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TAMIL NADU



STATES



NATIONAL



INDIA & THE WORLD



INTERNATIONAL



SCHEMES



DEFENCE



SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY



EVS



ECONOMY



COURT VERDICTS



CONFERENCES &
SUMMITS



AWARDS



PERSONALITIES



BOOKS & AUTHORS



SPORTS



RANKS & REPORTS



DAYS



OBITUARY



NEWS OF THE MONTH



KNOWLEDGE



APPOINTMENTS



COMMITTEES



APPS / PORTALS



MISCELLANEOUS

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 1-15, 2021

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TAMILNADU

➤ **National Award for Disability Welfare**

- ✓ T.N. to get national award for disability welfare.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has been recognised as the 'Best State in promoting empowerment of persons with disabilities'.
- ✓ It will receive an award for this on Friday, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, at a ceremony in New Delhi to be held by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

➤ **IIT Madras**

- ✓ Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras have developed the latest technologies in the wearable devices segment.
- ✓ They would assist people with hearing impaired and motor disabilities to communicate independently.
- ✓ The devices 'Vibe' and 'iGest' were developed by the Centre for Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology (CREATE).

➤ **Tamil Qualifying Exam**

- ✓ On November 3, the state government - has passed an order making Tamil qualifying exam mandatory for all government jobs in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ As per the government order taking immediate effect, the Tamil qualifying exam is mandatory for all recruitment exams conducted by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.
- ✓ TNPSC will not evaluate the answer sheets of other subjects if the candidates do not qualify in the Tamil exam.

➤ **Samagraha Siksha Abhiyan**

- ✓ 15-year-old Sangeetha N - won the state-level educational quiz conducted under Samagraha Siksha Abhiyan.
- ✓ Samagraha Siksha Abhiyan is a central-government scheme to bridge gaps in society by promoting education opportunities to all sections.

➤ **Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Agricultural University - ranked eighth among the 67 agricultural institutes in the country in the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) ranking for 2020 that was released on November 4.

➤ **Open Innovation Challenge**

- ✓ GoFloaters, a Chennai-based start-up - has won the Best Innovation Award at the Open Innovation Challenge organised by Tamil Nadu Start-up and Innovation Mission (Tansim) of Tamil Nadu government.
 - ✓ The start-up received the award for providing innovative solutions to the problems faced by the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation to improve the pace of Covid-19 vaccine distribution.
- **16th Bird Sanctuary - Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ Kazhuveli Wetland in Tamil Nadu was declared as the 16th bird sanctuary.
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department has designated the Kazhuveli Wetlands near Villupuram in Tamil Nadu as a bird sanctuary and it will now be known as the 'Kazhuveli Birds Sanctuary' under the subsection (1) of Section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Nammai Kaakkum 48**
- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will launch the State Government's latest initiative, Nammai Kaakkum 48, in Chengalpattu on December 18.
 - ✓ The scheme is being rolled out to ensure the timely hospitalisation and treatment of people injured in road accidents.
- **Wedding Scheme For Persons With Disabilities**
- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday launched a scheme allowing the free conduct of marriages between persons with disabilities in temples under the purview of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department.
 - ✓ Mr. Stalin presented a copy of the Government Order to two persons with disabilities – S. Suresh Kumar and S. Monisha – who had applied to get married at the Sri Parthasarathy Perumal temple in Triplicane.
- **Department of Tamil Development**
- ✓ The Department of Tamil Development - has issued an order making Tamil mandatory in writing initials and names in government documents.
 - ✓ The educational institutions too have been asked to follow the practice and encourage students to affix their signatures in certificates and documents in Tamil.
- **Highest Number of Medical Colleges**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu - has the highest number of medical colleges in the country, after the addition of 17 new medical colleges this year.

- ✓ With this, the state will have 69 medical colleges offering 10,375 MBBS seats – the highest in the country.
- **Madras School of Economics (MSE)**
 - ✓ The Madras School of Economics (MSE) - is planning to unveil its first BA in economics programme in 2022-23 with 50 seats.
 - ✓ The state recognised Madras School of Economics (MSE) as an institute of special importance in economics and allied subjects and management with degree granting power through Madras School of Economics Act, 2020.
- **Sponge City in Water Management**
 - ✓ Chennai is all set to adopt innovative water management strategies and transform into a sponge city to curb the urban flooding.
 - ✓ Sponge city concept seeks to make urban areas more permeable, have more open spaces to store rainwater as well to allow it to percolate to aquifers.
- **CITIIS (City Investments To Innovate, Integrate and Sustain)**
 - ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation – has initiated plans to transform 28 schools under the CITIIS (City Investments To Innovate, Integrate and Sustain) programme at a cost of 99 crore.
 - ✓ The programme is managed by the National Institute of Urban Affairs and financed by the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs, the French Development Agency and the European Union.
- **Green T.N. Mission**
 - ✓ The State Government has granted its administrative and financial sanction for implementing the ‘Green Tamil Nadu Mission’ during 2021-22 that aims at increasing the forest and tree cover in the State from the present 23.8% to 33% by 2030-31.
- **World Tamil Economic Meet**
 - ✓ The eighth World Tamils conference and Chennai Global Economic Summit will be held in the city from December 27 to 29.
 - ✓ The “Crown Jewel of World Tamils” award on 10 prominent Tamils from all over the world will be awarded on the final day.
- **Sudhandhirathin Amirtha Peruvizha**
 - ✓ Union Government has honoured the Government of Tamil Nadu with 2 awards.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu tops India with 22.88 lakh tests for infectious diseases.
 - ✓ Government of Tamil Nadu ranks 3rd with 85,514 sessions to improve healthy living.

- ✓ The campaign was implemented in Tamil Nadu under the name of “Sudhandhirathin Amirtha Peruvizha”.
- **Pink Licence’ Days**
- ✓ Transport Minister of Puducherry Chandra Priyanka said on Monday that the Department of Transport has earmarked Saturdays as pink licence days to issue driving licences to women and girl students.
- **Illam Thedi Kalvi Scheme**
- ✓ School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh has announced that a home-based education program will be implemented in all districts from January, 2022.
- ✓ Launched on a trial basis in 12 districts as “Illam Thedi Kalvi Scheme”.
- **TN -Five Announcements on Healthcare Implemented**
- ✓ Five Budget announcements – 1) establishing cognitive rehabilitation daycare centres, 2) internet de-addiction centres, 3) post-natal depression counselling, 4) newborn hearing special screening and 5) expansion of emergency care and recovery centres for the mentally ill were implemented on Monday, December 13.
- **NABARD**
- ✓ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) - has estimated an exploitable priority sector credit potential for Tamil Nadu for the year 2022-23 at Rs 4.13 lakh crore.
- ✓ This is an increase of over 20% over the projections made for the year 2021-22, which was Rs 3.43 lakh crore.
- **Loan Scheme for Women’s SHGs**
- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday provided loans to the tune of 2,750 crore and welfare aid to 7.56 lakh women from 58,463 women’s Self Help Groups in the State.
- ✓ Mr. Stalin said there were over 7.22 lakh women’s SHGs in Tamil Nadu with 1.06 crore members.
- ✓ Mr. Stalin said the government had also waived loans to the tune of 2,756 crore taken by women’s SHGs.
- **Indco Tea Vehicles**
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin - flagged off 20 Indco Tea Vehicles at the secretariat in Chennai on December 15.
- ✓ The launch of vehicles is an initiative of Indcoserve, an apex body of 16 industrial cooperative (Indco) tea factories in the Nilgiris.

➤ **The Urban Square**

- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated the urban square spread over nearly 5.9 lakh sqft beneath the cloverleaf-shaped Kathipara flyover in Chennai on December 16.
- ✓ The project was developed by the Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), with funds from the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA)
- ✓ The urban square, built at a cost of 14.5crore, will primarily serve as a rest stop for those arriving at the city.

