 period.
- ✓
- ✓ **National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (Nalsar)**
- ✓ The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (Nalsar) in Hyderabad - is set to become India's first fully gender-neutral educational institution.
- ✓ It has introduced a policy of inclusive education for gender and sexual minorities.
- ✓ As part of its policy, the law school would have gender-neutral hostels, leading the way for inclusive campuses for the LGBTQ+ community.

- ✓
- ✓ **India's First 'Steel Road'**
- ✓ Gujarat's Surat has got the first 'steel road' which is made up of steel waste on 27 March 2022.
- ✓ The project is sponsored by the Council Of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI).
- ✓ Under the initiative of the Waste to Wealth and Clean India Campaign, the undertaking is 1 kilometre long and has six lanes.
- ✓
- ✓ **'Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills' (Tejas)**
- ✓ Information & broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur launched an international project by name 'Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills' (Tejas).
- ✓ The new project aimed at creating pathways to enable the Indian workforce to be equipped with the skills needed to meet market requirements in the UAE.
- ✓ Tejas aims at creating a 10,000-strong Indian workforce in the UAE during the initial phase.
- ✓
- ✓ **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill 2022**
- ✓ The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022 was introduced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the Lok Sabha on March 28, 2022.
- ✓ The bill aims to authorise the police to take measurements of convicts and other detained persons for the purposes of their identifications and investigations in criminal matters to preserve records.
- ✓
- ✓ **National Water Awards**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu - secured third prize in the best state category of the National Water Awards instituted by the Union Jal Shakti ministry.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan got the first and second prizes, ahead of TN in the best state category for exemplary work in management of water resources.
- ✓
- ✓ **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign 2022**
- ✓ On March 29, President Ram Nath Kovind - presented the 3rd National Water Awards and launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The campaign focuses on water conservation and aims to solve intensifying water crisis in the country for the period from 29 March, 2022 to 30 November, 2022.

SCHEMES

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 launched

- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana's third phase (PMKVY 3.0) will focus on training eight lakh candidates during the scheme period of 2020-2021 with an outlay of Rs. 948.90 crore.
- ✓ The **third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** was launched on January 15, 2021 in 600 districts across all states of India.
- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme.
 - ✓ The main aim behind the scheme is to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **PMAY-Award**
 - ✓ Puducherry - has bagged the award for the 'Best Performing Union Territory in India' for Implementing the PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) Scheme
 - ✓ This is the second time Puducherry has been selected for excellence in implementation of PMAY.
 - ✓ PMAY is an affordable housing scheme implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **Start-up India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**
 - ✓ The Startup Indian Seed Fund Scheme will provide financial assistance up to Rs 20 lakhs to startups, and will be disbursed through selected incubators.
 - ✓ The Rs 945 crore schemes will be in mission mode for the year 2021-25.
- **TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India)**
 - ✓ Ministry of Tribal Affairs is set to partner with NITI Aayog for implementation of **Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK)** initiative under Van Dhan Yojna in 39 Tribal Aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog.
 - ✓ These include districts in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana and Tripura
- **Samagra Siksha Scheme**
 - ✓ Cabinet approves **Samagra Shiksha** scheme extension till March 2026.

- ✓ The Samagra Shiksha scheme, which has been extended till March 2026, will have a financial outlay of ₹2.94 lakh crore, including a Central share of ₹1.85 lakh crore.,

➤ **“Atma Nirbhar Naari Shakti Se Samvad” programme**

- ✓ Nalla Panjampatti Plastic Recycling Centre (shredder), Dindigul, was among the five SHGs selected from across the country to interact with the Prime Minister.
- ✓ Panjampatti has been recycling plastic they collect from the village and the shredded plastic is used for laying roads

‘Saath’

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched a Rural Enterprises Acceleration Programme titled ‘Saath’ for Self Help Group (SHG) women.



SVAMITVA Scheme

- Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Giriraj Singh inaugurated a national meet on SVAMITVA Scheme:
- ✓ A Stepping-Stone Towards Upliftment of Rural Economy in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ SVAMITVA is aimed to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India leveraging property as a financial asset by the citizens with accurate land records for rural planning.
- **NEP (National Education Policy -2020) drafting committee chairperson K Kasturirangan**
- ✓ The Union education ministry has formed a 12-member committee to develop new curriculums for school, early childhood, teacher and adult education.
 - ✓ The panel tasked with developing four national curriculum frameworks (NCFs) will be headed by **National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) drafting committee chairperson K Kasturirangan**.

NMCG and SAIARD

- ✓ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) signed an MoU with South Asian Institute for Advanced Research and Development (SAIARD) to create **an academic platform to engage young students as well as develop** a research and capacity building hub to support regional development in the eastern region.

➤ **SAMBHAV**

- ✓ The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched an e-National Level Awareness Programme ‘SAMBHAV’.

➤ **“Dairy Sahakar” Scheme**

- ✓ Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah, launched the Dairy Sahakar Scheme on October 31, 2021. Scheme was launched at Anand, Gujarat with the objective of doubling farmer’s income and making a Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ✓ The scheme was launched with a total investment budget of Rs 5000 crore.

➤ **Ayushman CAPF Health Card Scheme**

- ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah on November 3, 2021, launched the Ayushman CAPF scheme health cards at the national level in New Delhi.

- ✓ The Ayushman CAPF scheme aims at offering coverage to serving personnel and their dependents across the seven Central Armed Police Forces.
- **O-SMART**
- ✓ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the continuation of umbrella scheme called “Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)” for the period of 2021-26.
- ✓ The O-SMART is a government scheme, launched on August 29, 2018 with the aim of promoting ocean research and setting early warning weather systems.

SCHEMES - 2022

- **Mission Vatsalya**
- ✓ Government implements 'Mission Vatsalya' for rehabilitation of children.
- ✓ The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Centrally sponsored 'Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme - 'Mission Vatsalya.'
- ✓ It is for rehabilitation of children in difficult circumstances including, orphan and destitute children.
- **Parvatmala Scheme**
- ✓ The Union Finance Minister in the Union Budget for 2022-23 announced National Ropeways Development Programme - “Parvatmala” to improve connectivity in hilly areas.
- ✓ The idea is to improve connectivity and convenience for commuters, besides promoting tourism.
- **SMILE**
- ✓ The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment will launch the scheme “SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise” on 12 February 2022.
- ✓ There are 2 sub-schemes under this - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons' and 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'.
- **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)**
- ✓ On February 16, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar - launched the “Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)” for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the government seeks to provide free coaching to students for civil services examinations, competitive exams for admission to professional courses; health insurance; livelihood support and housing.
- **New India Literacy Programme**
- ✓ Government has approved a new scheme “New India Literacy Programme” for the period 2022-2027.
- ✓ It will cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22.
- ✓ The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all states/UTs in the country.

➤ **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme**

- ✓ Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) will continue its operation of funding the state government universities and colleges till March 31, 2026.
- ✓ The scheme aims to achieve equity, access, and excellence.
- ✓ Under the new phase, state governments will be able to go for gender inclusion, equity initiatives, etc. through vocationalisation and skill upgradation.

➤ **Maternity Benefit Scheme**

- ✓ The government's recent announcement that the maternity benefit programme which provides 5,000 for first child will be extended to cover the second child only if it is a girl has met with sharp criticism from activists who have demanded that it be universalised.
- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), launched in 2017, provides 5,000 for the birth of the first child to partially compensate a woman for loss of wages.
- ✓ It also aims to improve the nutritional well-being of the mother and the child. The amount is given in three instalments upon meeting certain conditions. It is combined with another scheme, Janani Suraksha Yojana, under which nearly 1,000 is given for an institutional birth, so that a woman gets a total of 6,000.

➤ **Meri Policy, Mere Haath**

- ✓ Centre will launch Meri Policy Mere Haath, a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers.
- ✓ The aim of the drive is to make farmers aware about their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana (PMFBY).

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Five Eyes intelligence alliance**

- ✓ Japan - to join the Five Eyes intelligence alliance network, comprising of five nations namely Australia, Canada, Britain, US and New Zealand.
- ✓ The Five Eyes network countries were created to respond against the increasing threats by China and North Korea.
- ✓ They are parties to multilateral UK-USA Agreement, which was a treaty of joint cooperation in signals intelligence

➤ **Elon Musk's SpaceX**

- ✓ It has recently announced the plan to launch its first all civilian mission to the space.
- ✓ The mission has been named as Inspiration4 and it will be launched on a Falcon 9 rocket
- ✓ SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket will launch the Crew Dragon spacecraft into low Earth orbit.

➤ **"Arrow-4"**

- ✓ Arrow or Hetz refers to the family of anti-ballistic missiles

➤ **Loneliness minister**

- ✓ Japan - has appointed the first ever Minister for Loneliness amidst the increasing suicide rates due to the current pandemic situation

➤ **World's First 'Energy Island' to be built by Denmark**

- ✓ Denmark on Feb 4, 2021, approved a plan of constructing the world's first energy field island in the North Sea.

➤ **South Korea plans to construct world's largest offshore wind farm**

- ✓ South Korea plans to build an **8.2GW offshore wind farm** in Jeonnam province by 2030.

☐☐ **Lunar Space Station**

☐☐ China and Russia - have signed a planetary pact to set up a joint lunar space station

☐☐ Under the collaboration, Russia's first modern lunar lander called —Luna 25| has been scheduled to be launched on October 1, 2021.

☐☐ In 2020, China has launched the Tianwen-1 probe to Mars which is currently orbiting the Red Planet.

➤ **Python - 5 Israeli short range missile**

- ✓ The DRDO - test-fired successfully the Israeli short-range weapon Python-5 air-to-air missile from the indigenous Tejas light combat aircraft at Goa.

➤ **'Tiangong'-chinese space station**

- ✓ China - launched an unmanned module for its proposed permanent space station called 'Tiangong'
- ✓ China plans to complete its own space station by the end of 2022
- ✓ The module, named "Tianhe", or "Harmony of the Heavens", was launched on the Long March 5B, China's largest carrier rocket, from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre on the southern island of Hainan.
- **'ShantirOgroshena 2021'**
 - ✓ India Participates in Multinational Military Exercise 'ShantirOgroshena 2021' held in Bangladesh.
 - ✓ Theme - 'Robust Peacekeeping Operations'
 - ✓ To strengthen the procedures and enhance interoperability among neighbourhood Countries(Bhutan,sri-lanka,Bangla).
- **A-76**
 - ✓ The world's largest iceberg, named A-76 - breaks off in Antarctica, as per the recent satellite images.
- **Germany hosts the 8th Global Nitrogen Conference**
 - ✓ The 8th International Nitrogen Initiative Conference (INI2020) was held in Berlin, Germany
- **Israel's new prime minister**
 - ✓ **Naftali Bennett** was sworn in as Israel's new prime minister, after winning a confidence vote with the narrowest of margins, just 60 votes to 59. His victory ends a 12-year grip on power by former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the country's longest-serving leader
- **Bit Coin Legal Tender**
 - ✓ **El Salvador** - has become the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender
- **World's largest carbon market in China**
 - ✓ The largest carbon market in the world has been opened up by China.
 - ✓ The country is the largest greenhouse emitter in the world.
 - ✓ The project of the carbon market was announced by China 3 years ago, however, it was dodged due to delays.
 - ✓ The scheme will put a cap on energy plants by allocating emission allowances.
- **World's first country to approve genetically modified 'golden rice' for commercial production**
 - ✓ The Philippines has become the first country in the world to get approval for the commercial production of genetically modified "golden rice", a variety of rice enriched with nutrients to help reduce childhood malnutrition.

