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Foot Prints

(Compilation of Current Events)

 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 1-31, 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).

➤ **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.

➤ **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.
- **Tamil Thai Vazhthu**
 - ✓ On December 17, Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced ‘Tamil Thai Vazhthu’ as the state’s song.
 - ✓ The government issued an order making it compulsory for everyone to stand while the song is sung during government events.
 - ✓ It should be sung before start of any functions in all educational institutions, universities, government offices, public sector undertakings and other public fora in the state
- **Madras University**
 - ✓ Madras University - has decided to name the proposed centre for defence technology development after former Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat.
 - ✓ General Rawat was an alumnus of the University of Madras.
 - ✓ The new centre will focus on advancement of defence technology and revolution in military affairs.
- **Mother Teresa Memorial Award**
 - ✓ On December 17, teen environmentalist Vinisha Umashankar - was felicitated with Harmony Foundation's Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice.
 - ✓ Hailing from Tiruvannamalai, Vinisha recently addressed the World Leaders' Summit of the COP26.
 - ✓ The 15-year-old Class X student shot to fame for her invention – a solar energy-powered ironing cart as an alternative to burning charcoal.
- **Innuyir Kaapoom-Nammai Kaakkum 48**

✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday launched 'Innuyir Kaapoom-Nammai Kaakkum 48' through which the State government will bear the expenses of emergency care for accident victims for the first 48 hours.

➤ **K Anbazhagan**

✓ The state government - has proposed to rename the integrated complex of finance department at Nandanam after former finance minister and late Dravidian leader K Anbazhagan to mark his birth centenary celebration on December 19.

✓ Aside from his active participation in politics, Perasiriyar Anbazhagan authored more than 40 books on various topics.

➤ **Ayushman Bharat - Comprehensive Primary Healthcare Scheme**

✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation - to set up 140 urban health and wellness centres (UHWC) across 15 zones under Centre's flagship Ayushman Bharat-Comprehensive Primary Healthcare scheme.

✓ A section of these 140 UHWCs are expected to be opened by May 2022.

➤ **Radhakrishnan - SKOCH Award**

✓ Tamilnadu Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan received the SKOCH Public Service Award for Disaster Management and Mitigation in New Delhi.

✓ The award was presented to him for handling the aftermath of the Kumbakonam fire tragedy, tsunami relief, and rehabilitation in Nagapattinam district in 2004 and to handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

➤ **CM Dashboard Tamil Nadu 360**

✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin - will launch a real-time state-of-the-art "CM Dashboard Tamil Nadu 360" to track, analyse and increase efficiency in the decision-making process of various government departments.

✓ It aims at integrating data from all government departments, district administrations, government agencies, and police force to ensure easy monitoring of projects being implemented in the state.

➤ **Meendum Manjappai**

✓ On December 23, Chief Minister MK Stalin - will launch 'Meendum Manjappai' campaign organised by the state pollution control board.

✓ The campaign aims at reducing single-use plastic, which causes irreparable damage to the environment and natural resources.

➤ **Hello Police**

- ✓ Chengalpattu SP, Aravindhan - has introduced an initiative, 'hello police', where members of the public can now report about illegal activities in their locality over phone.
- ✓ Public are advised to send WhatsApp messages or call on 72001 02104 to report about incidents like ganja sale, sand mining, or gambling.

- **Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund (TANSEED)**
- ✓ As many as 19 start-ups from across Tamil Nadu, which were selected in the second edition of the Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund (TANSEED), received a grant of 5 lakh each from Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission mandated to build a vibrant ecosystem has been implementing TANSEED to promote the start-up culture in the State.

- **MS Swaminathan Rose**
- ✓ A new variety of rose - has been named after eminent agricultural scientist M S Swaminathan.
- ✓ MS Viraraghavan, a leading horticulturist based in Kodaikanal, has developed a new variety of rose and named it "MS Swaminathan Rose".