➤ **Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS)**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has sanctioned 352.5 crore towards the implementation of Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS) - fully funded by the state government -- for this fiscal year.
- ✓ Each MLA is entitled to get 3 crore to implement the listed schemes in their constituencies.

➤ **Archeological Survey of India (ASI)**

- ✓ A team of Archeological Survey of India (ASI) officials - have discovered a 5th century stone sculpture of Vinayaki, (female form of Lord Ganesha), from the pre-Pallava period.
- ✓ The inscriptions are early Tamil scripts that can be traced to about 1,500 years ago.

➤ **Leprosy Screening**

- ✓ With the prevalence rate of leprosy higher among children in Tamil Nadu, screening camps will be started at all schools of the Greater Chennai Corporation and government schools, Health Minister Ma. Subramanian has said.
- ✓ "At the national level, the prevalence rate of leprosy was 0.57 per 10,000 population. In Tamil Nadu, it was 0.19 per 10,000 population. This means one of the 50,000 persons tested was affected by leprosy in Tamil Nadu, but the prevalence rate is high among the children.

STATE

➤ **Vidya Deevena Scheme**

- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh Government recently released Rs 686 crores for the Vidya Deevena Scheme.
- ✓ The Vidya Deevena Scheme provides scholarships to students who are not able to pay their college fees.

➤ **Social Security Scheme**

- ✓ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on 1 Dec 2021 announced a social security scheme for newspaper hawkers across the state.
- ✓ Under the scheme, in the event of a hawker's death due to an accident, an assistance of Rs 2 lakh will be provided to their next of kin and in case of natural death, the assistance of Rs 1 lakh will be provided.

➤ **Cyclone Jawad**

- ✓ Cyclone Jawad - to become the first cyclone to hit Odisha coast in the month of December, based on the India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s nearly 130 years of recorded history.
- ✓ The coastal state has been hit by more than 100 cyclones since 1891, when IMD started compiling cyclone data.
- ✓ 'Jawad' is the name given by Saudi Arabia as per standard protocol in the list of tropical cyclones.

➤ **Back to Work' Scheme**

- ✓ Rajasthan government has come up with a 'Back to Work' scheme for women who sometimes have to quit their jobs due to family circumstances.
- ✓ Regular or work from home job opportunities will be provided to such women with the help of private sector.

➤ **COVID-19 Vaccinated State**

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh has become the first state to fully vaccinate 100 percent of its adult population.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh was also the first state to achieve the 100 percent first dose.

➤ **General Bipin Rawat**

- ✓ Uttarakhand assembly - approved a proposal to name the under-construction Sanskrit University at Devprayag after CDS General Bipin Rawat.

- ✓ The assembly paid glowing tributes to the late Chief of the Defense Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, who died in a chopper crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu on December 8.
- **Atal Tinkering Labs in Jammu and Kashmir**
- ✓ NITI Aayog will be establishing 1,000 Atal Tinkering Laboratories in J&K, of which 187 will be established by the end of this financial year (2022).
- ✓ The labs will be built as a part of an initiative to provide children with opportunities to experiment and widen their understanding of scientific phenomena.
- **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)**
- ✓ NTPC has awarded a standalone fuel-cellbased green hydrogen microgrid project at Simhadri, in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ This will be India's first green hydrogen-based energy storage project and one of the largest in the world.
- **Solar Umbrella**
- ✓ On December 15, Kerala police - launched a 'Solar Umbrella' project at various places in Kochi city for the protection of traffic police personnel from the scorching heat.
- ✓ The huge umbrella with a fan fitted inside would function with the power generated from a solar panel fixed above.
- **Gender-Neutral Uniform**
- ✓ On December 15, the Balussery Government Girl's Higher Secondary school in Kozhikode, Kerala - implemented the gender-neutral uniform for its students. It is for the first time that a higher secondary school in the government sector has implemented a common uniform for girls and boys.

NATIONAL

➤ **Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020**

- ✓ Union Health Minister is expected to move the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020 in the Lok Sabha today.
- ✓ The Bill seeks for regulation & supervision of assisted reproductive technology clinics, prevention of misuse, safe & ethical practice of reproductive technology services.

➤ **Judges Bill introduced in Lok Sabha**

- ✓ The Judges Bill was introduced by The Union Law Minister in Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The bill intends to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Condition of Service) Act.

➤ **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**

- ✓ South peninsular India - recorded the highest ever rainfall in November since 1901, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and south interior Karnataka received 169% excess rainfall last month.

➤ **Cyclone Jawad**

- ✓ Cyclone Jawad, a cyclonic storm is expected to hit Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal by December 4.
- ✓ A low-pressure area over central parts of the Andaman Sea is most likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm over central parts of the Bay of Bengal during the subsequent 24 hours.

➤ **Dam Safety Bill**

- ✓ The Dam Safety Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha. The bill aims to inspect, survey, maintain and operate dams in the country, because most of the dams are more than 100 years old.
- ✓ The bill constitutes two national bodies. They are National Committee on Dam Safety and National Dam Safety Authority.

➤ **Omicron**

- ✓ Omicron cases detected in India.
- ✓ First two cases of Omicron have been detected in Karnataka through genome sequencing effort of INSACOG consortium of 37 laboratories.

- **AIRNxt**
- ✓ All India Radio has started a new programme called AIRNxt to offer youth a platform to air their voices as part of the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- ✓ It is the biggest single theme show on AIR and is being broadcast in all major Indian languages and dialects.

- **Best Performing Union Territory**
- The Union territory of Puducherry - emerged as the best performing Union territory in the implementation of the Union government's flagship scheme, 'Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (ABPMJAY).
- ✓ The territory won 'Ayushman Utkrishta Puraskar' award for the best performing Union territory with the highest percentage of households with at least one Ayushman card.

- **Nine New Nuclear Power Reactors**
- ✓ India - will have nine new nuclear power reactors by 2024 and a new nuclear project that will come up 150 km away from New Delhi in the Gorakhpur area of Haryana.
- ✓ This was announced by the government in Rajya Sabha on November 3.

- **InFinity Forum**
- ✓ The event was hosted by the International Financial Services Centres Authority under the Government of India.
- ✓ The newly inaugurated InFinity Forum will bring together the leading minds in business, policy, and technology. The forum will also witness the participation from over 70 countries.

- **Maitri Diwas**
- ✓ India and Bangladesh have decided to celebrate December 6, the day on which India formally recognized Bangladesh, as "Maitri Diwas" (Friendship Day).

- **CyberDrill 2021**
- ✓ International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Department of Telecommunications operating under the Ministry of Communications conducted a Joint Cyber Drill 2021.
- ✓ The cyber drill was conducted for the Critical Network Infrastructure operators of India.

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**
- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved nearly Rs 3,752 crore funding to the Indian government.
- ✓ It will enhance the quality of school education and also mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students' learning.

- **Nine Nuclear Reactors by 2024**
- ✓ The nation will have nine nuclear reactors by 2024 and a new nuclear project, the first in northern India, will come up 150 kms away from Delhi in Gorakhpur of Haryana, the government informed the Rajya Sabha.
By 2024, India will have nine nuclear reactors plus 12 new additional ones which were approved during the Covid times with a capacity of 9000 MW.

- **Uttarakhand**
- ✓ On December 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated seven projects and laid foundation stones for 11 others, cumulatively worth 18,000 crore in Uttarakhand.
- ✓ During the event, the PM laid the foundation for the 8,600 crore Delhi-Dehradun Expressway economic corridor and inspected the model of the project

- **Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd (IRRPL)**
- ✓ The central government - has given its go-ahead for the production of over five lakh AK-203 assault rifles at the Korwa unit in Amethi district of UP.
- ✓ The rifles will be manufactured in partnership with Russia
- ✓ The project would be implemented by a special purpose joint venture called Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd (IRRPL).
- ✓ .