- **World's first ever 3D-printed steel bridge - was opened for public use in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.**
- **Taliban Commander Abdul Ghani Baradar is the new President of Afghanistan**
 - ✓ Abdul Ghani Baradar, Taliban Commander, has been announced as the new President of Taliban acquired Afghanistan.
 - ✓ The former President Ashraf Ghani had fled to Tajikistan as Taliban fighters took control of the Capital City Kabul and the palace.
 - ✓ Afghanistan has also been renamed by the Taliban "the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan."
- **After two decades, the United States - has completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan, ending America's longest war, with the last plane out of Kabul**
- **Ukraine - has become the latest Country to legalise the use of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies on September**
- **China successfully launches new Earth observation satellite "Gaofen-5 02"**
- **El Salvador becomes 1st country to adopt Bitcoin as National Currency**
- **UAE's Green Visa**
 - ✓ In 2019, the UAE launched the 10-year "golden visa", aimed at welcoming rich residents and highly skilled workers into the country.
 - ✓ Both will work jointly to promote research and awareness-raising on traditional nutritious crop
- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has made an allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 12.57 billion to India. (approx USD 17.86 billion). With this, the total SDR holding of India has gone upto SDR 13.66 billion (equivalent to around USD 19.41 billion).**
- **India re-elected to UN Human Rights Council for new three year term from 2022-2024**
 - ✓ India has been re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for a sixth term on October 14, 2021 with overwhelming majority.
 - ✓ The new three year term of India will be effective from January 2022 to December 2024.
- **Facebook changes name to Meta**
 - ✓ Facebook has announced that it is changing its company name to "Meta". Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced this at the company's Connect virtual reality conference on October 29, 2021.
 - ✓ Zuckerberg said, "from now on we're going to be metaverse first, not Facebook first."
- **The world's 20 biggest economies (G20) - are set to endorse a landmark deal on a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15% and will aim to implement the rules by 2023**
 - **Vax' named Oxford English Dictionary's Word of the Year 2021**
 - ✓ 'Vax' has been chosen as the word of the year by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) in 2021. Vax is derived from the Latin word Vacca, which means cow.

- ✓ Vax is used as a short form for vaccines and means a substance put into a person's body to prevent them from getting a disease.
- ✓ Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, words related to vaccines saw a surge in 2021, including terms like double-vaxxed, unvaxxed and anti-vaxxer.

- **Commemorative £5 Coin - Mahatma Gandhi**
- ✓ The Government of the United Kingdom (UK) has unveiled a £5 coin to commemorate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. It is the first time Mahatma Gandhi has been commemorated on an official UK coin.
- **NASA Science Mission**
- ✓ Four astronauts - returned from a record six-month NASA science mission aboard the International Space Station with their SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule named Endeavour.
- **"Crew 3" mission**
- ✓ SpaceX launches Indian-origin astronaut Raja Chari-led Crew 3 mission.
- **United Arab Emirates to host COP28 in 2023**
- ✓ The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has announced that the UAE will host the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in 2023.
- ✓ It will be the second time that the annual talks will be held in the Middle East, and the third time the talks are hosted by a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- **UNESCO**
- ✓ India re-elected to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) executive board for 2021-25 term.
- ✓ India has been re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board, one of the three constitutional organs of the UN, for the 2021-25 term.
- ✓ The election took place on 17 November 2021.

- **Bitcoin City**
- ✓ El Salvador Plans to Build World's First 'Bitcoin City'
- ✓ El Salvador President Nayib Bukele has announced that the country is planning to build the world's first "Bitcoin City".
- ✓ The new city is planned to be developed in the eastern region of La Union and will be initially funded by bitcoin-backed bonds.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and Uzbekistan in field of solar energy**
 - ✓ Both the countries will work for the implementation and deployment of the pilot project in the International Solar Alliance member countries.
 - ✓ **Three main areas to be explored under MoU:**
 - Solar Photovoltaic
 - Storage technologies
 - Transfer of Technology
- **“Vaccine Maitri Initiative” to Sri-Lanka**
 - ✓ The Vaccine Maitri or the Vaccine Friendship initiative was started on January 20, 2021.
 - ✓ Under the initiative, India will supply Made-in-India Covid-19 vaccines to its neighbouring countries and to other key partners of the Neighbourhood First Policy.
 - ✓ Bhutan and Maldives were the first country to get the vaccines.
 - ✓ They are followed by Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles.
 - ✓ Afghanistan and Mauritius will also get doses after they give necessary regulatory approvals. Pakistan has not been named as a neighbouring country by India to deliver the vaccine

□□ **Blue economy Policy**

□□ Blue economy policy , India and Norway - will jointly conduct marine spatial planning (MSP) in Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

□□ The marine spatial planning is globally identified as a tool for sustainable and integrated ocean management

□□ The marine spatial planning initiative will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) for India.

□□ The NCCR had earlier developed coastal management plans for Chennai, Goa, and Gulf of Kachchh.

□□ **India - opened a first-of-its-kind ‘Energy Office’ in Moscow**

□□ The office represents five Indian government oil and engineering companies – ONGC Videsh, IndianOil, GAIL, Oil India and Engineers India

□□ It aims to present a common interface for expanding cross-investments in the energy sector.

□□ The office was inaugurated by petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor

□□ The strategic tie-up between India and Russia could help both the countries to mutually support each other in their projects

□□

-
- **India - has sent a consignment of 1,000 metric tonnes of rice and 100,000 tablets of Hydroxychloroquine to the drought-hit Madagascar**
- The humanitarian assistance will be delivered by the Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa
- It will reach the Port of Ehoala, Madagascar in between March 21 and March 24
- INS Jalashwa will also carry an Indian Naval training team which will be deployed in Madagascar for the purpose of capacity building and training of Malagasy Special Forces for two weeks
- The assistance has been provided in line with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR

□□ **Yarlung Zangbo - Hydro Dam**

- Yarlung Zangbo, is a cause of concern for both India and Bangladesh

□□□□ **Second biggest oil supplier of India**

- India's imports from the United States - the world's top producer - rose 48% to reach a record of 545,300 barrels per day (bpd) in February from the previous month, accounting for 14% of India's overall imports last month
- Saudi Arabia, which has consistently been one of India's top two suppliers, dropped to No. 4 for the first time since at least January 2006.
- The UAE slipped to fifth position from third in January, while Nigeria rose to third from fifth, the most since October 2019

□□ **Italy - joined International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

- The ambassador of Italy to India, Vincenzo de Luca, signed the Italian membership to the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

□□ The ISA forum was created with the aim of development of solar energy production technologies and to enhance sustainable development and strengthen energy security,

as well as provide greater access to energy for developing countries.

- ISA is a treaty-based intergovernmental alliance comprising of 121 countries.

□□ **—Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)‖**

- Nowruz is the Iranian and Persian New Year Festival.

□□ The celebration was attended by various diplomats of other SCO member countries which include China, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and India.

□□□ **‘Mitali Express’**

□□ The ‘Mitali Express’ passenger train was jointly inaugurated by PM Sheikh Hasina and PM Modi at 6.38 pm through video conference from the Bangladeshi Prime Minister's Office in Tejgaon.

□□ The two countries have agreed to start a new passenger train service ‘Mitali Express’ between Dhaka cantonment and New Jalpaiguri on the Chilhati-Haldibari train link.

□ **India and Bangladesh**

□ Indian companies - to develop the transmission lines of Bangladesh's first nuclear plant constructed at Rooppur

□□Rooppur Nuclear power plant is an under-construction 2.4 GW electricity producing nuclear power plant in Bangladesh

□□The Rooppur nuclear power project is the first initiative under the Indo-Russian deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third c

➤ **'Roadmap 2030' to strengthen bilateral ties**

- ✓ The 'Roadmap 2030' provides a framework for UK-India relations across health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defence.
- ✓ The vaccine partnership through the Oxford-AstraZeneca-SII collaboration was highlighted in the summit.
- ✓ The bilateral summit also set an ambitious target of more than doubling India-UK trade by 2030.

➤ **Denmark - has signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and Instrument of Ratification with India recently on June**

- ✓ ISA is an alliance of 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

➤ **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - released a stamp on the heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) that was declared a UNESCO heritage site in 1999.**

➤ **India, Russia sign deal to procure 70,000 AK-203 Assault Rifles**

- ✓ India and Russia on August 19, 2021 signed a deal for the immediate procurement of 70,000 AK-200 series assault rifles.
- ✓ AK-203 is the latest version of the AK-47 rifle. These rifles will replace the 5.56×45mm **Indian Small Arms System (INSAS)** rifles that are currently being used by the Indian Army, Navy and the Air Force besides other security forces.

➤ **India & Maldives inks pact on mega Greater Male Connectivity Project**

- ✓ The Government of India and Maldives inked the contract for the mega **Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP)**, on August 26, 2021.
- ✓ The Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP) is the largest-ever civilian infrastructure project in Maldives.
- ✓ The Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) comprise of 6.74 km long bridge and causeway link that will connect the national capital Male with three neighbouring islands namely. **Villingili, Gulhifahu and Thilafushi**

➤ **India and the US - have signed an agreement for cooperation in the development of air-launched unmanned aerial vehicles (ALUAVs)**

➤ **India is Dubai's second biggest trade partner**

- ✓ India has emerged as the second biggest trading partner of Dubai, after China. India's overall volume, in the first half of 2021, is touching 38.5 billion dirhams.

➤ **India and Denmark inked four agreements after bilateral talks.**

- ✓ India and Denmark signed four agreements and decided to expand cooperation in different fields of health and agriculture.
- ✓ The agreements have been signed in the field of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Traditional Knowledge Digital Library, on establishing a Centre of Excellence towards natural refrigerants for tropical climates with potential applications and on mapping of ground water resources and aquifers.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES - 2022

➤ **Green Fuels**

- ✓ India, Denmark agree to initiate joint research on green fuels.
- ✓ India and Denmark have agreed to initiate joint research and development on green fuels including green hydrogen.

The Joint Science and Technology Committee meeting was held in January 2022 to discuss national strategic priorities and developments in science, technology, and innovation of both countries.

➤ **India and Israel**

- ✓ India and Israel - discussed to widen the scope of the bilateral Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (*I4F*) at its eighth governing body meeting recently on January 18.
- ✓ They approved three joint research and development projects worth USD 5.5 million and suggested measures to create a broader India-Israel collaborative ecosystem.

➤ **India and France**

- ✓ India and France - have signed an MoU for joint research on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and inherited disorders
- ✓ The MoU was signed between France Institut Pasteur and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of India under the purview of Ministry of Science and Technology.

➤ **Indo-Pacific Strategy**

- ✓ US President Joe Biden's administration released its Indo-Pacific strategy on 11 February 2022.
- ✓ It recognized India as a like-minded partner and leader in South Asia and the Indian Ocean, active in and connected to Southeast Asia.
- ✓ The document focuses on building collective capacity to deal with challenges in the region - China's assertiveness, the pandemic, and climate change, among others.

➤ **Unitary Digital Identity Framework**

India - has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', which is similar to the Aadhaar card.

The government of Sri Lanka has decided to speed up the implementation of a Unitary Digital Identity framework in the country.