- **Ambedkar Sudar Award**
- ✓ The Ambedkar Sudar Award 2021 was given to Chief Minister Mr. Stalin, which was presented by Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) leader Thol. Thirumavalavan in Chennai, the DMK leader noted even after many years inequality still exists on social and economic fronts.

- **Fortified Rice - PDS**
- ✓ Two more districts – Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram – are to have the supply of fortified rice through the public distribution system (PDS) as part of the Centrally-sponsored scheme.
- ✓ The distribution of fortified rice is covered under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme.

- **Dearness Allowance**
- ✓ On December 28, Tamil Nadu government - announced an increase in dearness allowance from 17% to 31% to its employees and pensioners, incurring an additional annual expenditure of 8,724 crore to the state exchequer.
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin ordered the increase of 14 percentage points in dearness allowance from January 1, next year.

➤ **TN Tourism Promotion and Development Committee**

- ✓ The TN tourism advisory committee - has been renamed as TN tourism promotion and development committee.
- ✓ The tourism secretary will be the vice-chairman of the panel.

➤ **Periyar University**

- ✓ Periyar University - has bagged the second place with A++ in the all-India ranking of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
- ✓ This is the first time the university has achieved the top coveted position

➤ **Atal Ranking 2021**

- ✓ IIT Madras ranks first in Atal Ranking 2021 third year in a row.
- ✓ Ministry of Education has released the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021 on December 29, 2021.
- ✓ IIT Madras has topped the ranking third year in a row, followed by IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi.

➤ **Mahakavi Bharathiyar Livelihood Parks**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Government is set to establish a total of 25 'Mahakavi Bharathiyar Livelihood Parks' over three years that will serve as common infrastructure centres for self-help groups (SHGs) to pursue their activities collectively.

➤ **Maternal Health Services**

- ✓ Tirupattur tops in maternal health services.
- ✓ Tirupattur district bagged the top rank in offering maternal health services at Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) centres. Cuddalore stood second, while Kancheepuram came third.

➤ **Tamil Nadu State New Policy for Women 2021 (Draft)**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu government has unveiled Tamil Nadu State New Policy for Women 2021 (Draft) on 30 Dec 2021.
- ✓ This policy will be implemented for more than five years
- ✓ Mandatory martial arts training for school and college girls, 50 more person-days for all single-and-women-headed households under MGNREGS and 33.3% representation in registered parties are among the provisions in the draft Tamil Nadu State New Policy for Women 2021.

- ✓ The draft policy, the first of its kind in India, seeks to provide a safe, secure, healthy and aspirational environment to empower 3.2 crore women population in the State.
- **Sahitya Akademi Award**
 - ✓ Tamil feminist writer C.S. Lakshmi aka Ambai, whose writings challenge the stereotyping of women, has won this year's Sahitya Akademi award. She has been honoured for her short story collection Sivappu Kazhutthudan Oru Patchaiparavai. Ambai is the fourth woman writer from Tamil Nadu to get the award.
 - ✓ Though her first short story collection Sirakukal Muriyum was published in 1976 and the eponymous story of the collection was written in 1967, she made her mark as a writer even in her teens. Many of her stories were published in Tamil magazine Ananda Vikatan as star stories.
 - ✓ Her other story collections Veetin Moolaiyil Oru Samayalarai, Kaatil Oru Maan, Vattrum Eriyin Meenkal, Oru Karuppu Silanthiyudan Oor Iravu and Andheri Membalathil Oru Santhippu are published by Kalachuvadu.
 - ✓ The short stories Amma Oru Kolai Seithal and Sirakukal Muriyum continued to retain the aura even 50 years after they were written. Another story is Thanimai Ennum Iruttu.
- **Bala Sahitya Puraskar**
 - ✓ Another Tamil writer Mu. Murugesu bagged the Bala Sahitya Puraskar for his collection of short stories Ammavukku Magal Sonna Ulagin Mudhal Kadhai.
- **Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) Scheme**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu government - has launched a new system to link all the public libraries in the state.
 - ✓ The project is being implemented under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) scheme by the State Planning Commission.