- **World's Largest National Flag**
- ✓ On the occasion of Navy Day, the world's largest national flag - has been exhibited by the Western Naval Command at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, overlooking the iconic Gateway of India, on December 4.
- ✓ The national flag weighing 1400kg, measuring 225 feet in length and 150 feet in width, was conceptualised and manufactured by the Khadi and Village Industries and Commission.

- **Fortune India's Most Powerful Women**
- ✓ Nita Ambani, Founder and Chairperson, Reliance Foundation has been ranked second in the list of Fortune India's Most Powerful Women.
- ✓ Nirmala Sitharaman has topped the list.

➤ **Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0**

- ✓ On December 6, 2021, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding.
- ✓ The agreement was signed under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0. It was signed to strengthen the waste management sector in the country.

➤ **Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employees Employer Mapping (ASEEM)**

- ✓ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employees Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal.
- ✓ The objective is to provide a platform that matches the supply of skilled workforce with the market demand.

➤ **Smart Cities Mission**

- ✓ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has extended the timeline for the implementation of the Smart Cities Mission to June 2023 due to the Covid pandemic and other reasons.
- ✓ The Union government launched the smart cities mission on June 25, 2015.

➤ **India's Largest Manufacturing Hub**

- ✓ Gujarat became India's Largest Manufacturing Hub.
- ✓ Gujarat has left behind Maharashtra to become the country's leading manufacturing hub, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

➤ **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

- ✓ The government - has signed two loan agreements of Rs 2,074 crore with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for an affordable housing project in Tamil Nadu and a water sanitation programme in Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The government and the ADB signed a \$150 million (around Rs 1,132 crore) loan agreement to provide access to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable housing for the urban poor in the state of Tamil Nadu.

➤ **RT-LAMP**

- ✓ The Centre - to introduce visually interpreted rapid Covid test 'RT-LAMP' within two weeks at the airports in India and other places.
- ✓ The test was developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology (ICMRNIV).

- **The National Commission for Women (NCW)**
- ✓ The National Commission for Women (NCW) on 7 December 2021 launched a pan-India capacity building programme, 'She is a Changemaker'.
- ✓ It is for women representatives at all levels, gram panchayats to parliament members and political workers.

- **Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021**
- ✓ On December 8, the Rajya Sabha - gave its nod to the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021 to regulate and supervise assisted reproductive technology clinics.

- **School Standards Authority (SSA)**
- ✓ The CBSE - has been designated to act as the School Standards Authority (SSA) for schools affiliated to it and those run by Kendriya Vidyalayas Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS).

- **Saryu Nahar National Project**
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate Saryu Nahar National Project in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh tomorrow.
- ✓ The project has been built at a cost of over Rs. 9,800 crores. Saryu Nahar National Project involves the interlinking of 5 rivers- Saryu, Ghaghara, Rohini, Rapti & Banganga.

- **(Amendment) Bill, 2021**
- ✓ Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2021 passed in Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The object of the amendments in the bills is to cap the tenure of directors of the CBI and Enforcement at 5 years.

- **Pharmaceutical Education Bill**
- ✓ The Rajya Sabha passed the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2021, on December 9, 2021.
- ✓ Under this bill, six more institutes of pharmaceutical education and research, other than an institute at Mohali, will be accorded the status of institute of national importance.

- **E-Sawari India E-Bus Coalition' with CESL**
- ✓ NITI Aayog has launched 'e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition' in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India).

It has been launched with support from the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI).

➤ **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**

On December 8, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) - informed that there was no official nomenclature such as 'martyrs' for the armed forces' personnel who are killed in line of duty.

➤ **National Commission for Women (NCW)**

✓ National Commission for Women (NCW) – has launched a pan-India capacity building programme, 'She is a Changemaker'.

The programme was launched exclusively for women representatives at all levels, gram panchayats to parliament members and political workers including office bearers of National/State political parties.

➤ **Kashi Vishwanath Dham**

✓ PM Narendra Modi is on a two-day visit to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh from 13 December 2021.

✓ He inaugurated the rejuvenated and transformed Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham.

✓ Phase 1 of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham has been constructed at a cost of around 339 crore rupees.

➤ **National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA)**

✓ The Central Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment scheduled to launch a National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA) on 13th Dec 2021 with an aim to ensure proper implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes under the Prevention of Atrocities{PoA} Act, 1989 which was enacted to preventing atrocities on members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

The helpline operates 24 hours a day, with a toll-free number 14566 across the country.

➤ **HC & SC Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021**

✓ Parliament passed the "High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021" on December 13, 2021.

✓ Bill provides for additional quantum of pension or family pension. Under it, all the retired judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts including their family members are authorized to pension or family pension.

➤ **Manohari Tea Estate**

- ✓ A kilo of Assam's speciality orthodox tea from Manohari Tea Estate in Dibrugarh - fetched a record price of 99,999 at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) on December 14.
- ✓ This was the most expensive tea sold in an auction in the country.
- ✓ This speciality tea was made from leaf buds with the finest clove: P-126 and was sold to Saurav Tea Traders.

➤ **Draft Bill**

- ✓ On December 15, the Union Cabinet - clears a draft bill on electoral reforms allowing the Election Commission to link Aadhaar number with voter ID on a voluntary basis.
- ✓ The draft Bill seeks to amend the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 and the Aadhaar Act, 2016 to filter out bogus and duplicate entries in electoral rolls.

➤ **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**

- ✓ On December 15, Union Cabinet - approved a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for semiconductor and display board production in the country
- ✓ The PLI scheme involves an outlay of 76,000 crore in semiconductor production over the next 5-6 years.

➤ **Durga Puja in UNESCO List**

- ✓ Kolkata's Durga Puja has been included by UNESCO in its representative list of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'.
- ✓ Durga Puja is a major annual festival that is celebrated most notably in Kolkata, West Bengal, in September or October month.

➤ **Bill to Raise Women's Legal Marriage Age**

- ✓ The Government of India cleared a bill to raise the women's legal marriage age from 18 to 21 years after reviewing a proposal from a specially constituted task force.
- ✓ The present legal marriageable age for women in India is 18 years and for men, it is 21 years. The latest decision to raise the marriageable age of women will bring the marriageable age of men and women to par.

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana for 2021-26**

- ✓ Union Cabinet has approved implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana for 2021-26.
- ✓ The scheme will benefit about 22 lakh farmers, including 2.5 lakh Schedule Caste and two lakh Schedule Tribe farmers.

SCHEMES

➤ **SRESHTA Scheme**

- ✓ SRESHTA Scheme - Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas.
- ✓ The Government of India is to launch SRESTHA Scheme for the Scheduled Caste students. The scheme will provide quality residential education to the students.

➤ **Nai Manzil Scheme**

- ✓ The Nai Manzil Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2015.
- ✓ The main objective of the scheme is to equip the minority youth with employable skills.
- ✓ As of December 2021, 6,57,802 minorities received skill development trainings under the scheme.

➤ **Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme**

- ✓ North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) has introduced Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme.
- ✓ The objective is to develop the artisans of the North Eastern Region by providing financial assistance in the form of term loans for income-generating activities.

COURT VERDICT

➤ **Char Dham Road Project**

- ✓ On December 14, the Supreme Court - allowed widening of major portions of the strategic Char Dham road project in Uttarakhand taking into consideration the country's security challenges.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Global Gateway**

- ✓ On December 1, the European Commission - unveiled a plan to invest €300 billion (\$340 billion) globally by 2027 in infrastructure, digital and climate projects.
- ✓ The scheme, called “**Global Gateway**”, aims to strengthen Europe’s supply chains, boost EU trade and help fight climate change, focusing on digitalisation, health, climate and energy and transport sectors, as well as education and research.