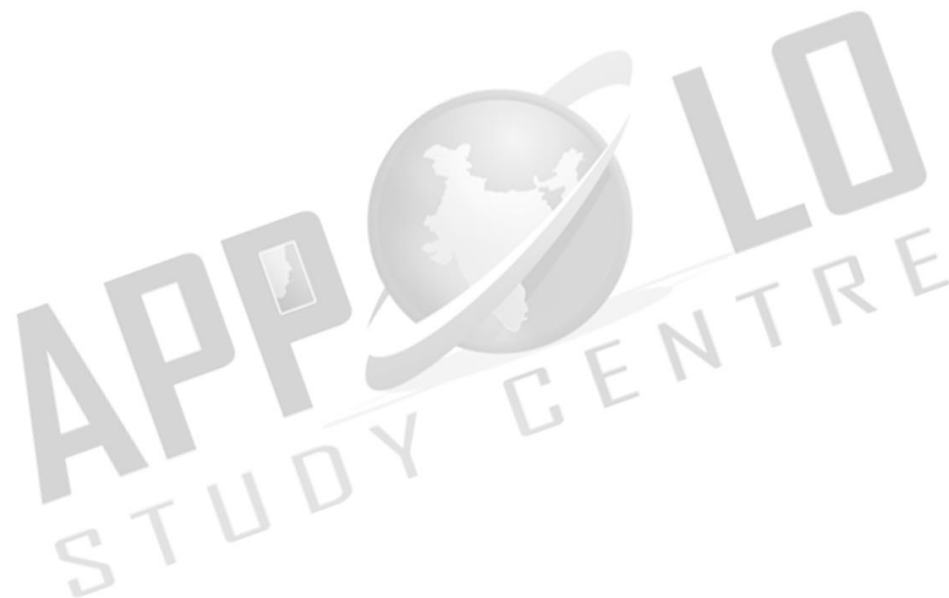
➤ **Indo-German Working Group**

- ✓ India and Germany have signed the work plan 2022 during the 8th annual meeting of the Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure.

- ✓ The Work Plan 2022 agreed between both countries will include collaboration in mobility, energy, circular economy, smart farming/ agriculture, etc.
- **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**
- ✓ India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will sign a trade and investment agreement on 18 February 2022 during a virtual summit attended by the countries two leaders. It is called the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- ✓ Under the agreement, two trading partners will reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them.
- **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)**
- ✓ Nepal will be first country to adopt India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) as the payments platform.
- ✓ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service Pvt Ltd and Manam Infotech Private Limited to deploy UPI in Nepal.
- **India-UAE Trade Deal**
- ✓ The government of India will be setting up an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as a part of the India-UAE trade deal that was signed on February 18, 2022.
- ✓ This will be the first time an IIT would be established outside of the country.
- ✓ India currently has 23 IITs.
- **Blue Economy and Ocean Governance**
- ✓ India and France - have agreed on a 'Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance' to promote cooperation in maritime security.
- ✓ The agreement was signed during External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar's three-day visit to France with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian on February 20.
- ✓ **\$1 Billion Line of Credit**
- ✓ On March 17, India - announced a \$1 billion line of credit to Sri Lanka as part of its financial assistance to help the nation deal with its economic crisis.
- ✓ Visiting Sri Lankan finance minister Basil Rajapaksa was present during the signing of the agreement for the \$1 billion line of credit being extended through the State Bank of India (SBI).
- ✓ Last month, India extended a \$500 million line of credit to Sri Lanka to help it purchase petroleum products as the island nation has been struggling under a severe foreign exchange and energy crisis.
- ✓
- ✓ **India and Oman**
- ✓ India and Oman have signed Programme of Cooperation (POC) in the field of Science and Technology for the period 2022 - 2025.
- ✓ Medicinal Plants and processing, Real-time Air Quality monitoring, and Development of an electronic platform for knowledge sharing in the field of Genetic Resources are the main identified areas of cooperation.
- ✓ Both countries will also enhance cooperation in the field of Bio-diesel Research, Training programs - Big-data, coding & testing, Blockchain, and FinTech solutions, etc.
- ✓
- ✓ **Indian Power Projects**

- ✓ India will set up hybrid power projects in three islands off Jaffna, effectively replacing the Chinese venture cleared by Colombo last year.
- ✓ It is the third Indian energy project coming up in Sri Lanka's north and east, after the recent agreements for National Thermal Power Corporation's solar venture in the eastern Sampur town, and the Adani Group's renewable energy projects in Mannar and Pooneryn in the north.

- ✓ **Rhino Population**
- ✓ Rhino population up by 200 in Kaziranga.
- ✓ The population of the greater one-horned or Indian rhinoceros in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has increased by 200 in four years, the latest census of the World Heritage Site's flagship animal has revealed.
- ✓ The last rhino census conducted in 2018 had put the number at 2,413.



CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

Maritime India Summit

The PM launched the 'Sagar Manthan', the Mercantile Maritime Domain Awareness Centre (MM-DAC) during the inauguration of the Maritime Summit.

Sagar Manthan is an information system for enhancing maritime safety, search and rescue capabilities, security and marine environment protection.

Global-Bio India-2021

□□ The Global-Bio India 2021 event in New Delhi was marked by the participation of more than 5000 delegates, 1000 start-ups and 200 exhibitors involving 24 knowledge sessions

□□ **Theme-** 'Transforming Lives' along with the tagline 'Biosciences to Bio-economy'

- **India - is to host a two-day summit on Green Hydrogen Initiatives through video conferencing on June 22, 2021 involving the BRICS nations.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated and addressed the Co-Win Global conclave 2021**
- **The 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting - was held on July 21 through video conference**
 - ✓ The MGC initiative involves 6 countries – India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam
 - ✓ It was launched in 2000 to ensure cooperation among the partner countries in a range of areas including transport, communication, tourism, education and culture.
- **First Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the UNSC**
 - ✓ India took over from France to assume **the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the month of August 2021.**
 - ✓ This is the first presidency for India during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the **first Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the UNSC.**
- **The Government of Tamil Nadu joined the event as "Partner State" while Government of Haryana as "Focus State"**
 - ✓ During the event, the Union Minister said ASEAN will be an important region for India with an export target of US\$ 46 billion in meeting the global export target of US\$ 400 billion in financial year 2021-22
 - ✓ The Summit witnessed the participation of over 300 delegates from the Indian industry.
 - ✓ This year is special for both partners as it marks the 25th anniversary of India ASEAN dialogue partnership and 10 years of the Strategic Partnership.
- **13th BRICS Summits.-IN INDIA**
 - ✓ The theme for the Summit is 'BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus'.

- **QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Leaders’ Summit**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to attend the first-ever in-person QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Leaders’ Summit at the White House, in Washington D.C. on September 24, 2021.
 - ✓ Quad nation comprises of India, Japan, the US and Australia. PM Modi will also address the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

- **India to organize first-ever Global Buddhist Conference in November**
 - ✓ India is set to host the first-ever Global Buddhist Conference on November 19 and 20, 2021, in Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus, in Nalanda, Bihar. The academic conference, being organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), will become an annual feature.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the plenary session of the 6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF), organised in Vladivostok, Russia.** An Indian delegation led by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri and comprising leading Indian oil and gas companies are participating in the EEF Summit 2021 in Russia.

- **India is all set to host a key conference as part of the International Climate Summit (ICS) 2020-21** to build a dialogue for India's transition to clean energy. Policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, experts, and scientists from across the globe are going to be a part of the climate summit.

- **PM Modi to attend G-20 Leaders’ Summit-2021**
 - ✓ At the two-day G-20 Summit, starting from October 30 in Italy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to direct a united global approach to deal with the situation in Afghanistan and combating challenges of climate change & covid-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ The prime minister is set to travel Rome to attend 16th G-20 Summit and Glasgow to attend World Leaders’ Summit of COP-26, from October 29 to November.

- **East Asia Summit**
 - ✓ PM Modi virtually participated in 16th East Asia Summit hosted by Brunei via video conference on October 27,2021.

- **CII Asia Health 2021 summit**
 - Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya - addressed the inaugural session of CII Asia Health 2021 summit recently on October 28, New Delhi.
 - ✓ The theme of the summit is ‘Transforming Healthcare for a better tomorrow’.
 - ✓ The Union Health Minister concluded by highlighting that the Government is focused on the objective of ‘Health Society, Wealthy Nation’.

- ✓ **G-20 Summit adopts Rome Declaration**
 - ✓ Two-day G-20 Summit was concluded on October 31, 2021. During the summit, Rome Declaration was adopted.

- **Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) - 2021**
 - ✓ The third edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) - 2021 - is being hosted by the Indian Navy from November 7 to 9, 2021 under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa.

- ✓ The theme for this year's edition of GMC is "Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies"
- **cOcOn 2021**
 - ✓ Chief of Defence Staff, Bipin Rawat - will inaugurate cOcOn 2021, the annual cyber security and hacking conference, on November 12, 2021.
 - ✓ The conference is being organised this year on the theme 'Improvise, Adapt and Overcome'.
 - ✓ It will feature two days of pre-conference workshops on November 10 and 11, followed by the main conference on the next two days
 - ✓ The conference will be organised under the theme "Improvise, Adapt and Overcome" as a part of International Information Security Day.
- **The Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan**
 - ✓ On November 10, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval - chaired Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan.
 - ✓ It was attended by NSA's and Security Council secretaries of Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan.
 - ✓ A joint statement - the Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan - emphasized that the Afghan territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning, or financing any terrorist acts.
 - ✓ Further, the joint declaration also underscored the need to help Afghanistan contain Covid-19.
- **United Nations Climate Change Conference**
 - ✓ Egypt - was selected to officially host the 27th session of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh (COP27) in November 2022.
- **Southern Zonal Council**
 - ✓ Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah - chaired the 29th meeting of the Southern Zonal Council in Tirupati on November 14.
- **First Global Innovation Summit of Pharmaceuticals Sector**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the "First Global Innovation Summit of Pharmaceuticals sector" on November 18, 2021, in virtual mode.
 - ✓ The summit will also highlight the opportunities in Indian Pharmaceuticals industry that has huge potential for growth.
- **Sydney Dialogue**
 - ✓ The Sydney Dialogue is being held from 17- 19 November as an initiative of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.
 - ✓ PM Modi spoke on the theme of India's technology evolution and revolution.
 - ✓ The summit, co-hosted by the Australian government and Meta, will focus on space, the quantum computing race, etc.
- **5th East Asia Summit Conference**
 - ✓ 5th East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation to be held on November 23-24.
 - ✓ The 5th East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation will be held in Kolkata from November 23 to 24, 2021.
 - ✓ India will organize the event in partnership with Australia.

➤ **ASEM(Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit**

The 13th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit is being held virtually from 25th November 2021. The theme of the two-day summit is Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth.

➤ **9th BRICS Science & Technology Ministers' Meet**

- ✓ Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh - addressed the 9th BRICS Science & Technology Ministers' meet at New Delhi on November 26.

➤ **Tribes India Conclave**

- ✓ A Tribes India Conclave - was organized in association with the Ministry of External Affairs at Tribes India 'Aadi Mahotsav' in New Delhi on November 27, 2021.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS - 2022

➤ **G7 Presidency**

- ✓ On 1 January, Germany takes over the G7 Presidency.
- ✓ The 2022 G7 Summit is due to take place from 26 to 28 June 2022 in the Bavarian Alps.

➤ **24th National Conference on e-Governance 2021**

- ✓ The 24th National e-Governance conference in its Hyderabad declaration has resolved to bring citizens and governments closer through digital platforms and transform citizen services through use of technology.
- ✓ The theme of this Conference is 'India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World'.

➤ **World Economic Forum Davos Agenda Summit**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Agenda virtual event on 17 January 2022.
- ✓ The event is being convened on the theme of 'The State of the World'.
- ✓ The Davos Agenda 2022 will also mark the launch of several WEF initiatives to accelerate the race to net-zero emissions.

➤ **First India-Central Asia Summit**

- ✓ PM Modi will host the first India-Central Asia Summit on January 27, 2022, virtual mode.
- ✓ The summit will be held with the participation of the Presidents of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan.
- ✓ The upcoming summit will also be the first kind of engagement of its kind between India and the Central Asian countries at the level of leaders.