STATE

➤ **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.

➤ **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.
- **3-day International Honey Bee Festival**
- ✓ For the 1st time, a 3-day International Honey Bee Festival kicked off at Haldwani, Uttarakhand on 18 Dec'21.
- ✓ The aim is to provide a global platform to hivers to display their products.
- **Anti-Conversion Bill**
- ✓ On December 20, the Karnataka cabinet - approved the anti-conversion bill without any changes.
- ✓ The bill seeks to provide stringent punishment, including imprisonment and hefty fines, to those indulging in religious conversions through allurements or force.
- **Caste Certificates**
- ✓ Jharkhand - is set to become the first state to issue caste certificates from the campus of every government-run and private school to ensure each child has one within the next six months
- ✓ This was announced by the State CM Hemant Soren in the assembly on December 21.
- **Prevention of Violence and Mob Lynching Bill of 2021**
- ✓ On December 21, Jharkhand - became the third state, after West Bengal and Rajasthan, to pass a bill to prevent mob lynchings.
- ✓ The state assembly passed the Jharkhand (Prevention of Violence and Mob Lynching) Bill of 2021, introduced on the penultimate day of the on-going winter session.
- **Reservation for Transgenders in Police**
- ✓ Karnataka government has decided to give 1% reservation to transgenders across all the ranks in the Police Department.

➤ **Vaccination Certificate**

- ✓ On December 22, Punjab government - announced that state government employees will not get their salary if they don't give their vaccination certificate.
- ✓ Those vaccinated with a single dose or fully vaccinated will have to upload the certificates on the state government's IHRMS website (Integrated Human Resource Management System) to get their salary.

➤ **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar Mission - NISAR**

- ✓ NASA and ISRO are jointly developing a space-borne 'Synthetic Aperture Radar' NISAR.
- ✓ NISAR satellite will be launched from India on January 29, 2023, aboard a GSLV Mk II to the sun-synchronous orbit.

➤ **Covid-19 Vaccine Coverage**

- ✓ On December 28, Telangana - became the first large state in the country to achieve 100% first dose Covid-19 vaccine coverage.
- ✓ The first dose was administered to the targeted population of 2.77 crore people in the state.

➤ **Jharkhand**

- ✓ Jharkhand brings massive cut in Petro Prices for two-wheelers.
- ✓ The Chief Minister of Jharkhand announced on December 29, 2021, that his government in the state will give a major concession of Rs. 25 per litre on the petrol and diesel prices on two-wheelers.

➤ **Extension of AFSPA in Nagaland**

- ✓ On December 30, 2021, Central government declared entire Nagaland as a "disturbed area" for six more months, under the AFSPA Act.
- ✓ This declaration will be in effect, starting from December 30, 2021.

➤ **Veerangana Lakshmibai Railway Station**

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi railway station will now be known a 'Veerangana Lakshmibai Railway Station'.
- ✓ Laxmibai was one of the most famous leaders of rebellion during the British time.

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.

➤ **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.

➤ **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 Puraskaar' 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 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.

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

- **Anti-Covid Vaccine Covovax**

- ✓ On December 17, the World Health Organisation (WHO) - has issued emergency use listing for anti-Covid vaccine Covovax, manufactured by the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII).
 - ✓ With an aim to increase access to vaccination in lower-income countries, this is the ninth Covid-19 vaccine listed for emergency use by the WHO.
- **Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019**
- ✓ Parliament has passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 on 17 December.
 - ✓ The bill has provision to constitute a National Surrogacy Board and state surrogacy boards.
 - ✓ According to the bill, only Indian couples who have been legally married for at least five years can opt for surrogacy.
- **Ganga Expressway**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the longest expressway of Uttar Pradesh Ganga Expressway in Shahjahanpur district.
 - ✓ The 594 Km long six-lane Expressway will be built at a cost of over Rs. 36,200 crore.
- **International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC)**
- ✓ On December 18, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana and Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao - jointly inaugurated the country's first International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) in Hyderabad.
 - ✓ Those who empanel the centre include internationally acclaimed arbitrators and mediators from countries such as Singapore and the UK.
- **Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021**
- ✓ The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.
 - ✓ The bill aims to make amendments to the Representation of the People Act.
 - ✓ It also includes linking of electoral roll with Aadhaar on a voluntary basis to root out multiple enrolments.
 - ✓ The bill was earlier approved by the Union Cabinet on December 15, 2021.
- **Delimitation Commission**
- ✓ The first draft of the Delimitation commission - proposes seven additional Assembly seats for Jammu and Kashmir, six in Jammu division and one in Kashmir valley.
 - ✓ Incidentally, the districts in J&K have increased from 12 to 20 since the last delimitation in the erstwhile state in 1995.