➤ **Cost of Living Index 2021**

- ✓ The Economic Intelligence Unit recently released Cost of Living Index 2021.
- ✓ Tel Aviv is the world’s most expensive cities. It was followed by Paris in second place and Singapore in third place.

➤ **South Sudan to end child marriages by 2030**

- ✓ South Sudan’s government has promised to end child marriage by 2030 in line with the African Union's campaign to end child marriages in the continent.

➤ **Sustainable Aviation Fuel**

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

➤ **Miss Trans Global 2021**

- ✓ Kerala's Sruthy Sithara, first Indian to wins Miss Trans Global 2021.
- ✓ She is the first Indian to do so.
- ✓ Miss Trans Global is an international online pageant for transgender and gender-nonconforming people from all backgrounds.

➤ **UAE buys Record 80 Rafale Jets**

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has signed 14 billion Euros of agreement with France for 80 Rafale warplanes.
- ✓ This is the biggest international order ever made for the Rafale jets.

➤ **Gambia - President Election**

- ✓ The President of Gambia, Adama Barrow, won the second term as President during Gambia's presidential election by achieving over 53% votes from 50 of 53 constituencies.

➤ **Sarco Capsule**

- ✓ Switzerland approves euthanasia device for 'painless death'.
- ✓ Switzerland has reportedly approved the use of a suicide pod called the Sarco capsule.
- ✓ It allows users to kill themselves relatively painlessly by inducing hypoxia and hypocapnia (the state of inadequate oxygen supply at the tissue level and reduced carbon dioxide in the blood leading to death).

➤ **Diplomatic Boycott of 2022 Winter Olympics**

- ✓ The US has announced a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China.
- ✓ The White House said no official delegation will be sent to the games because of concerns about China's human rights record. But it said US athletes can attend the games and will have the government's full support.

➤ **Word of the Year 2021**

- ✓ Cambridge Dictionary has announced perseverance as its Word of the Year 2021. It's a word that perfectly captures the undaunted will of people across the world to never give up, despite the many challenges of 2021.

➤ **India becomes No.1 Food Supplier to Arab Nations**

India surpassed Brazil in food exports to the League of Arab States for the first time in 15 years.

➤ **Carbon-Neutral by 2050**

- ✓ On December 8, US President Joe Biden - signed an executive order to make the federal government's contracts for goods and services 'carbon-neutral' by 2050.
- ✓ The order aims for a 65% reduction in planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and an all-electric fleet of car and trucks by 2035.

➤ **National Work Week**

- ✓ United Arab Emirates - has become the first country in the world to implement a national work week which is shorter than five-day week across the world.

- ✓ The country will be transitioning to a four-and-a-half day working week, starting in 2022.
- **Observer Status On Solar Alliance**
- ✓ The UN General Assembly has conferred Observer Status on the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a historic decision which India said would help provide for a well-defined cooperation between the alliance and the UN that would benefit global energy growth and development.
- ✓ The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilise efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.
- **Tablighi Jamaat**
- The **Saudi** government - has banned Tablighi **Jamaat**, a transnational Sunni Islamic movement, calling it "one of the gates of terrorism" and a "danger to society".
- ✓ The Tablighi Jamaat - which means 'Society for spreading faith', was founded in India by Mohammed Ilyas Kandhlawi in 1926.
- **G7**
- ✓ The world's wealthiest democracies on Saturday sought to present a united front against Russian aggression toward Ukraine as Britain hosted a meeting of Foreign Ministers in the northern English city of Liverpool.
- **Age of Introspection**
- ✓ Britain, as current chair of the G7, is calling for its members to be more strident in their defence of what it calls "the free world".
- ✓ Germany, which takes over the rotating G7 leadership from Britain next year, is expected to set out its programme for 2022 at the meeting.
- **Miss Universe 2021**
- ✓ India's Harnaaz Sandhu crowned Miss Universe 2021 at the 70th Miss Universe Pageant in Eilat, Israel.
- ✓ The 21-year-old has created history by bringing home the crown 21 years after Lara Dutta won it in 2000.
- **International Maritime Organisation Council**
- ✓ India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council after elections were held at its headquarters in London for the 2022-23 biennium.
- ✓ India's election falls under the Category of 10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade".

➤ **Israeli PM's first official visit to UAE**

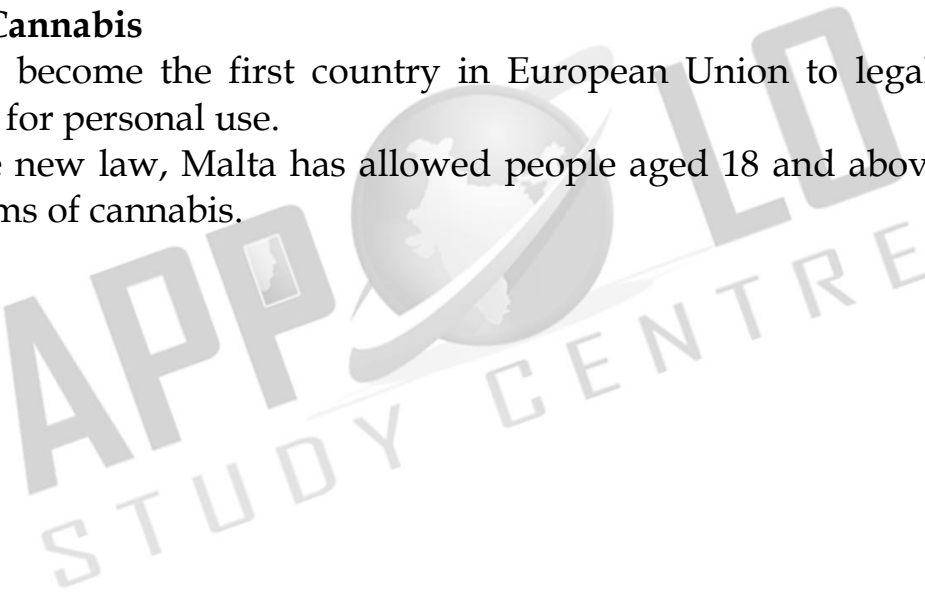
- ✓ On December 12, 2021, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett started the first official visit by an Israeli leader to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in order to strengthen Gulf ties at a time of heightened regional tension, as global powers try to revive nuclear deal with Iran.

➤ **100% Paperless**

- ✓ Dubai - has become the world's first government to turn 100% paperless.
- ✓ The Emirate's Crown Prince, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has pointed out the savings of 1.3 billion Dirham (\$350 million) and 14-million-man hours due to the initiative.

➤ **Legalise Cannabis**

- ✓ Malta has become the first country in European Union to legalise cannabis at home and for personal use.
- ✓ Under the new law, Malta has allowed people aged 18 and above to have up to seven grams of cannabis.



INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ G20 Troika

- ✓ India - had joined the G20 Troika which comprises Indonesia, Italy, and India – the current, previous and incoming G20 presidencies respectively.
- ✓ India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia
- ✓ India will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023.
- ✓ The Summit will be held under the overall theme of "Recover Together Recover Stronger".

➤ India and Russia - First-Ever 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- ✓ India has signed two major agreements with Russia as the two countries began their first-ever 2+2 ministerial dialogue on 6 December 2021.
- ✓ The two sides signed contracts for the manufacture of nearly 6 lakh AK-203 rifles under a joint venture in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ They also signed an agreement to extend military technology cooperation for the next decade, from 2021 to 2031.

➤ Letter of Intent

- ✓ India and Vietnam sign Letter of Intent in the field of digital media.
- ✓ Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Mr. Nguyen Manh Hung, Minister of Information and Communication, Government of Vietnam on 16 Dec'21.
- ✓ It has been signed on collaboration in the field of digital media.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ **India-Russia Annual Summit**

- ✓ The President of Russia Vladimir Putin will visit India on December 6, 2021.
- ✓ He will be in the country to attend the 21st India-Russia Annual Summit as well as the series of meetings that will take place between the two nations.