➤ **Reimagining Museums Global Summit 2022**

- ✓ The first-of-its-kind Global Summit 'Reimagining Museums in India' will be held on February 15-16, 2022, Hyderabad.

➤ **NITI Aayog's Fintech Open Summit**

- ✓ NITI Aayog, in collaboration with PhonePe, AWS and EY, has organized a three-week-long virtual summit, 'Fintech Open', from 7-28 February.

- ✓ A first-of-its-kind initiative, Fintech Open will bring together regulators, fintech professionals and enthusiasts, industry leaders, the start-up community, and developers to collaborate, exchange ideas and innovate.
- **ASEAN-India High-Level Conference**
- ✓ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of External Affairs - jointly hosted the ASEAN-India High-Level Conference on Renewable Energy (RE) from February 7-8, 2022 through video conference.
- ✓ The meeting took place on the theme of “Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market”.
- **One Ocean Summit**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the high-level segment of the One Ocean Summit.
- ✓ The One Ocean summit is organised by France from 9-11 February in Brest in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.
- ✓ The objective of the summit is to mobilise the international community to take tangible action towards preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.
- **4th QUAD Foreign Ministers’ Meet**
- ✓ On February 11, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar – participated in the 4th QUAD Foreign Ministers’ meet in Melbourne, Australia alongside his US, Japanese, and Australian counterparts.
- ✓ This was the third in-person meeting of Quad foreign ministers, following their meeting in Tokyo in October 2020 and the inaugural meeting in New York in September 2019.
- **World Sustainable Development Summit 2022**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address virtually at TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit on February 16, 2022, will be held in a hybrid format in New Delhi.
- ✓ The World Sustainable Development Summit 2022 Theme is ‘Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future’.
- **Devayatanam Conference**
- ✓ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is organising “Devayatanam Conference”, as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ✓ Devayatanam conference is a two-day international conference. ‘Devayatanam is an odyssey of Indian temple architecture.
- ✓ Conference is being held on February 25 and 26, 2022 at Hampi, Karnataka.
- **Plastic Recycling and Waste Management**
- ✓ Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma inaugurated the International Summit 2022 on Plastic Recycling and Waste Management in New Delhi, on 4 Mar'22.
- ✓ It is being organized by the Ministry of MSME in association with The All-India Plastics Manufacturers’ Association (AIPMA) from 4-5 March.
- **Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange (IPMHE)**
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated the four-day Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange (IPMHE) conference, on March 7, 2022.

- ✓ It is being co-hosted by Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM).
- ✓ The theme of the conference is 'Military Healthcare in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) World'.
- **Colombo Security Conclave**
- ✓ National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval – represented India at the 5th NSA-level Colombo Security Conclave meeting in Male on March 10, 2022.
- ✓ The Colombo Security Conclave identified five “pillars” of cooperation to strengthen regional security.
- **Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment (MDTI)**
- ✓ On March 11, India and Canada - held the fifth Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment (MDTI) in New Delhi.
- ✓ Both the countries have now decided to expedite the negotiations for the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), as the FTA will be formally called, which was pending for a long time.
- **India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge**
- ✓ On March 12, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri - launched the 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge' under the ministry's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0
- ✓ The new initiative aims at empowering start-ups in the water sector to grow through innovation and design that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate employment opportunities.
- **Sahityotsav**
- ✓ Sahityotsav, the Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi – concluded in New Delhi on March 15, 2022.
- ✓ The Festival of Letters 2022 is being celebrated to commemorate 75th anniversary of India's Independence.
- ✓ The festival featured a special corner to display the books related to India's Freedom Movement and other materials relevant to the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ✓ During the festival, the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Awards were presented to the 24 Award winners at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi.
- **36 International Geological Congress (IGC)**
- ✓ 36 International Geological Congress (IGC) will be held in New Delhi from 20 march. The theme of 36th IGC is “Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future”.
- ✓ 36th IGC is a joint endeavor of Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Indian National Science Academy and Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- **26th International Film Festival**
- ✓ The 26th International Film Festival of Kerala - began in the state capital Thiruvananthapuram on March 18.
- ✓ The festival was inaugurated by Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- ✓ During the inaugural ceremony, the CM presented the 'Spirit of Cinema' award to Kurdish filmmaker Lisa Calan
- ✓ Kurdish filmmaker Lisa Calan lost both her legs in an ISIS bombing in 2015 and now uses prosthetic legs.

➤ **14th India-Japan Annual Summit**

- ✓ Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida - is on a two-day official visit to India from March 19 to 20.
- ✓ Kishida participated in the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit, besides holding bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ✓ This is Fumio Kishida's first such visit as Prime Minister and the Summit was the first meeting between the two leaders
- ✓ During the meeting, Kishida announced a plan to invest 5 trillion yen (\$42 billion) in India over five years.

➤ **India-Australia Virtual Summit**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison - held the 2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit on March 21.
- ✓ During the meeting, both leaders reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views on regional and global developments.
- ✓ Both the leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress made under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established during the 1st Virtual Summit in June 2020.

➤ **WINGS INDIA 2022**

- ✓ Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) and FICCI are jointly organizing Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation), titled 'WINGS INDIA 2022'.
- ✓ The event focuses on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation, and regional connectivity.
- ✓ The theme of the event: India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry.

➤ **Step-Up to End TB-World TB Day Summit**

- ✓ The "Step-Up to End TB-World TB Day Summit" was inaugurated by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Health Minister.
- ✓ This summit was organized on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day.
- ✓ This summit will highlight India's National TB Elimination Programme's success and learnings.

➤ **5th Bimstec Summit**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will attend the 5th Bimstec Summit which is being held in virtual mode by Sri Lanka on March 30.
- ✓ The summit is being hosted by Sri Lanka in its capacity as the chair of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation).
- ✓ The theme of the Summit is "BIMSTEC-Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies and Healthy Peoples".

ECONOMY

GDP growth prediction to 10.1%

□ The World Bank - has raised India's GDP growth prediction to 10.1% from 5.4% projected in January for the fiscal year 2021-22

➤ **The whole sale price index- and Inflation**

- ✓ The Wholesale price inflation (WPI) - rose to an 11-year high of **10.5%** in April 2021, compared to **7.4%** in March.
- ✓ The rise in WPI comes against the backdrop of a decline in retail inflation, which slowed to a three-month low of **4.3%** in April.

➤ **Jalan Committee Formula**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has approved a Rs. 99,122-crore dividend payout to the government for an accounting period of nine months ended March
- ✓ This is also the highest dividend after the Rs.1.23 lakh crore paid out for FY19, along with a separate Rs.52,637-crore surplus reserve transferred to the government in that fiscal, based on the Jalan Committee formula

➤ **Consumer Price Index (CPI):-by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).**

- ✓ The country's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased to **4.29** per cent in the month of April.
- ✓ Separately, India's factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), witnessed a growth of **22.4** per cent in March.
- ✓ The retail inflation during the month of March was at **5.52** per cent.

➤ **GDP**

- ✓ India's GDP is likely to have grown at **1.3%** in the fourth quarter of 2020-21 and may have contracted by about **7.3%** for the full financial year, according to an SBI research report 'Ecowrap'.

➤ **Reserve Bank of India -Committee under the Managing Director S Janaki Raman**

The Reserve Bank of India - recently constituted a Committee under the Managing Director S Janaki Raman to assist the second Regulatory Review Authority.(RRA)

➤ **The country's combined market capitalization of BSE-listed firms - crossed the \$3-trillion mark on May 24 for the first time ever.**

- ✓ India's market cap crossed this milestone much ahead of its GDP, which is estimated to cross the \$3 trillion mark by the end of 2021, as per a recent report by the IMF

Centre announces hike in MSP for paddy, pulses, oilseeds

The Central government has hiked the minimum support price (MSP) for common paddy to ₹1,940 a quintal for the coming kharif season, close to 4% higher than last year's price of ₹1,868.

GST brought down on 14 COVID relief goods

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on Saturday decided to waive the tax levied on two critical drugs against COVID-19 and mucormycosis – tocilizumab and amphotericin B – and reset the tax rate to 5% for 14 major pandemic relief items, till September 30.

India's bank credit-to-GDP ratio grows 56% in 2020.

According to the latest data from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), India's bank credit-to-GDP ratio rose to 56 percent in 2020.

India's bank Credit-to-GDP ratio is still far behind emerging market peers and just half of the G20 average

NSO - Data on India Economy

The Indian economy - grew 1.6% in the January-March quarter of 2020-21, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on May.

The RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said that India's foreign exchange reserves is likely to have crossed a new record of \$600 billion in the first week of June

Officially, however, the weekly numbers released by the RBI pegged reserves at \$598.2 billion as on May 28, which is also a record.

'Centrum Finance'

The Reserve Bank of India - granted an in-principle small finance bank licence to 'Centrum Finance' as part of its resolution for the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank.

Inflation in India

India's retail inflation shot up to a **six-month high of 6.3 per cent** in May, after easing to a three month low of 4.23 per cent in April. Inflation, based on **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, has breached the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target range for the first time after five months.

The **wholesale price-based inflation** accelerated to a **record high of 12.94 per cent** in May, on rising prices of crude oil and manufactured goods. The low base effect also contributed to the spike in WPI inflation in May 2021.

The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has estimated the gross domestic product (GDP) of India to grow at 9.5 per cent in the current financial year, i.e. FY 2021-22.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) - slashed India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 9.5% for 2021-22, from its earlier estimate of 12.5%

GST Council decides extra-neutral alcohol taxation to stay with states

The GST Council has decided to continue with the status quo on states taxing **Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA)**, which is used for manufacturing alcoholic liquor for human consumption.

IDFC First Bank launches 'Ghar Ghar Ration' scheme

The IDFC First Bank has launched a unique Employee-funded program called 'Ghar Ghar Ration' for its low-income customers who were affected by Covid-19.

Centre releases Rs 75,000 crore to states, UTs as GST compensation

The government announced it has released Rs 75,000 crore to the states and Union Territories to compensate them for the shortfall in GST revenue.

Cabinet approves Rs 6.29-lakh crore COVID-19 relief package announced by FM

The Union Cabinet approved the Rs 6.29-lakh crore relief package announced by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** to support the pandemic-hit economy.

Cabinet clears viability gap funds for BharatNet

The Union Cabinet approved a viability gap funding support of up to `19,041 crore for the implementation of the BharatNet project through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in 16 States.

The project will be extended to all inhabited villages beyond the gram panchayats in 16 States – Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh.

ECONOMY - TAMIL NADU BUDGET

➤ **WELFARE SCHEME**

✓ **Kalaignar's 'Namaku Naame'** public participation scheme to expand green cover will be implemented again at a cost of Rs 100 crore. Launched in 1997-98 by CM Karunanidhi, the scheme was renamed twice when J Jayalalithaa was voted to power in 2001 and 2011, while the original name was restored by Kalaignar in 2006

Agriculture Budget

➤ **For the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, an exclusive budget for agriculture - was presented by the Tamil Nadu Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare MRK Pannerselvam on August 14 for the year 2021-22**

✓ A total of **Rs.34,220.65 crore** has been allocated in the budget for agriculture and allied sectors, which include Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Revenue, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Agricultural engineering, Rural development and Panchayat Raj

✓ In the previous budget, then ruling AIADMK government had allocated Rs 11,894.48 for these sectors.

✓ 42% of Tamil Nadu's workers are farmers and, in rural areas, more than 58% of households depend on agriculture for a livelihood

Highlights of the state's first ever Agriculture budget

✓ The government is planning to implement a project called '**Kalaignar's Anaithu Grama Oruginaintha Velan Valarchi Thittam**' in the span of next five years to ensure all the **12,524 village panchayats** of Tamil Nadu attain overall agricultural development and self-sufficiency - The scheme is set to be implemented in **2,500 village panchayats** this year at a cost of Rs 250 crore.