➤ **NITI Aayog - United Nations**

- ✓ NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent with the United Nations World Food Programme.
- ✓ Under the statement of intent signed, the focus will be on mainstreaming millets and strengthening climate-resilient agriculture for enhancing food and nutrition security in India.

➤ **CRPF WOMEN COMMANDOS**

- ✓ CRPF women commandos who have been trained in VIP security will soon be deployed with Z-Plus personalities.
- ✓ They include Home Minister Amit Shah, senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, as well as other high-risk facing personalities for multiple duties.
- ✓ Central Reserve Police Force raised its first-ever contingent of 32 women commandos in its VIP Security wing.

➤ **Atal Innovation Mission**

- ✓ Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission has unveiled Vernacular Innovation Programme, which will enable innovators and entrepreneurs in India to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages by the Centre.

➤ **Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**

- ✓ The Union Government has extended Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana till March 2022.
- ✓ Under the Yojana, Centre is providing fivekilogram food grains per person per month free of cost to all beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act.

➤ **Telecom Companies**

- ✓ The government - has issued new orders to telecom companies directing them to keep internet use data and call records of subscribers for two years.
- ✓ The amendment in the Unified License Agreement comes after requests from security agencies on security concerns.

➤ **Agrovision**

- ✓ Minister of Agriculture, Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the four-day agriculture exhibition 'Agrovision', in Nagpur on 24 December 2021.
- ✓ Agriculture Minister stresses on infrastructure development in agriculture sector.

➤ **Bharat Darshan Park**

- ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the 'Bharat Darshan Park' in Delhi which showcases replicas of several iconic monuments of India built with scrap and waste material.
- **Intelligent Transport System (ITS)**
 - ✓ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari - launched the country's first 'Intelligent Transport System' (ITS) on Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Dasna, Ghaziabad on December 23.
 - ✓ The ITS can detect any accident and receive alerts to ensure that ambulance reaches the spot within 10-15 minutes.
- **Multiple Hydrel Projects**
 - ✓ On December 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched multiple hydrel projects worth a combined investment of 11,000 crore in Himachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ The largest among the projects is the 7,000-crore Renuka Dam project in Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh.
- **COVOVAX, CORBEVAX**
 - ✓ India has got two new COVID-19 vaccines - Covovax & Corbevax.
 - ✓ Both the vaccines have received emergency use authorization from Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation.
 - ✓ CORBEVAX is the country's first indigenously developed RBD protein sub-unit vaccine against COVID-19.
- **World's Highest Motorable Road**
 - ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled 27 roads and bridges projects implemented by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
 - ✓ The 24 roads inaugurated virtually include one built at an altitude of more than 19,000 feet on the Umling-La pass in southern Ladakh, which has now become the world's highest motorable road.
- **Kanpur Metro Rail Project**
 - ✓ On December 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated Kanpur Metro Rail Project, the fastest built metro rail project in the country.
 - ✓ The European Investment Bank (EIB) has also proposed to provide a €650 million loan for this project.

- **Flex-Fuel Vehicles and Flex-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles**
- ✓ Union Government - has advised the Automobile Manufacturers to start manufacturing Flex-Fuel Vehicles and Flex-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles complying with BS-6 Norms.
- ✓ Flex-Fuel Vehicles are capable to run on a combination of 100% Petrol or 100% bio-ethanol and their blends.