➤ **Indian Ocean Conference**

- ✓ Jaishankar is here to attend the 5th Indian Ocean Conference on December 4-5.
- ✓ External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has stressed on the importance of respecting and facilitating freedom of navigation and over flight and unimpeded commerce in a globalised world.
- ✓ The theme of the Indian Ocean Conference 2021 is "Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic".

➤ **SCO Cyber Security Seminar**

- ✓ India is hosting two-day cyber security seminar for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries in New Delhi on December 7-8, 2021.
- ✓ The seminar will see participation from representatives of all SCO member states including Russia, China, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.
- ✓ The seminar will be held under the auspices of SCO - Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS).

➤ **FinTech 'InFinity Forum**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated a thought leadership forum on FinTech, 'InFinity Forum'.
- ✓ The event was hosted by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).

➤ **6th India Water Impact Summit**

- ✓ NMCG and c-Ganga organize 6th India Water Impact Summit.
- ✓ The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) along with the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies are organizing the 6th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) from 9-14 December 2021.

➤ **Summit for Democracy**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - virtually addressed the US President Joe Biden's 'Summit for Democracy' on December 9.

➤ **Convoke 2021-22**

- ✓ NITI Aayog in association with Bharti Foundation launched Convoke 2021-22 to address the challenges in imparting education and strengthen its quality.
- ✓ Through this platform, School Teachers/ Heads/Principals of Government Schools and teachers from the Bharti Foundation network will be encouraged to use research based solutions.

Convoke is a National Research Symposium to resolve the issues related to teachers, educationists, and heads of schools across India.

➤ **India Mobile Congress**

- ✓ The fifth edition of the India Mobile Congress – concluded on December 10, 2021.
- ✓ The 3-day event was conducted in ‘online’ mode this year with the theme ‘Connectivity for the Next Decade’.
- ✓ The Congress is the biggest telecom industry event of the country.

➤ **Global Technology Summit (GTS)**

- ✓ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has participated in the 6th edition of the Global Technology Summit.
- ✓ The 6th edition of the Global Technology Summit (GTS) will be held from December 14-16.
- ✓ Various topics including cryptocurrencies, encryption, vaccine supply chains, and cloud computing will be discussed during the Summit.

➤ **India Water Impact Summit**

- ✓ 6th Edition of the India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) was concluded on 14th December.

The summit was based on theme for River Resources Allocation- Planning and Management at the Regional Level.

➤ **All India Mayors’ Conference**

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the All India Mayors’ Conference in Varanasi via video conferencing on 16 Dec 2021.
- ✓ The event was organized by the Department of Urban Development, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The theme of the Conference was “New Urban India”.

➤ **National Parliamentary Conference on TB**

- ✓ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the National Parliamentary Conference on Tuberculosis among Women on 16 December 2021.
- ✓ The conference underlined that undernutrition is an important and established risk factor for the progression of latent TB infection to active TB.



COMMITTEES

➤ **Parliamentary Standing Committee**

- ✓ The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports - submitted its report titled 'Reforms in the content and design of school textbooks' to the Rajya Sabha on November 30.
- ✓ The reforms include studying "ancient wisdom and knowledge" from scriptures, reviewing how we mention freedom fighters, mentioning women leaders, and highlighting "national pride" without any 'bias'.

DEFENCE

➤ **AK-203 Rifles**

- ✓ India and Russia are scheduled to sign a deal on supplying 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles on December 6, 2021, during Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India.

➤ **Exercise Ekuverin**

- ✓ The Exercise Ekuverin is a joint military exercise held between India and Maldives.
- ✓ The exercise focused on enhancing inter-operability between the armed forces of India and Maldives.

➤ **PANEX-21**

- ✓ PANEX-21 is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise.
- ✓ The exercise is to be held among the BIMSTEC countries: Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.

➤ **Sandhayak**

- ✓ GRSE launches first large survey vessel Sandhayak for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ Indian shipbuilder Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) has achieved a new milestone with the launch of the first large survey vessel for the Indian Navy.

➤ **VL-SRSAM**

- ✓ On December 7, the DRDO - successfully flight-tested a vertical-launch short range surface-to-air missile (VL-SRSAM) designed for warships to intercept hostile aircraft, helicopters and drones at very low altitudes.

- ✓ The test was conducted at the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ **22nd Missile Vessels Squadron**
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind - presented the President's Standard award to the 22nd Missile Vessels Squadron of the Indian Navy at a ceremony held in the Naval dockyard, Mumbai on December 8.
- ✓ The President's Standard is the highest honour bestowed by the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces to a military unit in recognition of the service rendered to the nation.
- **Pinaka Extended Range Rocket System: DRDO**
- ✓ Successful tests of the Pinaka Extended Range (ER) multi-barrel rocket launcher system, Area Denial Munitions (ADM) and indigenously developed fuses have been carried out at various test ranges, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said on Saturday.
- **Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo (SMART)**
- ✓ India - has successfully test-fired a long-range Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo (SMART) off the coast of Balasore from Wheeler Island, Odisha on December 13.
- ✓ SMART is a missile-assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System used for anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations.
- **New Army Commander-in-Chief**
- ✓ The first new Commander-in-Chief of the three forces was Bipin Rawat, followed by Manoj Mukund Naravane as the 28th Commander-in-Chief of the Army. As Commander-in-Chief of the three forces, he also serves as Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs in the Federal Ministry of Defense.
- **Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee**
- ✓ The Chief of the Indian Army Gen MM Naravane has taken charge as the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee comprising the three service chiefs. The post fell vacant after the death of the Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat in the IAF helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu on December 8, 2021.

ECONOMY

➤ **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).

➤ **GST**

- ✓ The GST collections - touched 1,31,576 crore in November 2021 on the back of a strong festival sale.
- ✓ This is the second-highest monthly collections achieved since the introduction of the new tax regime from July 2017.

➤ **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.

APPOINTMENT

➤ **IMF First Deputy Managing Director**

- ✓ The Indian American, Gita Gopinath has become the first Deputy Managing Director of International Monetary Fund.

She is the first Indian to take up the top role in the organisation.

➤ **Neeli Bendapudi**

- ✓ Indian-origin professor Neeli Bendapudi has created history as the first woman and person of colour to be named as the President of America's prestigious Pennsylvania State University.

➤ **UNICEF**

- ✓ Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointment Catherine Russell as the head of UN children's agency UNICEF.

- ✓ Catherine Russell is an assistant to US President Joe Biden.

➤ **Gautam Raghavan**

- ✓ US President Joe Biden - has elevated Indian-American political adviser Gautam Raghavan as the head of the White House office of presidential personnel (PPO).

- ✓ A first-generation immigrant, Raghavan was born in India, raised in Seattle and graduated from Stanford University.

➤ **International IDEA**

- ✓ Former chief election commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora - has been invited to join the board of advisers at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

- ✓ Established in 1995, International IDEA is an intergovernmental organisation based in Stockholm, Sweden and has a mission to support sustainable democracy worldwide.

➤ **Chanel**

- ✓ French luxury group Chanel - has named Leena Nair, chief human resource officer (CHRO) of Unilever as its global CEO.

This makes Nair, born and brought up in Kolhapur, the second Indian-origin woman to take over as a global CEO after Indra Nooyi (PepsiCo).

AWARDS

➤ UNESCO Heritage Awards

- ✓ The UNESCO recently presented two Heritage Awards to the Nizamuddin Basti Project. The project was awarded for its conservation efforts.
- ✓ It was awarded with the Special Recognition for Sustainable Award and Award of Excellence.

➤ Asom Bhaibav Award

- ✓ On the occasion of Assam Divas, the state government of Assam has decided to accolade renowned industrialist Ratan Tata with the 'Asom Bhaibav' award, the highest civilian state award for his contribution to cancer care in the state.