✓ The government will convert **11.75 lakh hectares of fallow lands into farmland in the next 10 years to increase the area of cultivation from 60 to 75%.**

✓ A separate wing for **organic farming will be created under the Agriculture Department.**

✓ An **Integrated Farming System** will be implemented during this year to benefit the 13,300 farmer families in the state at an expense of Rs. 59.85 crore that will be met with central and state government funds.

✓ **Nammazhavar Organic Farming Research Centre** will be set up at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore at an expense of Rs 3 crore.

- ✓ A **16 point strategy** is proposed to be adopted for the growth of farm sector which includes value addition for agri products, ensuring reasonable prices for **millet, fruits, and other agri products** and encouraging youth to be agri-entrepreneurs.
 - ✓ An **agro-industrial corridor** from **Trichy to Nagapattinam** in the Cauvery delta region, and a drumstick export zone in the districts of **Theni, Dindigul, Karur, Tuticorin, Ariyalur, Tirupur and Madurai** are the other highlights.
 - ✓ The government will increase the area of cultivation and set up a special export facilitation centre for drumstick exports in Madurai for Rs. 1 crore
 - ✓ Reflecting the DMK's focus on Tamil culture and heritage, the Budget made **permission from collectors mandatory for cutting down palmyra trees**.
 - ✓ Besides, **76 lakh palmyra seednuts** and **one lakh palmyra seedlings** will be distributed to farmers with full subsidy in 30 districts this year.
 - ✓ Also, measures will be taken to **sell palm jaggery at PDS shops**.
 - ✓ The purchase price of sugarcane will be increased from Rs 2,750 to Rs 2,900 per tone
 - ✓ The **Union-State Fund for Youth Entrepreneurship** will be implemented at a budget of Rs. 2.62 crore.
 - ✓ **Coconut Value Added Center for Delta Coconut Farmers will be set up at Thanjavur**
- **Uzhavar sandhais (farmers' market),**
- ✓ The brainchild of the late chief minister **Kalaignar M Karunanidhi**, will get a makeover, at a cost of Rs 12.50 crore.
 - ✓ As many as 10 new **Uzhavar Santhais** will be set up in town panchayats and other urban areas of **Cuddalore, Dindigul, Erode, Karur, Pudukkottai, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Vellore and Kallakurichi** districts at a cost of Rs. 6 crore.
 - ✓ To motivate the educated youth to take up agriculture to next level in their native places, a scheme of '**Rural Youth Agricultural Skill Development Mission**' will be rolled out -
 - ✓ **5000 solar powered pump sets** with a capacity of upto 10HP will be installed in the current year at 70% subsidy at an outlay of Rs.114.68 crore with state and Union government funding.
 - ✓ Subsidy will be **provided to improve soil fertility in 2000 villages** where vegetable cultivation is less
 - ✓ It is proposed to establish **modern cold storages** in two locations, **Oddanchattiram and Panruti**, based on the requests received from the farmers
 - ✓ About **three lakh rainfed farmers will get Rs.146.64 crore under the CM's dry land development mission**.
 - ✓ Over 1,100 farmer producer groups will also get a corpus fund of Rs.5 lakh each under collective farming scheme by coordinating 1.10 lakh farmers
 - ✓ A '**Modern Agricultural Marketing Centre**' will be set up at **Kolathur** in Chennai Corporation at a cost of Rs 1 crore to make the farm fresh vegetables available in Chennai.
 - ✓ On a pilot basis, **30 mobile vegetable shops** will be operated in five corporations, viz, Chennai, Trichy, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruppur
 - ✓ The government will set up an integrated rural agricultural market complex at Edapally village situated on the borders of Coonoor and Kothagiri at Rs 2 crore
 - ✓ The government will construct 28 drying yards in **Cuddalore, Villupuram, Salem, Namakkal, Krishnagiri, Erode, Trichy, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Theni, Dindigul, Tiruppur and Kanniyakumari** Districts at a cost of Rs. 3.5 crore
 - ✓ The government has also proposed a scheme for the establishment of an **Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre** for promoting export trade by farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) at Guindy in Chennai at a cost of Rs 1 crore.

- ✓ The government has also allocated Rs 4508.23 crore to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to provide **free electricity for agriculture**, while Rs 573.24 crore has been allocated to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
 - ✓ The government is planning to provide **a kit of agricultural equipment to half lakh farmers, which includes shovels, weeders, iron pots, crowbars and sickles which are required to undertake daily farming** activities at an outlay of Rs.15 crore.
 - ✓ A separate **museum for agriculture will be set up in Chennai** at a cost of Rs. 2 crore to showcase the glory of agriculture to the younger generation.
 - ✓ The best performing farmers who fetch maximum production by **adopting traditional organic farming practices** and the best performing exporters who excel in **agro exports will** also be rewarded with prizes.
 - ✓ A high level committee for agriculture will be constituted at state level under the **chairmanship of Chief Secretary** to review farming related schemes and to suggest solutions for the problems faced by farmers.
 - ✓ **Rs. 2,327 crore has been allocated for the crop insurance scheme for the year 2021-2022.**
 - ✓ To encourage production of **fresh and residue-free vegetables** at households for daily needs and to enable children to learn about plants, two lakh seed kits consisting of **12 types of vegetable seeds will be distributed at subsidised rates in rural areas**
 - ✓ A **new horticulture park will be set up at Vadalur** at the expense of Rs 1 crore.
 - ✓ The government will take steps to get **GI tag for traditional unique produces such as Kolli Hills-Pepper, Panrutti-Jack and Ponni rice**
 - ✓ Food Processing Incubation Centres will be launched in five locations including Nagapattinam for fish-based products, Coimbatore for coconut, **Trichy for banana, Erode for turmeric and Virudhunagar for millets**
 - ✓ The government will focus on cultivation of horticultural crops such as greens and chillies in **Tiruvallur district, cashew and jackfruit in Cuddalore, pepper and onion in Namakkal and acid lime and amla in Tenkasi.**
 - ✓ A new horticulture college will be set up at **Jeenur near Krishnagiri district while a Turmeric Research Centre will be established at Bavanisagar near Erode** – Tamil Nadu ranks fifth in the country for turmeric production.
 - ✓ The government will set up **agricultural zonal committees** to support farmers based on water resources, fertility of soil and climatic conditions consisting of officials from **departments of agriculture, horticulture, agricultural engineering, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, water resources department, pollution control board, forest department, progressive farmers and environmental experts.**
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) - signed a \$300 million loan with the Union Government to expand rural connectivity in Maharashtra**
- ✓ Further, the ADB had also signed a \$112 million loan to develop water supply infrastructure in the state of Jharkhand.
- **State Bank of India has opened a floating ATM**
- ✓ A Houseboat at Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar for the convenience of locals and tourists.
 - ✓ The floating ATM was inaugurated by **SBI Chairman Dinesh Khare.**
 - ✓ This is not the first time that SBI has launched a floating ATM as back in 2004, the bank took this initiative in Kerala

- **The crypto industry in India** has the potential to add \$184 billion of economic value, in the form of investments and cost savings, by 2030, according to a report.
- **The report, entitled “Crypto Industry in India,”** was published by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) in conjunction with Binance-owned crypto exchange WazirX.
- **The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has marginally lowered India’s growth projection for the ongoing fiscal to 9.7%, a reduction of 20 basis points (bps). For FY23, OECD reduced India’s growth projection by 30 basis points to 7.9%.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised downwards India’s economic growth forecast for the current fiscal, 2021-22 (FY22) to 10 per cent. Earlier this was projected at 11 per cent. The Manila-based multilateral funding agency ADB has predicted the **GDP growth for fiscal GST revenue collection for September 2021 is Rs 1.17 lakh crores: Finance Ministry**

- ✓ The mop-up from GST was **Rs 1.17 lakh crore** in September 2021.
- ✓ Tax collections last month on goods sold and services rendered was 24 per cent higher than in October 2020, and up 36 per cent over 2019-20.
- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) .**
 - ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has retained India’s GDP growth projections for the current fiscal year at 9.5% .
- **Fiscal deficit touches 31.1% of FY target.**
 - ✓ The government’s fiscal deficit stood at `4.68 lakh crore or 31.1% of Budget estimates at the end of August, as per data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
 - ✓ For the current financial year, the government expects the deficit at 6.8% of GDP or `15,06,812 crores.
 - ✓ The deficit figure in the current fiscal stands lower than it did a year earlier.
- **Current Trends**
 - ✓ **India’s retail inflation** reduced to a five-month low of 4.35% in September, because of the sharp dip in food price inflation.
 - ✓ The **industrial output growth** accelerated to 11.9% in August 2021, driven largely by a statistical effect of a low base – August 2020 had recorded a 7.1% contraction.
 - ✓ **Food inflation based on the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI)** fell to just 0.68% in September after having declined to a sevenmonth low of 3.1% in August.
 - ✓ **Core inflation**, which doesn’t include food and fuel price trends, remained elevated at 5.8% for the third month in a row.
 - ✓
 - **Global Hackathon named HARBINGER 2021**
 - ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has launched its first global hackathon named “HARBINGER 2021 - Innovation for Transformation”.
 - ✓ The theme of HARBINGER 2021 is ‘Smarter Digital Payments’.
 - **PM Modi launches two RBI schemes**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched two innovative, customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ They are RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.
- ✓ The two latest schemes by the Central Bank will ease access to the government securities market for retail investors.

➤ **SIDBI- Google to support MSMEs**

- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has joined hands with Google India Pvt Ltd (GIPL) to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- ✓ The partnership will pilot a social impact lending programme, providing a financial assistance of up to Rs 1 crore at competitive interest rates to MSMEs.

➤ **Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**

- ✓ Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) - released an investor charter on November 17.
- ✓ The new charter outlines the rights and responsibilities of investors and dos and don'ts of investing in the securities market.
- ✓ The Investor charter was first proposed in Union Budget 2021-2022 with the aim of protecting investors from mis-selling the financial products.

➤ **Micro-Credit Facility**

- ✓ **HDFC Bank has launched a micro-credit facility for the street vendors.**
- ✓ HDFC Bank launched a micro-credit facility for the street vendors under **PM Street vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), with common service centres.**
- ✓ PM SVANidhi provides a collateral-free affordable loan of Rs 10,000 along with an interest subsidy of 7 percent.

➤ **Tejasvini and Hausala Schemes**

- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 23 November 2021 launched Tejasvini and Hausala schemes of J&K Bank.

Tejasvini scheme focuses on providing financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh to girls between 18-35 years for starting their business.

➤ **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**

- India's gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter of the fiscal year 2021-22 - grew at 8.4%, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office on November 30.
- ✓ The numbers mark a significant increase as compared to the second quarter of last fiscal year, when the GDP had declined by 7.4% due to the pandemic.

➤ **Core Sector Growth Rebounds**

- ✓ Cement, coal, electricity and refinery products drive October's 7.5% expansion
- ✓ India's core sector output growth accelerated in October, with the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) expanding 7.5% on the back of appreciable increases in the production of cement, coal, refinery products and electricity. September's growth estimate was revised to a 4.5% pace.
- ✓ The eight core sectors together account for 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

➤ **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) *Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)* - decided to *keep all key rates unchanged* on December 8.
- ✓ The MPC voted unanimously to retain the repo rate, at which the RBI lends to banks, at 4%.
- ✓ The reverse repo rate, at which it borrows from banks, was maintained at 3.35% too.