- **Unforgeable Digital Degrees**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - conferred 'unforgeable' digital degrees to students of IIT-Kanpur at its 54th convocation on December 28.
- ✓ The digital degrees, developed by IIT-Kanpur under the National Block Chain Project, can be verified globally and are unforgeable.

- **Gram Ujala Programme**
- State-owned CESL - has achieved a milestone of 50 lakh LED bulb distribution under the flagship Gram Ujala programme.
- ✓ It has distributed 50 lakh LED bulbs under 'Project Crore' of their Gram Ujala programme.
- ✓ The Gram Ujala scheme is being implemented in rural households in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana.

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**
- ✓ On December 29, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog - released the second edition of compendium of innovations titled 'Innovations for You'
- ✓ It focuses on agriculture featuring 70 startups supported by Atal incubation Centers (AICs) of AIM
- ✓ The compendium also includes 'The Ingenious Tinkerers' - a compendium on the innovations on Technology featuring 41 innovations from Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) of India.

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.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **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.

➤ **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.

➤ **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.
- **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.
- **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".

➤ **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.

➤ **Typhoon Rai**

- ✓ Philippines was hit by the strongest typhoon of 2021 in December.
- ✓ It has been named Typhoon Rai.

➤ **Chile's Youngest President**

- ✓ In Chile, Gabriel Boric, 35 years old former student leader will become the country's youngest president after he won a presidential runoff election on 19 December 2021.

➤ **United Nation Security Council**

- ✓ The United Nation Security council - passed a resolution to ensure sanctions does not affect humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.
- ✓ India voted in favour of the resolution, sponsored by the United States, as it welcomed the provision for a review of exemption in 12 months.

➤ **Legal Gender Transition**

- ✓ From January 1, 2022, the people in Switzerland will be able to legally change their gender by a visit to the Civil Registry Office.
- ✓ This has put the country at the forefront of Europe's gender-identification movement.

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.

➤ **Counter-Terrorism Committee**

- ✓ India - will chair the **Counter-Terrorism Committee** of UN Security Council in January 2022 for the first time after 2012.

➤ **India's Air bubble agreement with Saudi Arabia**

- ✓ The Indian government and Saudi Arabian Government have finalized an air bubble agreement, to allow all eligible travellers to travel between both the countries.
- ✓ The air bubble agreement will allow flights between the two countries, starting from January 1, 2022.

➤ **Pakistan Hindu Mandir Management Committee**

- ✓ Pakistan on December 29, 2021, announced that it has set up the first-ever body of Hindu leaders to take care of the minority community's temples.
- ✓ The Ministry of Religious Affairs constituted the Pakistan Hindu Mandir Management Committee on the pattern of the already working Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.

➤ **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)**

- ✓ On December 29, the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) - announced that it will add Egypt as its new member.

- ✓ Egypt is the fourth new member admitted into NDB, after Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Uruguay, further expanding the bank's global outreach.
- ✓ Headquartered in Shanghai, the NDB was established by BRICS nations, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.



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.

- **The 3rd India-Central Asia Dialogue**
- ✓ The 3rd India-Central Asia Dialogue - was held in New Delhi on December 19 under the chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister of India
- ✓ A joint statement issued at the end of the dialogue demonstrated common positions on Afghanistan based on UNSC resolution 2593 and reiterated the conclusions of the NSAs' dialogue recently.

- **Counter-Terrorism Committee of UNSC**
- ✓ India will chair the Counter-Terrorism Committee of UNSC in January 2022 after 10 years.
- ✓ The Counter-Terrorism Committee was established by Security Council resolution 1373 adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks in the US.

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'.

➤ **The Ministry of Culture**

- ✓ The Ministry of Culture - has constituted a 53-member committee to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of revolutionary freedom fighter-turned-philosopher Sri Aurobindo.