➤ Ciprian Foias Prize

- ✓ Eminent Indian-American mathematician Nikhil Srivastava - has been jointly selected for the inaugural \$5,000 Ciprian Foias Prize for their work in Operator Theory by the American Mathematical Society (AMS).

➤ Jnanpith Award

- ✓ Acclaimed Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan Jr and Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo - won the 56th and 57th Jnanpith Award respectively.
- ✓ The country's highest literary award, the Jnanpith, is bestowed on writers for "their outstanding contribution to literature".

➤ Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2021

- ✓ A mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, Professor Neena Gupta, has been awarded the '2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries'.

➤ Royal Gold Medal 2022

- ✓ Balkrishna Doshi will receive the Royal Gold Medal 2022 by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the world's highest honor for architecture.
- ✓ Many of his iconic buildings include the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and Aranya Low-Cost Housing (1989).

➤ Young Geospatial Scientist

- ✓ IIT-Kanpur Scientist Ropesh Goyal has won the "Young Geospatial Scientist" award for his unique contribution to developing the Indian Geoid Model and computation software.

- ✓ The DigiSmart India 2021 conference event was conducted by the Geospatial World.
- **Bharathiar Centenary Memorial**
- ✓ On December 10, Chief Minister M K Stalin - presented 'Bharathiar Centenary Memorial' awards to six senior researchers for their research on National poet, Bharathiar.
- ✓ Periasamy Thooran, R A Padmanabhan, Tho Mu Si Raghunathan and Ilasai Manian were the researchers who were posthumously awarded for their contribution on research on Bharathiar.
- ✓ Seeni Viswanathan and Ya Manikandan, professor and head of the department of Tamil, Madras University received the award.
- **Columbia Journalism School**
- ✓ Columbia Journalism School award for Malini Parthasarathy.
- ✓ The Columbia Journalism School on Tuesday named The Hindu Group chairperson Malini Parthasarathy as one of its alumni award recipients for 2022.
- **Highest Civilian Award - Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo**
- ✓ Bhutan conferred PM Modi with the country's Highest Civilian Award- Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo.
- ✓ Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1968.
- **Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award**
- ✓ Aditya Birla Group's Chairman, Kumar Mangalam Birla received the Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award- Business Transformation from The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) on 16 Dec 2021.
- ✓ He is the first Indian Industrialist to receive the award.

PERSONALITIES

➤ **Anil Menon**

- ✓ Indian-origin Anil Menon - was among 10 new candidates for NASA's human spaceflight mission to Moon under the Artemis programme.
The Artemis programme is scheduled for launch by 2024-25 and plans to send humans to the lunar South Pole.

➤ **Forbes' 100 Most Powerful Women List**

- ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has made it to the Forbes' annual list of powerful women – The World's 100 Most Powerful Women.
She is ranked at number 37.

➤ **Person of the Year for 2021**

- ✓ Tesla CEO Elon Musk - was named Time magazine's "Person of the Year" for 2021.
- ✓ During this year, Musk's electric car firm 'Tesla' become the most valuable carmaker in the world and his rocket company 'SpaceX' reached the edge of space with an all-civilian crew.

➤ **Neeraj Chopra**

- ✓ Plant-based meat company GoodDot has signed up Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador.
- ✓ The athlete will be a key part of its mission to create awareness about the category of plant based meats to encourage people to make compassionate food choices.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

➤ **Democracy, Politics and Governance**

- ✓ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has released English and Hindi versions of books titled “Democracy, Politics and Governance”.
- ✓ The book is authored by Dr. A. Surya Prakash, Vice Chairman, Executive Council of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.

➤ **Public Service Ethics**

- ✓ The Vice President has released the book 'Public Service Ethics', authored by Shri Prabhat Kumar, at the Vice-President's residence.
- ✓ Shri Prabhat Kumar is a former Governor of Jharkhand and former Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India.

➤ **Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories**

- ✓ Rachna Bisht Rawat is set to release her new book titled ‘1971: Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories’ on 10 December 2021.

➤ **The Midway Battle**

- ✓ The book titled “The Midway Battle: Modi’s Rollercoaster Second Term” written by Gautam Chintamani.

➤ **Public Service Ethics**

- ✓ Vice President released book ‘Public Service Ethics’.
- ✓ It has been written by Prabhat Kumar, former Governor of Jharkhand and former Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **Meta**

- ✓ Meta, formerly Facebook - announced a string of crucial safety initiatives for India, targeted at women safety on November 3.
- ✓ Meta announced the launch of StopNCII.org to combat the usage of non-consensual intimate images, a Safety Hub for Women in Hindi and 11 other Indian languages.

➤ **S Gene Dropout in Omicron**

- ✓ The missing S-gene is one of the proxy indicators for the detection and diagnosis of the new Omicron COVID-19 variant.

➤ **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) Mission**

- ✓ NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission - has discovered a rocky exoplanet named 'GJ 367b' orbiting a red dwarf star.
- ✓ GJ 367b is a rocky world about 70% as large as Earth and 55% as massive, making it one of the lightest known exoplanets
- ✓ It has also been discovered to be orbiting around a dim red dwarf star that is located just 31 light-years away from Sun.

➤ **SpaceX**

- ✓ SpaceX - sets a new annual record after launching 48 more Starlink satellites along with two Blacksky Global Earth Observation satellites from Cape Canaveral, Florida on December 2.
- ✓ The flight marked the 27th Falcon 9 launch so far this year, a new record for the California-based rocket manufacturer, beating the previous record of 26 that the company set in 2020.

➤ **New Species of Butterfly**

- ✓ A new species of butterfly named **Chocolate-bordered Flitter** has been found in Sikkim. Its scientific name *Zographetus dzonguensis*.
- ✓ Its closest relatives are mainly found in southeastern China and Hong Kong.

➤ **Comet A1 Leonard**

- ✓ Comet A1 Leonard is a long period comet.
- ✓ It was discovered by GJ Leonard in January 2021. It was the first comet to be discovered in 2021.

➤ **Mission to Moon and Mars**

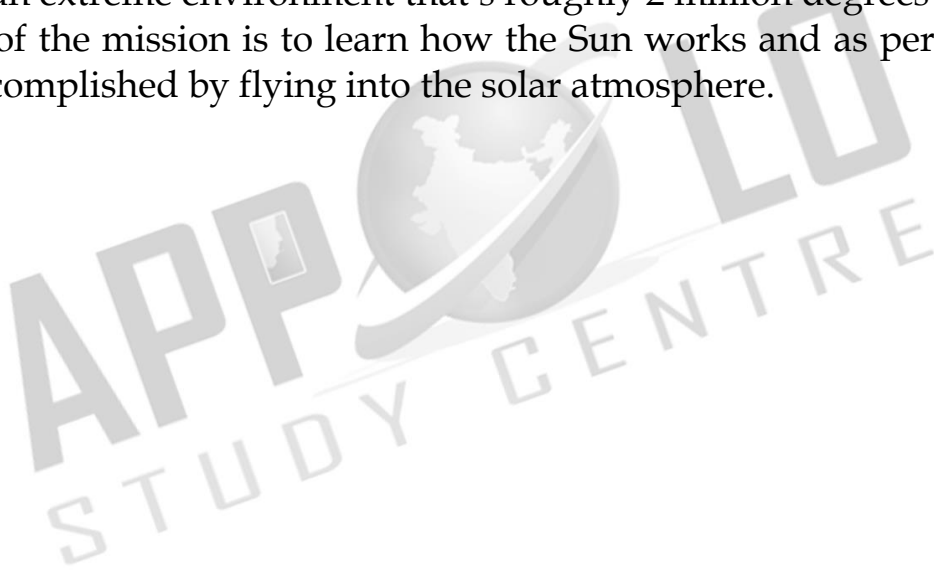
- ✓ NASA picks up Indian-origin Anil Menon for a mission to Moon and Mars.
- ✓ SpaceX flight surgeon Anil Menon is among the 10 latest trainee astronauts who will join the 2021 class of NASA as it plans for the first human missions to the moon in more than 50 years.