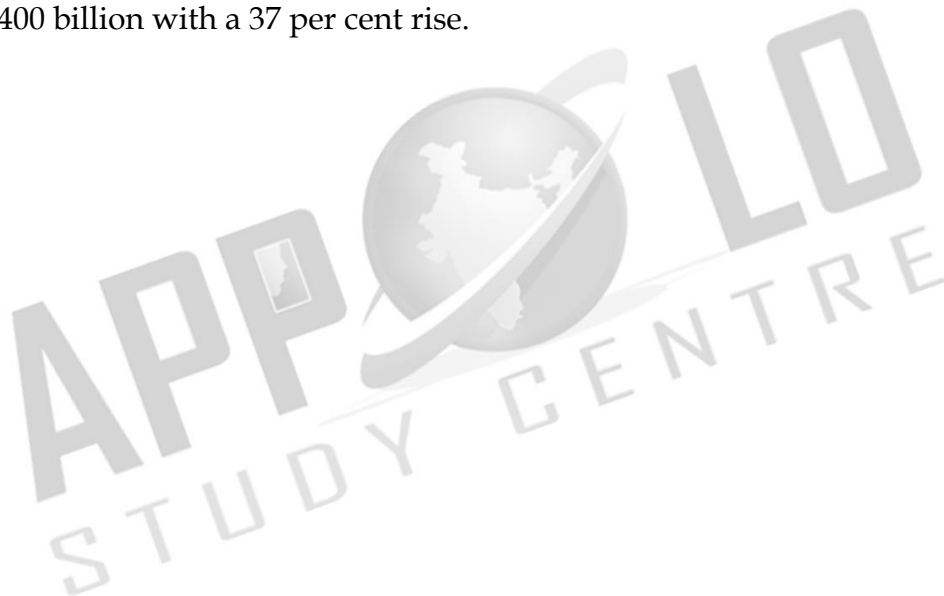
ECONOMY - 2022

- ✓ **India's First Cryptocurrencies Index IC15**
- ✓ The global cryptocurrency app CryptoWire has launched India's first index of cryptocurrencies named IC15. IC15, which will track the market capitalization and liquidity of top 15 global digital currencies globally, in terms of market capitalization, listed on leading crypto exchanges of the world.
- ✓
- ✓ **The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**
- ✓ The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) - has amended rules to mandate that all bank fraud cases involving more than 3 crore will be referred to an expert panel to decide if they need investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- ✓ According to CVC, a separate board for cases between Rs 3 crore and Rs 50 crore will be set up.
- ✓
- ✓ **India Economy**
- ✓ India's economy - is expected to grow 8.3% in the fiscal year ending March 2022, unchanged from the June 2021 outlook
- ✓ This was revealed in the World Bank forecast in its latest global economic prospects report.
- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also projected a 9.5% growth for India.
- ✓
- ✓ **Cryptocurrency Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF)**
- ✓ Asia's first cryptocurrency exchange-traded fund (ETF) - could be launched in India's GIFT City this year.
- ✓ Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC has signed an MoU with BSE's international arm India INX to launch digital asset-based products, which will be traded on GIFT City's IFSC (International Financial Services Centre).
- ✓
- ✓ **Fintech Department**
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has *set up a Fintech department* to focus on the "dynamically" growing financial sector and to facilitate innovation
- ✓ All matters related to inter-regulatory coordination and internal coordination on fintech shall also be dealt with by the Department.
- ✓
- ✓ **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)**
- ✓ National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2021 by the number of contracts traded.
- ✓ NSE is ranked fourth in the world in cash equities by the number of trades as per the statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) for 2021.
- ✓
- ✓ **1500 Crore Rupees In IREDA**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved infusion of 1500 crore rupees in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited.
- ✓ It will help generate 10,200 jobs a year and reduce carbon emissions equivalent to approximately 7.49 million tonnes per year.
- ✓
- ✓ **Largest Exporters of Cucumber and Gherkins**
- ✓ India has emerged as the largest exporter of cucumber and gherkins in the world.
- ✓ India has exported cucumber and gherkins to the tune of over 1,23,000 Metric Tonnes with a value of 114 million US dollars during April-October 2020-21.
- ✓
- ✓ **World Economic Outlook**
- ✓ India's economy - is estimated to grow by 9% in the current fiscal year, according to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook
- ✓ This is slightly lesser than the agency's earlier forecast of 9.5%, amidst the impact of the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The IMF raised India's GDP growth estimate to 9% for 2022-23 from its earlier estimate of 8.5% in October and for 2023-24 it forecast the economy to grow by 7.1%.
- ✓
- ✓ **\$300 Billion Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026**
- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in association with India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) - released its vision document, '\$300 billion Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026.'
- ✓ This report provides a year-wise break-up and production projections for the various products that will lead India's transformation into a \$300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse, from the current \$75 billion.
- ✓
- ✓ **Google**
- ✓ US-based internet major Google - has announced **an investment of up to \$1 billion** in partnership with Delhi-based telecom company Bharti Airtel.
- ✓ This includes a \$700 million equity investment in Bharti Airtel for a 1.28% stake in the company.
- ✓ Google will also invest another \$300 million in multi-year commercial agreements, which will include investments in making smartphones affordable across price range and focus on India-specific use cases for 5G.
- ✓
- ✓ **Electronic Goods Exports**
- ✓ India's electronic goods exports - registered a growth of 49% at \$11.0 billion in April-December 2021 compared to \$7.4 billion during the same period in 2020.
- ✓ The top five export destinations in April-November 2021 are - USA (18%), UAE (16.6%), China (7.6%), Netherlands (4.5%) and Germany (4.2%).
- ✓ Mobile Phones constitute a major chunk of India's electronics goods exports.
- ✓ **National Land Monetisation Corporation**
- ✓ Government has established National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC).
- ✓ NLMC has been set up to fast track monetization of land and non-core assets of public sector entities.
- ✓
- ✓ **India's Top Trade Partner in 2021**

- ✓ The United States was India's top trading partner in the calendar year 2021 with a trade of \$112.3 billion.
- ✓ The US is followed by China on second. The value of trade between India and China was \$110.4 billion.
- ✓
- ✓ **JP Morgan**
- ✓ *The largest bank in the US, JP Morgan* – became the first leading bank to enter 'Metaverse' by opening a lounge in the blockchain-based 3D virtual metaverse platform called 'Decentraland'.
- ✓ The metaverse is a virtual world where people can interact, attend events, and explore, as digital avatars of themselves.

- ✓ **India's Exports reach \$400 Billion**
- ✓ India has achieved the target of 400 billion dollars of goods exports for the first time ever in March 2022.
- ✓ The exports in the financial year 2020- 21 were USD 292 billion while the exports in 2021-22 are USD 400 billion with a 37 per cent rise.



COURT VERDICT

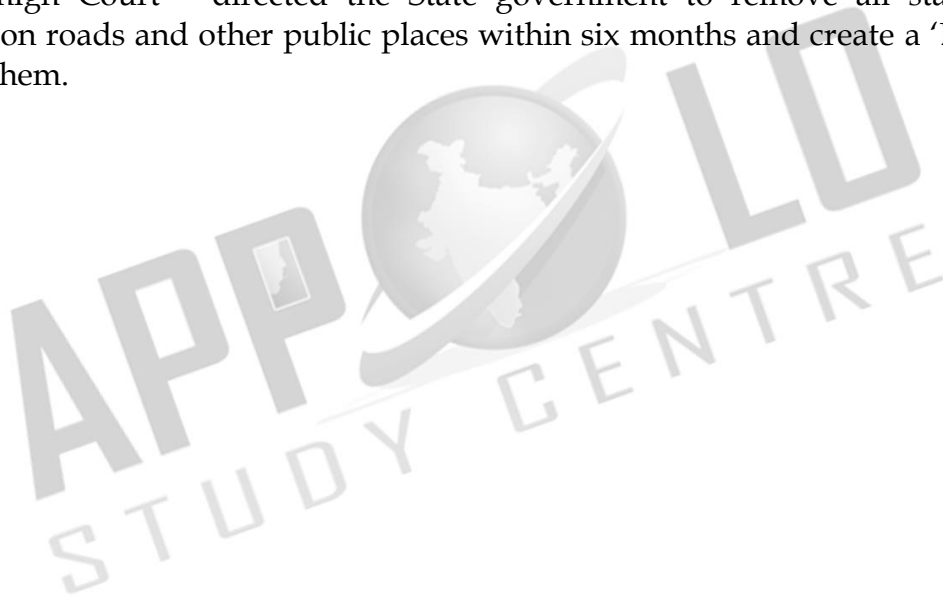
➤ INS Viraat

- ✓ Currently, the 62-year-old warship is being dismantled at the ship-breaking facility in Alang scrapyard
- ✓ Petitioner Envitech Marine Consultants Pvt Ltd had expressed its intent to preserve the warship as a museum and war memorial

☐ **The Supreme Court** - has ruled that personal guarantors are liable for corporate debts and **lenders can recover dues** from them if firms fails to repay

➤ 'Leaders Park'

- ✓ Madras high Court - directed the State government to remove all statues of leaders installed on roads and other public places within six months and create a 'Leaders park' to relocate them.



DEFENCE

- **Sea Vigil-21: Indian Navy kick starts second edition of coastal defence exercise**
 - ✓ The exercise by the Indian Navy will be undertaken along the entire 7,516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India.
 - ✓ It will also involve all the 13 coastal states as well as UTs along with other maritime stakeholders, which includes coastal and fishing communities.
- **India's first indigenous 9mm Machine Pistol jointly developed by Indian Army, DRDO**
 - ✓ The machine pistol has been named 'Asmi', which means **self-respect, hard work and pride**.
- **Bhawana Kanth to become first woman fighter pilot to participate in Republic Day parade 2021**
 - ✓ Bhawana Kanth is also one of the first women fighter pilots in the Indian Air Force. Kanth, along with Mohana Singh and Avani Chaturvedi, was inducted in IAF in 2016 as the first women fighter pilots.
- **India, French Rafale fighters start Desert Knight wargames**
 - ✓ The Indian Air Force on January 20, 2021, started the first major international wargames involving its Rafale fighter jets along with their French counterparts in Jodhpur.
 - ✓ The Exercise Desert Knight-21 is being held at Jodhpur Air Force Station from January 20 to 24.
- **AMPHEX -21: Indian Navy conducts Joint Exercise with Indian Army, Air Force**
 - ✓ A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX - 21 was conducted in Andaman & Nicobar Islands from January 21-25, 2021.
- **STARStreak Air Defence System**
 - ✓ Bharat Dynamics Limited, a Government of India enterprise - signed an agreement with Thales, a French Multinational Company recently for mutual collaboration on STARStreak Air Defence System
 - ✓ The STARStreak is a short-range surface-to-air missile that can travel at Mach 3 speed, that is, the speed of the missile is three times the speed of sound
 - ✓
- **'Kavach' military exercise**
 - ✓ The Indian Army - has proposed to conduct a large scale joint military exercise 'Kavach' in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

- ✓ It will involve Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard, alongwith the participation and deployment of Army's Amphibious Brigade

- ✓

➤ **Akash-NG (New Generation) Missile**

- ✓ The missile can intercept the aerial threats from fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles and is launched to boost the Indian Air Force (IAF) defence system

➤ **Indian Naval Fast Attack Craft, IN FAC T-81, of the Super Dvora MK II**

- ✓ Rear Admiral V Srinivas, Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area was the Chief Guest of the event held at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

- ✓ The 25 meters long vessel with 60 tonnes displacement was built at Goa Shipyard Ltd., in collaboration with M/s Ramta of Israel.