DEFENCE

➤ **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.

➤ **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**

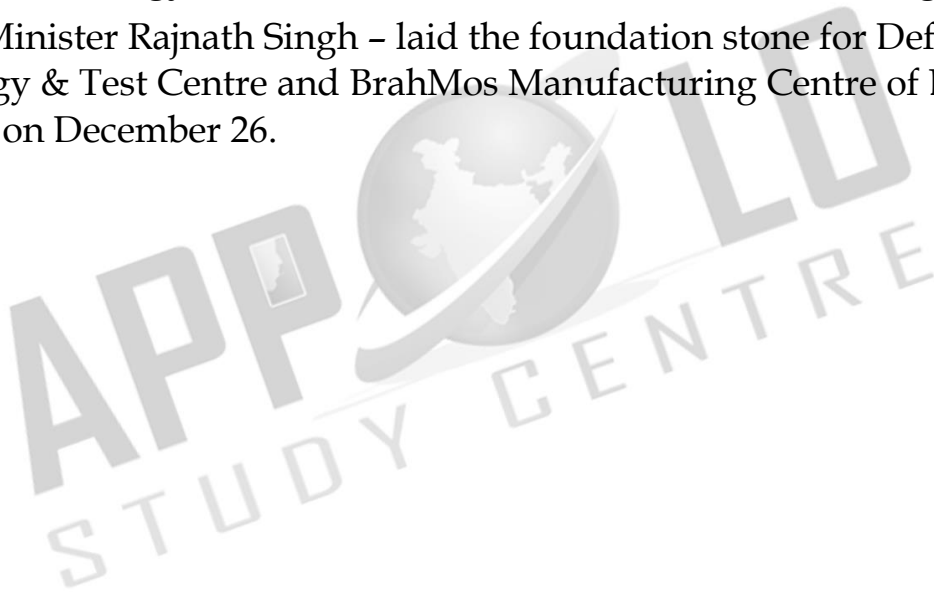
- ✓ The first new Commander-in-Chief of the three forces was Bipin Rawat, followed by Manoj Mukund Narawane as the 28th Commander-in-Chief of the Army. As Commander-in-Chief of the three forces, he also serves as Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs in the Federal Ministry of Defense.

➤ **Mormugao**

- ✓ On Goa Liberation Day, Indian Navy's indigenous stealth guided-missile destroyer 'Mormugao' went for her maiden sea trials.
- ✓ This second indigenous stealth destroyer of the Project 15 B (P15B) class is planning to be commissioned in mid-2022.

✓ **Defence Technology & Test Centre and BrahMos Manufacturing Centre**

- ✓ Defense Minister Rajnath Singh - laid the foundation stone for Defence Technology & Test Centre and BrahMos Manufacturing Centre of DRDO in Lucknow on December 26.



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.

- **First Woman IG of Assam Police**
 - ✓ IPS officer Violet Baruah becomes first woman IG of Assam Police.
 - ✓ Violet Baruah has become the first-ever woman to get promoted to the rank of Inspector General in Assam Police.

- **Sivarajah Ramanathan**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (Tansim) - has appointed Madurai-based social entrepreneur Sivarajah Ramanathan as its first CEO.

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.

➤ 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".

➤ 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.
- **BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021**
- ✓ US Open champion Emma Raducanu has been voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021.
- **UN Women's Award for Leadership Commitment**
- ✓ Divya Hegde has won the UN Women's Award for Leadership Commitment at the 2021 Regional Asia-Pacific Women's Empowerment Principles Awards ceremony.
- ✓ She has been recognized for her efforts for promoting gender equality through climate action.
- **Writing with Fire**
- ✓ Delhi-based Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas's debut documentary feature 'Writing with Fire' - has been shortlisted in the documentary section of the next round of the Oscars.
- ✓ This documentary is about a newspaper 'Khabar Lahariya' started as a social experiment by an NGO.
- ✓ It is India's only rural newspaper run by Dalit women since 2002.
- **Mother Teresa Memorial Award for 2021**
- ✓ Environmentalist Dr Anil Prakash Joshi, who was conferred upon the Padma Bhushan this year, has been awarded the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2021.
- **South African of the Year Award**
- ✓ Indian-origin philanthropist and founder of disaster relief group 'Gift Of The Givers', Dr. Imtiaz Sooliman has won the South African of the Year Award run by the Daily Maverick newspaper.
- **Global Environment and Climate Action Award**

- ✓ Surat's industrialist Viral Desai, popularly known as Greenman, has been awarded the prestigious Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award in Dubai.