➤ **Gaganyaan**

- ✓ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh informed on December 9, 2021, that India's maiden human space mission "Gaganyaan" will be launched in 2023.

➤ **NASA's Parker Solar Probe**

- ✓ NASA's Parker Solar Probe on April 28 successfully entered the Corona of the Sun. It is an extreme environment that's roughly 2 million degrees Fahrenheit.
- ✓ The goal of the mission is to learn how the Sun works and as per the scientists it can be accomplished by flying into the solar atmosphere.



SPORTS

➤ **World Athletics Award 2021**

- ✓ The Indian Athlete Anju Bobby George has won the Woman of the Year Award from World Athletics.
- ✓ She has won the award for grooming young girls to take up sports.
- ✓ She was the first Indian athlete to win bronze medal in long jump at the World Championships in Athletics held in 2013 in Paris.

➤ **Ajaz Patel**

- ✓ Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel on December 4, created history by taking all the 10 wickets in an innings in the 2nd test match against India.
- ✓ He became the third bowler after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble to achieve the feat.

➤ **BWF World Tour Finals**

- ✓ Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu - settled for a silver medal at the BWF World Tour Finals in Bali on December 6.

➤ **Junior Hockey World Cup**

- ✓ Argentina junior hockey team - defeated six-time winners Germany 4-2 in the final of the Junior Hockey World Cup to clinch their second Junior Men's Hockey World Cup title at the Kalinga Stadium in Odisha on December 6.

➤ **Davis Cup**

- ✓ The Davis Cup 2021 was won by Russian Tennis Federation by a 2-0 lead over Croatia in the Davis Cup final in Madrid.

➤ **Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021**

Sanket Mahadev Sargar clinched the gold medal in Men's 55 kg snatch category at the ongoing Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021.

➤ **26th Senior Women's National Football Championship**

Manipur - secured their third national title in a row and 21st overall at the 26th Senior Women's National Football Championship at the EMS Corporation Stadium, Kozhikode on December 9.

➤ **FIDE World Chess Championship Title**

- ✓ Reigning World Chess Champion, GM Magnus Carlsen - retains the Fide World Chess Championship title.

- ✓ Norway's Carlsen defeated Russian Challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi for his fifth successive World Chess title at Dubai's Expo 2020 on December 10 in the United Arab Emirates.
- **Asian Youth Para Games 2021**
India claimed 41 medals (12 Gold, 15 Silver, 14 Bronze) at the 4th Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG), Asia's biggest event held at Riffa city, Bahrain.
- **Asian Rowing Championships**
Indian rowers Arjun Lal Jat and Ravi - won the gold medal in men's double sculls event at the Asian Rowing Championships on December 11.
- **Formula One World Championship Title**
Red Bull's Max Verstappen - won his first Formula One World Championship title in season-ending Abu Dhabi on December 12.
- **Sports Journalists' Federation of India**
 - ✓ The prestigious Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) Medal will be conferred on legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar.
 - ✓ Neeraj Chopra was adjudged the SJFI Sportsman of the Year while weightlifter Mirabai Chanu was voted as the Sportswoman of the Year.
 - ✓ The Indian men's team that won the hockey bronze in Tokyo was declared the Team of the Year.
- **Target Olympic Podium - TOPS**
 - ✓ A total of 148 athletes, including 20 new inductees, in seven Olympic disciplines and six Paralympic disciplines, have been identified for support under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme.
 - ✓ The TOP scheme which is an attempt to provide assistance to India's top athletes. This scheme was started in 2014.
- **Lewis Hamilton**
 - ✓ Seven-time Formula One world champion **Lewis Hamilton** has received **Knighthood** from Prince Charles at Windsor Castle for his services to motorsport.
 - ✓ A Knighthood is an honour given by a British King or Queen for high achievement and services to their country within their industry.
- **Time Magazine's 2021 Athlete of the Year**
 - ✓ Simone Biles was named Time magazine's 2021 Athlete of the Year.

- ✓ The world's most decorated gymnast, a four-time Olympic medalist, was hailed for putting her mental health first when she withdrew from four event finals at the Tokyo Olympics.
- **Best Female Debut**
- ✓ On December 16, Indian shooter Avani Lekhara - won the "Best Female Debut" honour at the 2021 Paralympic Awards for her record-breaking gold medal at the Tokyo Games.
- ✓ Avani is the first-ever female Paralympic gold medallist from India.



OBITUARY

➤ **Konijeti Rosaiah**

- ✓ Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister K. Rosaiah passed away on 4 December 2021.
- ✓ K. Rosaiah also served as the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

➤ **Veteran journalist - Vinod Dua**

- ✓ Vinod Dua, veteran journalist, and Padma Shri awardee. He was a pioneer in Hindi journalism, with stints at Doordarshan and NDTV.

➤ **Sarada Menon**

- ✓ India's first woman psychiatrist.
- ✓ She was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 1992.
- ✓ She founded the Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF India) in 1984 along with psychiatrist R. Thara.

➤ **Chief of Defence Staff - General Bipin Rawat**

- ✓ Chief of Defence Staff **Gen Bipin Rawat**, his wife and 11 others - died in an IAF helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris district on December 8.

➤ **Nanda Kishore Prusty**

- ✓ Nanda Kishore Presti (Nanda Sir), a renowned teacher and Padma Shri award winner from Odisha, has passed away.
- ✓ On November 9, 2021, he was honored with the Padma Shri Award for his contribution to the field of education.

➤ **Lina Wertmuller**

- ✓ Italian writer-director Lina Wertmuller, the first woman ever to be nominated for best director at the US Academy Awards - has died at the age of 93.

➤ **Group Captain Varun Singh**

- ✓ Decorated air warrior **Group Captain Varun Singh** - died at the IAF Command Hospital in Bengaluru on December 15.
- ✓ Varun Singh was rescued after the helicopter crash that killed Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and 12 others on December 8.

REPORT

➤ **Periodic Labour Force Survey**

- ✓ On November 30, the National Statistics Office (NSO) - released the quarterly bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force survey.
- ✓ As per the report, the unemployment rate in urban areas in the January-March quarter of 2020-21 was 9.4%.
- ✓ This is lower than the 10.3% recorded in the October-December quarter of the previous year
- ✓ The unemployment rate for females of all ages dropped to 11.8% in the January-March quarter from 13.1% in the October-December quarter.

➤ **Molnupiravir**

- ✓ A panel of expert advisers - have recommended the first at-home treatment for Covid-19, Molnupiravir, to the US Food and Drugs Administration (USFDA) for approval.
- ✓ If the FDA gives emergency authorisation to the drug, it may pave way for emergency use authorisation for the drug in India.
- ✓ According to experts, the pill can play a significant role if vaccine induced and natural immunity are threatened by the new variant Omicron.

➤ **Global Plastic Waste**

- ✓ The United States is by far the biggest contributor to global plastic waste in the world, according to a new report submitted to the federal government on 1 December 2021.
- ✓ Overall, the US contributed around 42 million metric tons (MMT) in plastic waste in 2016 -- more than twice as much as China.
- ✓ The report is titled "Reckoning with the U.S. Role in Global Ocean Plastic Waste".

➤ **World Cooperative Monitor Report 2021**

- ✓ The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked 'number one Cooperative' among the top 300 cooperatives in the world. The ranking is based on the ratio of turnover over the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.

➤ **World Inequality Report 2022- Highlights**

- ✓ France-based World Inequality Lab published its report titled "World Inequality Report 2022".