➤ **'Yudh Abhyas' in Rajasthan**

- ✓ The 'Yudh Abhyas' exercise will be held at the Mahajan Field Firing ranges from February 8 to 21

- ✓ The US contingent for Yudh Abhyas will include a brigade headquarters and a battalion group of around 250 soldiers from a Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

➤ **Ka - 226T**

- ✓ The helicopters would be manufactured by India Russia Helicopters Limited (IRHL) – a joint venture between HAL and Russian Helicopters.

- ✓ The Ka-226T is meant to replace the obsolete Cheetah and Chetak fleet of the Army and Air Force

➤ **Tropex**

- ✓ The exercise was participated by the Indian Navy, Marine Police of 13 coastal States and Union Territories and the Coast Guard, besides other stakeholders

- ✓ It was followed by a large-scale tri-Service joint amphibious exercise called "Amphex-21"

- ✓ It was conducted in the Andaman and Nicobar islands from Jan 21 to 25.

➤ **PASSEX military exercise**

- ✓ The Indian and the Indonesian navies - held the PASSEX military exercise in the Arabian Sea

- ✓ The exercise focused on enhancing the operational interoperability and the overall cooperation between both the navies

- ✓ INS Talwar represented the Indian naval ship, while the Indonesian Navy was represented by the multirole corvette KRI Bung Tomo

➤ **Uttam Radars**

- ✓ India-made Uttam radars – are to be installed in at least 51% of the 123 Tejas fighters that will be inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF)

➤ **118 Arjun Mark-1A main-battle tanks**

- ✓ The contract for the “improved” Arjun tanks will be the second such mega deal for home-grown weapon systems in recent times
- ✓ The Kalyani M4 is a multi-role platform, designed for quick mobility in rough terrain and in areas affected by mine and Improved Explosive Devices (IED) threats.

□ **Air combat exercise ‘Desert Flag’**

- India – to take part in a major multinational air combat exercise ‘Desert Flag’ in the United Arab Emirates with fighter jets and heavy-duty airlift aircraft this month.
- This will be the first such exercise to be participated by India in the strategically located Persian Gulf region
- The other exercises are the American ‘Red Flag’ in 2016, the Israeli ‘BlueFlag’ in 2017 and the Australian ‘Pitch Black’ wargames in 2018.

□ **–DUSTLIK III**

- India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise –DUSTLIK III – commenced on March 10 in the Foreign Training Node Chaubatia at Ranikhet, Uttarakhand.
- The first edition of the exercise was held at Uzbekistan in the month of November, 2019.
- During the exercise, both the armies will share their expertise and skills with respect to the counter-terrorism operations under the mandate of United Nations in Mountainous or Urban or Rural scenarios.
- The exercise will also culminate into a 36-hour joint validation exercise which is scheduled for March 17 to March 18, 2021.

□ **Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS)**

- The Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS) - has released the first batch of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) kits for Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) from its facility located near the Hyderabad international airport
- The KRAS is a joint venture between the Kalyani Group of India and Rafael Advanced Defence Systems of Israel The KRAS will deliver more than 1000 MRSAM missile kits to India in the coming years

□ □

□ **India - is set to clear a mega indigenous project to build three nuclearpowered attack submarines soon**

- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) is likely to give the final nod –within a month or two to the mega submarine project

- The project is for the construction of six nuclear-powered attack submarines, also called SSNs in naval parlance, each weighing over 6,000 tonnes, at the shipbuilding centre (SBC) in Vishakapatnam.
- Out of the first three submarines to be given approval, the first indigenous SSN is expected to be rolled out by around 2032
- INS Chakra is a nuclear-powered attack submarine presently in use.

- **La Perouse**
- India - to participate in a French naval exercise 'La Perouse' in the Bay of Bengal this month

- **New Lightweight bullet - Proof Jacket (BJP)**
 - ✓ It has developed a new lightweight bullet-proof jacket (BPJ), which weighs 9kg, to meet the qualitative requirements of the 13-lakh strong Army
 - ✓ The new jacket was developed by the Kanpur-based Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment, a DRDO laboratory
 - ✓ India exports bulletproof jackets to 18 countries
- **Hydrographic Survey**
 - ✓ INS Sarvekshak, a hydrographic survey ship - is to conduct joint hydrographic surveys in Mauritius along with the support of Mauritian authorities.
- **"Khanjar"**
 - ✓ India and Kyrgyzstan - commenced the 8th edition of a joint Special Forces Military Exercise - the "Khanjar" - on April 16
- **Python - 5 Israeli short range missile**
 - ✓ On April 28, the DRDO - test-fired successfully the Israeli short-range weapon Python-5 air-to-air missile from the indigenous Tejas light combat aircraft at Goa
- **Defence Minister Mr. Rajnath Singh - granted special emergency financial powers to the armed forces for providing Covid-related assistance to the general public**
 - ✓ The Minister invoked "special provisions" to grant the financial powers to formation commanders around the country.
- **Varuna - 2021**
 - ✓ The Indian and French Navies - recently conducted the VARUNA Naval Exercise in the Arabian Sea as part of the Clemenceau 2021.'
- **INS Rajput**
 - ✓ INS Rajput - has been decommissioned after 41 years of service by the Indian Navy on May 21, 2021 in Naval Dockyard located in Visakhapatnam.
- **Israeli Heron Mark - II drones**

- ✓ India - to soon get four advanced Israeli Heron Mark-II drones, which can stay airborne for 45 hours at a stretch
- **India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**
 - ✓ It has developed a Covid-19 antibody detection kit. The DIPCOVAN kit can detect both spikes as well as nucleocapsid proteins of Coronavirus with a high sensitivity of 97%.
 - ✓ It has been approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research and has been developed by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences lab of DRDO in association with Delhi's Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd.
- **INS Sahyadri was awarded the 'Best Ship' title 'Best Ship' title at the Fleet Awards 2021**
- **EUNAVFOR**
 - ✓ In a first, the Indian Navy is participating in a joint exercise with the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR). Stealth frigate INS Trikanth, will participate in the two-day exercise in Gulf of Aden as it is already deployed in the region on anti-piracy operations
- **Sagar Purvi**
 - ✓ Sagar Purvi, one of the oldest coastal research vessels (CRV) belonging to Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) - has been decommissioned.
 - ✓ At present, the Ministry of Earth Sciences has a fleet of six ships including Sagar Kanya, Sagar Sampada, Sagar Nidhi, Sagar Manjusha and recently procured vessels Sagar Tara and Sagar Anveshika.
- **'Project-75 India (P-75I)' to construct six new-generation stealth submarines with foreign collaboration**
 - ✓ The defence acquisition council (DAC), India's apex procurement body headed by defence minister Rajnath Singh, approved the proposal and the navy is soon expected to issue requests for proposal (RFP) for the programme, called P-75 India.
- **Sajag**
 - ✓ National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval - has recently dedicated Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sajag' to the nation for safeguarding its maritime interests.
- **Second Rafale Squadron**
 - ✓ The Indian Air Force - has raised the second Rafale squadron, the 101 'Falcons of Chhamb and Akhnoor', in Ambala ahead of their formal induction at the Hasimara airbase in West Bengal
- **PINAKA**
 - ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - has successfully test fired an extended range version of "Pinaka" rockets and 122mm Caliber rockets on June 24 and 25.
- **"Agni Prime"**
 - ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully tested the new generation nuclear-capable 'Agni Prime' ballistic missile

- ✓ The surface-to-surface advanced two-stage missile, having a range of 1000 to 2000 km, was test-fired from a mobile launcher from the Abdul Kalam Island near Balasore off Odisha coast.
- **India successfully test fires indigenous subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay**
 - ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' on June
- **INS Tabar exercise with Italian Navy off Naples, Italy**
 - ✓ INS Tabar, a Talwar-class frigate of the Indian Navy, exercises with the Italian Navy.
 - ✓ On 03 July 2021, INS Tabar entered the Port of Naples, Italy as part of the ongoing deployment to the Mediterranean.
- **Operation Sankalp: Sixteen Indian flagged vessels provided safe passage**
 - ✓ Twenty-three warships have been deployed so far in the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to protect and provide safe passage for Indian flagged merchant vessels transiting through the region.
- **'Exercise Shield' maritime exercise held between India, Sri Lanka & Maldives**
 - ✓ A Tri Nation Table Top Anti-Narcotics & Maritime Search and Rescue exercise (Exercise Shield) between Maldives National Defence Force, Sri Lanka Navy and Indian Navy was conducted in virtual mode for the first time on 14 and 15 July 2021 with Indian Navy as the lead agency.
- **Indo-Russia Joint Military Drill 'Exercise INDRA 2021**
 - ✓ The 12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military exercise called 'Exercise INDRA 2021' will be held at Volgograd, Russia from 01 to 13 August 2021.
- **P-8I Poseidon**
 - ✓ Indian Navy - has recently received its 10th long-range anti-submarine warfare and maritime patrol aircraft P-8I Poseidon from the US-based aerospace company, Boeing.
- **'The Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli (OFT) - launched a new weapon called TriCa (Trichy Carbine), a mini version of the Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR).**
- **INS Vikrant**
 - ✓ The Indian Navy - has announced that India's first indigenously aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant - India's largest warship - is set to begin sea trials on August 4 off the coast of Kochi.
- **INS Talwar - has recently participated in the annual maritime exercise 'Cutlass Express 2021' in Mombassa, Kenya**
- **Prakriti Diksha**
 - ✓ Prakriti and Diksha became the first women officers to be deployed in combatised roles by the mountain warfare force.

- **Nirbhay land Cruise Missile**
 - ✓ Another flight-test of the indigenous 'Nirbhay' land-attack cruise missile - was unsuccessful on August 11 due to a technical snag.
- **India and Russia - signed a deal for the immediate procurement of 70,000 latest AK series of assault rifles for Indian Army under the provisions of emergency procurement.**
- **The Ministry of Defence - signed a Rs.1,350 crore contract with Mahindra Defence Systems Limited (MDS) to manufacture 14 integrated anti-submarine warfare defence suites (IADS) for front-line warships of the Navy.**
- **QUAD Countries**
 - ✓ The Quad countries – **Australia, Japan, India, and the United States** – have conducted the 25th edition of the Malabar naval exercises off the coast of Guam from August 26-29
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - to meet his Australian counterpart Peter Dutton in New Delhi to discuss specific measures to further expand the bilateral defence cooperation on September**
- **AUSINDEX**
 - ✓ India and Australia kicked off the 4th edition of their bilateral naval exercise 'AUSINDEX' off Darwin.
- **MRSAM**
 - ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - has handed over the first deliverable Firing Unit (FU) of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) System to Indian Air Force (IAF) at Air Force Station, Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.
- **'ZAPAD 2021'**
 - ✓ ZAPAD 2021 is a 13-day exercise and will end on 16 September
 - ✓ In all, 17 countries are participating in ZAPAD including Mongolia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Russia, India and Belarus.
- **Separately, the Indian and Kazakh armies are engaged in a 13-day joint military exercise "KAZIND-21" at training Node Aisha Bibi, Kazakhsta**
- **28th Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'SIMBEX-2021' Concludes**
 - ✓ The **28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** took place from September 02 to 04, 2021.
 - ✓ The SIMBEX-2021 annual bilateral maritime exercise was hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern fringes of the **South China Sea**.
- **Konkan Shakthi 2021**
 - ✓ The first ever India-UK tri-services joint exercise, called **Konkan Shakthi 2021** - has commenced on October 21, 2021, with the re-entry of UK's Carrier Strike Group (CSG) into the western Indian Ocean waters

- ✓ The maritime component of the exercise will be conducted off India's west coast in two phases.
- ✓ Harbour phase will be held in Mumbai from October 21 to October 23, moving to the sea phase which concludes on October 27

➤ **JIMEX**

- ✓ India - Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise, JIMEX, between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF), was held in Arabian Sea, from October 6 to Oct.8, 2021.