PERSONALITIES

➤ **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.

➤ **Kumar Mangalam Birla**

- ✓ The USA's Silicon Valley-based The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) has named Kumar Mangalam Birla as the Global Entrepreneur of the Year in business transformation.
- ✓ This makes him the first Indian industrialist to receive the award.

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.

➤ **Agni P**

- ✓ On December 18, 2021 the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile 'Agni P'.

➤ **Madurai Kamaraj University (MKU)**

- ✓ Researchers at the Madurai Kamaraj University (MKU) - have designed a bendable, low-cost electrochemical sensor strip that can detect up to the lowest blood glucose level.
- ✓ The strip was developed using material from a biodegradable garbage bag derived from corn.

➤ **Pralay**

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden flight test of indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay' from Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

➤ **Dinosaur Embryo**

- ✓ In Ganzhou, China, a 66-million-year-old dinosaur embryo was unearthed.
- ✓ The embryo has been called Baby Yingliang and is thought to be a toothless theropod dinosaur or oviraptorosaur.

➤ **Artificial Sun**

- ✓ China - has conducted a nuclear fusion experiment as part of advancing its 'Artificial Sun' project.
- ✓ The Hefei Institute of Physical Science launched the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) heating system this month
- ✓ The experiment aims at making the artificial sun or the auxiliary heating system "hotter" and more "durable".

➤ **CIBA Decodes Indian White Shrimp's Genome**

- ✓ Scientists of the Chennai-based Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIBA) have sequenced and assembled the whole genome of Indian white shrimp *Penaeus indicus*.

➤ **James Webb Space Telescope**

- ✓ NASA's James Webb Space Telescope - was launched on December 25 from the northeastern coast of South America.
- ✓ The Telescope was built to analyse on the first view of the universe as it existed when the earliest galaxies formed.
- ✓ The revolutionary \$9 billion infrared telescope was carried aloft inside the cargo bay of an Ariane 5 rocket that blasted off from the European Space Agency's (ESA) launch base in French Guiana.

➤ **5G network in India in 2022**

- ✓ India is all set to roll out the 5G telecom services in the selected cities in the year 2022.
- ✓ 5G is the latest upgrade in the long-term evolution of mobile broadband networks which has been designed to connect many forms of devices than smartphones, while also offering far higher speed and capacity.

➤ **Inmarsat-6 F1 Communications Satellite**

- ✓ Japan has launched Inmarsat-6 F1, a communication satellite, through a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) H-IIA204 rocket from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center that will enter geostationary orbit, about 22,240 miles (35,790 kilometres) above the earth.

➤ **AI Prosecutor**

- ✓ Chinese scientists - have developed world's first AI 'prosecutor' that can identify crimes with more than 97% accuracy and file charges against criminals
- ✓ 'AI prosecutor' will work on cases ranging from credit card fraud, dangerous driving, theft, fraud and obstruction of official duties.

➤ **World's 1st Dual-Mode Vehicle**

- ✓ Japan has introduced a minibus lookalike world's first dual-mode vehicle (DMV) in its town of Kaiyo.
- ✓ The vehicle can run on normal rubber tyres on the road but its steel wheels, which are in its underbelly, descend when it hits the rail tracks.



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.

- **BWF World Badminton Championships**
- ✓ India's Lakshya Sen - created history by becoming the **first** Indian male badminton player to win a medal on world Championship debut.
- ✓ At 20 years of age, Sen is the youngest Indian male to win a BWF World Championships medal.