- ✓ Report notes that, top 1 % of the India's population owns more than one-fifth of the total national income in 2021.
- ✓ The bottom half of the population earns just 13.1 per cent.
- ✓ It highlights that, economic reforms and liberalization that India has adopted, have mostly benefited the top 1 percent.
- ✓ Report identifies India as a poor and an unequal country, with an affluent elite.

- **World Malaria Report 2021**
- ✓ The World Health Organisation (WHO) released its World Malaria Report 2021 on December 6, 2021.
- ✓ In the report, the WHO notes that 'Global efforts to tackle malaria suffered because of novel coronavirus disease in 2020.
- ✓ Report further warned that, if proper action is not taken, the world will witness the danger of seeing an immediate resurgence of Malaria, particularly in Africa.

- **World Inequality Report 2022 - Labour Income**
- ✓ Men in India capture 82% of labour income, while women earn just 18%, according to the first-ever estimates of the gender inequality in global earnings presented in the World Inequality Report 2022 released earlier this week.

- **Asian Development Outlook**
- ✓ On December 14, 2021, the Asian Development Bank released its Asian Development Outlook Report and reduced its growth forecasts for developing Asia for year 2021.
- ✓ ADB now sees 2021 gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 7.0% for developing Asia, as opposed to 7.1% forecast.
- ✓ For 2022, it forecasted the growth of 5.3%.

RANKING

➤ **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu – was ranked ninth in terms of urban unemployment in the January-March quarter of 2020-21, as per the quarterly bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

The PLFS was launched by the National Statistical Office (NSO) to estimate the employment and unemployment indicators (worker population ratio, labour force participation rate, unemployment rate) in the short time interval of three months for urban areas only in the current weekly status (CWS).

➤ **Asia Power Index 2021**

- ✓ India has risen as the fourth most powerful country in Asia, according to a report by Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021.
- ✓ It has been ranked fourth among the 26 countries and territories in Indo-Pacific for comprehensive power.

The index was topped by the USA, followed by China, and Japan.

➤ **Asia Power Index 2021**

- ✓ As per the Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021, Indian has been ranked as the 4th most powerful country in the Asia-Pacific region for comprehensive power out of 26 countries.

India achieved an overall score of 37.7 out of 100.

➤ **National Ambient Air Quality Standards**

- ✓ Delhi – ranked first among the cities with million-plus population that has suffered huge economic loss after failing to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- ✓ This was revealed in a recent study published in Nature by scientists of CSIR-NEERI.

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **World AIDS Day: December 1**

- ✓ Every year the World AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1. It is celebrated to create awareness against the spread of HIV infection.
- ✓ Theme - **Ending Inequalities.**

➤ **BSF celebrates 57th Raising Day on December 1**

- ✓ The Border Security Force (BSF) is celebrating its 57th Raising Day on 01 December 2021.

➤ **National Pollution Control Day - December 2**

- ✓ The day is observed in the memory of those who have lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas tragedy on the night of December 2nd and 3rd, 1984.
- ✓ The National Pollution Control Day is celebrated in India to make the citizens aware of laws that exist in India that help to contain pollution.

➤ **World Computer Literacy Day 2021**

- ✓ World Computer Literacy Day is observed on 2nd December every year all over the world. The day is celebrated as the world computer literacy day to create awareness and drive digital literacy in underserved communities worldwide.

➤ **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: 2 December**

- ✓ International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed annually on 2nd December since 1986 by the United Nations General Assembly.

➤ **International Day of Persons with Disabilities - December 3**

- ✓ The day is observed by the United Nations and several other organisations to promote the rights and well-being of people with disabilities at every level of society and development.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world".

➤ **World Day of the Handicapped: December 3**

- ✓ World Handicapped day also known as the International Day of Persons with disabilities is observed every year on 3rd December globally.

➤ **Dr Rajendra Prasad's 137th birth anniversary: 3 December 2021**

- ✓ First President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad's 137th birth anniversary was observed on 3 December 2021.
- **Indian Navy Day: 4 December**
- ✓ In India, December 4 is observed as the National Navy Day every year, to celebrate the achievements and role of the naval force to the country.
- ✓ The theme of Indian Navy Day 2021 is 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' signifying 50 years of India's victory in the Indo-Pakistan war that took place in 1971.
- **World Soil Day 2021 - December 5**
- ✓ Every year, the day of December 5th is observed as World Soil Day across the world.
- ✓ The main purpose of this day is to raise awareness about soil degradation.
- ✓ **International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development**
- ✓ International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development is observed on December 5 every year.
- ✓ The theme for International Volunteer Day 2021 is "Volunteer now for our common future."
- ✓ **Mahaparinirvana Divas - December 6**
- ✓ The Day marks the death anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, who fought for economic and social empowerment of Dalits in the country.
- **International Civil Aviation Day - December 7**
- ✓ The Day is observed every year by the United Nations to highlight the importance of international civil aviation organisations in air travel across the globe.
- ✓ In 2021, the International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated under the following theme: "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development".
- **Armed Forces Flag Day - December 7**
- ✓ The Armed Forces Flag Day is observed every year as an honour to the sailors, soldiers and airmen of India who bravely fought and continues to fight to safeguard the country.
- **SAARC Charter Day: 8 December**
- ✓ The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day is observed every year on 8th December.

- **International Anti-Corruption Day: 9 December**
 - ✓ International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on December 9 annually to raise awareness on staying away from corruption.
 - ✓ The theme for 2021 is “Your right, your role: Say no to corruption”.

- **Genocide Prevention Victims Remembrance Day: December 9**
 - ✓ December 9 is International Annual Remembrance Day for Victims of Genocide, Prevention of Crime and Victims.

- **Human Rights Day: 10 December**
 - ✓ Human Rights Day 2021 is observed on December 10, every year.
 - ✓ The theme for 2021 is 'Equality-Reducing inequalities and advancing human rights'.

- **Nobel Prize Day: 10 December**
 - ✓ Nobel Prize Day is observed on 10 December every year.
 - ✓ The day marks the death anniversary of Alfred Nobel, a Swedish inventor, and scholar who invented dynamite.

- **Mahakavi Subramanian Bharati's Birth Anniversary**
 - ✓ 11 December is marked as the birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramanian Bharati.
 - ✓ He was a poet, social reformer, and freedom fighter from Tamil Nadu.

- **International Mountain Day 2021**
 - ✓ December 11 is observed every year as the International Mountain Day to raise awareness about the importance of mountains to life and to climate.

- **International Day of Neutrality: 12 December**
 - ✓ International Day of Neutrality is observed on 12 December every year.
 - ✓ Neutrality is defined as a legal status which arises when the state decides not to take part in any armed conflict.

- **National Energy Conservation Day - December 14, 2021**
 - ✓ The day focuses on making people aware of global warming and climate change and promotes efforts towards saving energy resources.
 - ✓ Theme 2021 - ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Energy Efficient India’ and ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Clearer Planet.’

➤ **Vijay Diwas - December 16**

- ✓ India - celebrates December 16 as Vijay Diwas to commemorate its victory over Pakistan during the 1971 war that led to the birth of Bangladesh.
- ✓ The day is also observed in Bangladesh as 'Bijoy Dibos' to mark the country's formal independence from Pakistan.
- ✓ This year marks the completion of 50th anniversary of India's victory over Pakistan.

MISCELLANEOUS

➤ **National Working Week**

- ✓ UAE has become the first country to adopt 4 and half day work week.
- ✓ As per UAE government, UAE is the first nation in the world to introduce a national working week shorter than the global five-day week.

➤ **Serum Institute of India**

- The owners of the Serum Institute of India, the Poonawalla family - have announced a £50 million (Rs 500 crore) donation to Oxford University to build a new research centre focused on vaccinology.
- ✓ The donation from Serum Life Sciences, wholly owned by the Poonawalla family, is Oxford University's largest ever gift for vaccines research.