➤ **15B stealth guided-missile destroyer, Y 12704**

- ✓ Indian Navy - received its first Project 15B stealth guided-missile destroyer, Y 12704, on October 28
- ✓ The first of the four 7,400-tonne stealth destroyers was constructed at Mazagon Docks.
- ✓ The 163 metres long warship has a full load displacement of 7,400 tonnes and maximum speed of 30 knots.
- ✓ The ships are designed by the Directorate of Naval Design, Indian Navy's in-house design organization.

➤ **New Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Sarthak'**

- ✓ A new Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Sarthak' - has been dedicated to the nation on October 28, 2021 by the Director General of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), K Natarajan in Goa.
- ✓ The indigenously built ICGS Sarthak will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat and operate on India's Western Seaboard under the Operational and Administrative Control of the commander of Coast Guard Region (Northwest)

➤ **Indian Air Force**

- ✓ IAF promotes Balakot air strike hero Abhinandan to Group Captain rank
- ✓ Indian Air Force on November 3, 2021, promoted the ace pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman to the rank of Group Captain which is equivalent to a Colonel in the Indian Army.
- ✓ Balakot air strike hero Abhinandan was awarded a Shaurya Chakra for taking down an F-16 combat aircraft during a fight with Pakistani fighter aircraft.

➤ **Indo-Thai CORPAT**

- ✓ The 32nd edition of the India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy is being conducted from 12-14 November 2021.
- ✓ Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, Thailand Ship (HTMS) Tayanchon, a Khamrosin Class Anti-submarine Patrol Craft, along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies are participating in the CORPAT.

➤ **SHAKTI 2021**

- ✓ The 6th Edition of Indo France Joint Military Exercise- EX SHAKTI 2021 is being conducted from 15 to 26 November 2021 in Frejus, France.

➤ **S-400 Triumf Surface-To-Air Missile System**

- ✓ Russia - has started delivering the S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile system to India.

- ✓ India has started receiving the air defence weapons from Russia despite threat of sanctions by the US.
- **Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has handed over the indigenously built light combat helicopters (LCH), developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, to the Indian Air Force chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari.
- **Advanced Electronic Warfare System Shakti**
- ✓ In the Uttar Pradesh city of Jhansi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over an advanced electronic warfare system known as 'Shakti' to the Navy on 19 November 2021.
- **INS Visakhapatnam**
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the indigenously developed missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam into Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on November 21, 2021.
- ✓ INS Visakhapatnam is the first stealth-guided missile destroyer ship of Project 15B. It is named after the historic city of Visakhapatnam.
- **Operation Sankalp**
- ✓ Operation Sankalp, INS Trikand is currently deployed by the Indian Navy in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.
- ✓ INS Trikand is a state-of-the-art guided missile stealth frigate.
- ✓ Operation Sankalp ensure safety of India's Mercantile Marine in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
- **Dakshin Shakti**
- ✓ Indian Army - is conducting a major combat exercise with other forces along the western border in Gujarat and Rajasthan to test new concepts and doctrines for wars of the future.
- ✓ The theatre-level 'Dakshin Shakti' exercise includes over 30,000 troops from the Army, Navy, IAF, Coast Guard, BSF and intelligence agencies.
- ✓ The exercise was started on November 20 and will conclude on November 25.
- **Submarine INS Vela**
- ✓ The Indian Navy on 25 November 2021 commissioned Scorpene-class submarine INS Vela at the naval dockyard in Mumbai.
INS Vela is the fourth Scorpene-class submarine to be commissioned under Project 75.
- **Ex SHAKTI- 2021**
- ✓ 6th edition of biennial Indo - France joint military exercise called "Ex SHAKTI- 2021" concluded on November 26, 2021 in France.
Ex SHAKTI 2021 involved twelve days of intense joint military training.

DEFENCE - 2022

➤ SAHAYAK-NG

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with the Indian Navy conducted a trial of 'SAHAYAK-NG' from an IL-38SD aircraft at Goa.
'SAHAYAK-NG' is India's first indigenously developed air-droppable container.

➤ Exercise Milan 2022

- ✓ India has invited a total of 46 nations to participate in the multinational naval exercise 'Milan' in Visakhapatnam, scheduled from February 25, 2022.
- ✓ The theme of this edition of exercise Milan is camaraderie, cohesion and collaboration.

➤ Sea Dragon 2022

- ✓ India is participating in the multinational exercise Sea Dragon 2022 at Guam in the Western Pacific.
- ✓ The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the United States, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and South Korea.

➤ BrahMos Cruise Missile

On January 11, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully test-fired the naval variant of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile

- ✓ The missile was launched from the Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth guided-missile destroyer INS Vishakhapatnam off the Western coast.

➤ Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)

- ✓ On January 11, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully flight tested the final deliverable configuration of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

➤ PASSEX

- ✓ Russian ship Admiral Tributs and INS Kochi conducted the PASSEX exercise in the Arabian sea on 14 January.
- ✓ The exercise was organized to showcase cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies.

➤ Brahmos Missile

- ✓ India successfully test-fires new version of Brahmos missile.
- ✓ India successfully test-fired a new version of supersonic cruise missile Brahmos off the Odisha coast on 20 January 2022.
- ✓ BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.

➤ BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missiles

- ✓ On January 28, India - signed the \$374.96 million (2,770 crore) contract to export BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines.
- ✓ This is India's first significant defence export. This is the first export order for the missile, a joint product of India and Russia.

➤ ALH Mark-III

- ✓ On January 28, the strategically located Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) - formally inducted the latest maritime version of the indigenous advanced light helicopters (ALH Mark-III) at the naval base INS Utkrosh in Port Blair.
- **INS Khukri - India's 1st Full Warship Museum**
- ✓ INS Khukri, the first built missile corvette, which was decommissioned after 32yrs of service in December 2021, was handed over to the Diu Admin on January 26, 2022.
- ✓ The INS Khukri will be turned into India's 1st full warship museum.
- **Paschim Lehar' (XPL-2022)**
- ✓ A joint tri-service maritime exercise 'Paschim Lehar' (XPL-2022) conducted by Indian Navy - concluded off the West Coast on January 25, 2022
- ✓ The exercise was conducted over 20 days to validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army, and Indian Coast Guard.
- **Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene submarine "Vagir"**
- ✓ Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene submarine "Vagir" begins its sea trials.
- ✓ The fifth submarine of Project 75, "Vagir" commenced its sea trials on 1 February.
- ✓ It was launched in November 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- **Konkurs-M**
- ✓ On February 2, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Indian Army - have signed a three-year contract for the manufacture and supply of anti-tank guided missile Konkurs-M to the Indian Army.
Konkurs-M is a second-generation, mechanised infantry anti-tank guided missile, to destroy armoured vehicles.
- **Milan 2022**
- ✓ US and Russia - have confirmed the participation in India's biggest-ever maritime exercise 'Milan 2022' to be held from 26 February to 4 March 2022.
- ✓ A total of 46 countries have been invited, out of which over 35 have confirmed participation.
- ✓ 'Milan' is a biennial multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy.
- **Def Expo 2022**
- ✓ Ministry of Defence - to host the 12th edition of biennial defence exhibition Def Expo 2022 from 10th to 13th March 2022 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ More than 900 defence firms and 55 countries have confirmed their participation in Asia's largest defence exhibition, DefExpo 2022.
- ✓ Theme for Defexpo 2022 is "India-The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub".
- **Eastern Bridge VI**
- ✓ The Indian Air Force and Royal Air Force of Oman - kicked off the sixth edition of bilateral air combat exercise 'Eastern Bridge VI' on February 21 at Air Force Station, Jodhpur.
- ✓ The exercise seeks to promote professional interaction, exchange of experiences and enhancement of operational knowledge, besides strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

➤ **Cobra Warrior 2022**

- ✓ The Indian Air Force will participate in the multi-nation air exercise called 'Ex Cobra Warrior 22' at Royal Air Force Base in Waddington, United Kingdom.
- ✓ India will be sending five indigenous LCA Tejas fighter aircraft to participate in the exercise and a C-17 aircraft will provide transport support.

➤ **Milan 2022 Kick-Off**

- ✓ The latest edition of the Indian Navy's multilateral exercise MILAN 2022 is commencing from 25 Feb 22 in the 'City of Destiny', Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ The theme of the MILAN 2022 exercise is 'Camaraderie - Cohesion - Collaboration' which aims to project India as a responsible maritime power to the world at large.

➤ **India-Japan to hold Joint Military Exercise**

- ✓ EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022, a joint military exercise, will be held between India and Japan in Karnataka from February 27 to March 10, 2022.
- ✓ Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual training event that is being conducted in India since 2018.

➤ **India-US Military Cooperation**

- ✓ The 19th edition of India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was held in Agra, Uttar Pradesh on March 1-2, 2022.
- ✓ The India-US MCG is a forum established to progress defence cooperation between the countries through regular talks at the strategic and operational levels between headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff and the US IndoPacific Command.

➤ **Vayu Shakti**

- ✓ Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct the Exercise Vayu Shakti that will take place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer on March 7, 2022.
- ✓ Out of the 148 aircraft participating in the exercise this year, 109 will be fighter jets.

➤ **SLINEX**

- ✓ Ninth edition of Sri Lanka-India naval exercise SLINEX begins.
- ✓ 9th Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise SLINEX began on 7 March 2022 in Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ The exercise will be conducted in two phases, the harbour phase at Visakhapatnam on March 7 and 8, followed by the sea phase on March 9 and 10 in the Bay of Bengal.

➤ **Dharma Guardian**

- ✓ Exercise Dharma Guardian, an annual exercise between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Force - concluded at the Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre in Belgaum (Karnataka) on March 10.
- ✓ The exercise had commenced on February 27 at the Foreign Training Node of the Indian Army in Belgaum.

➤ **Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC)**

- ✓ For the first time in its 100-year history, Dehradun's Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) - has announced its decision to admit girls.
- ✓ The RIMC takes students from Class VIII onwards and is regarded as a premier preparing ground for those aspiring to join the armed forces.

➤ **India Emerges as Largest Importer of Arms in 2017-21: SIPRI Report**

- ✓ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its latest report on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021, released in March 2022, reveals that India and Saudi Arabia had emerged as the largest arms importers of arms between 2017-21, each accounting for 11% of all global arms sales.

➤ **LAMITIYE- 2022 Joint Military Exercise**

- ✓ The Indian Army and the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) are holding the 9th Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022 at the Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA) in Seychelles from March 22 to March 31, 2022.
- ✓ The goal of the exercise is to share experiences gained during various operations against hostile forces in a semi-urban environment and enhance the capability to conduct joint operations.

➤ **Suraksha Kavach 2**

- ✓ On March 22, Joint Exercise Suraksha Kavach 2 – was conducted between Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar, Pune.
- ✓ The aim of the exercise was to streamline the drills and procedures undertaken by Army and Police to counter any likely terrorist actions in Pune.

➤ **EX-DUSTLIK**

- ✓ The 3rd edition of joint training exercise between Indian and Uzbekistan armies, EX-DUSTLIK is being conducted at Yangiarik, Uzbekistan from 22 to 31 March 2022.
- ✓ The Indian contingent which comprises of a platoon strength of Grenadiers Regiment departed for the exercise area on 22 March 2022 to join the Uzbekistan Army contingent represented by troops of the North Western Military District.

➤ **IMEX-22**

- ✓ The maiden edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) - was conducted at Goa and in Arabian Sea from March 26 to 30, 2022.
- ✓ The aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations among member navies.
- ✓ The exercise witnessed participation of 15 out of the 24 member nations of IONS.