- **Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championship**
- ✓ Indian shuttler **Kidambi Srikanth** - clinched historic **silver** at the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championship finals in Huelva, Spain, on December 19, 2021.
- ✓ Earlier, Srikanth became the first Indian badminton player to enter the final of the World Championship tournament when he defeated compatriot Lakshya Sen in the semifinals.

- **Rishabh Pant**
- ✓ On December 19, the Uttarakhand government - named India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant as the state's brand ambassador for promoting sports and general health.

- **BWF's Athletes' Commission**
- ✓ PV Sindhu has been appointed as a member of the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission.

- **Asian Champions Trophy**
- ✓ India - defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 4-3 to clinch the bronze medal at the Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament on December 22 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

➤ **Junior US Open Squash Meet**

- ✓ Indian teenager Anahat Singh has scripted history by winning the U-15 girls category of the prestigious Junior US Open Squash tournament in Philadelphia.
- ✓ The 13-year-old girl from Delhi overcame powerhouse Egypt's Jayda Marei in the final match 11-9, 11-5, 8-11, 11-5 played at the Arlen Spectre Centre.

➤ **Junior National Equestrian Championship**

- ✓ Chennai-based Kavya Gopal - clinched two gold medals in the Junior National Equestrian Championship at the Amateur Riders Clubs at Mahalakshmi in Mumbai.



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.

➤ **Justice (retd) G T Nanavati**

- ✓ Justice (retd) G T Nanavati, a former Supreme Court judge who probed the 2002 and the 1984 riots - passed away in Ahmedabad on December 18.

- ✓ Nanavati was born in 1935 and enrolled as an advocate at the Bombay high court in February 1958.
- **GT Nanavati**
- ✓ Justice Girish T Nanavati, the retired Supreme Court judge passed away in December 2021.
- ✓ He headed the inquiry commissions into the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and the 2002 Gujarat riots.
- ✓ **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**
- ✓ South African anti-apartheid icon and a modern-day activist for racial justice and LGBT rights, Archbishop **Desmond Tutu (90 years) - died** in Cape Town, South Africa on December 26.
- **Edward O Wilson**
- ✓ The renowned Harvard biologist, Edward O Wilson - has died at the age of 92 on December 26 in Burlington, US's Massachusetts.
- ✓ The professor and two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author first gained widespread attention for his 1975 book, "Sociobiology: The New Synthesis".

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%.

- **James Webb Space Telescope**
- ✓ The James Webb Space Telescope, the most powerful space observatory ever built - is now set for launch on December 25, Christmas Day.
- ✓ The telescope will be prepared for science missions in the summer of 2022, after the deployment of the observatory as well as the alignment and calibration of the mirrors and sensors.

- **The Healthy States, Progressive India**
- ✓ NITI Aayog on 27 December 2021, released the fourth edition of "The Healthy States, Progressive India" report ranking states performance for the year 2019-20.

- ✓ Among the larger states, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have emerged among the best three performers in terms of overall performance.
- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**
India - has recorded a total of 124 tiger deaths in 2021, the highest in a decade.
- ✓ This was revealed in a data sourced from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) till December 29, 2021 based on the deaths reported.



RANKING

➤ **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.

➤ **World Talent Ranking Report 2021**

- ✓ International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Center's "World Talent Ranking Report 2021" has been released.
- ✓ India ranks 56th in the World Talent Ranking Report 2021.

➤ **Dope-Related Activities**

- ✓ India - has been ranked in the third place among the world's biggest violators in dope-related activities in the year 2019.
- ✓ This was revealed in the latest report published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

➤ **Good Governance Index (GGI)-2021**

- ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah - released the Good Governance Index (GGI)-2021 on December 25 on the occasion of Good Governance Day.
- ✓ Gujarat has topped the overall ranking of states, followed by Maharashtra and Goa
- ✓ Delhi topped the list among all Union Territories with an improvement of 14% over GGI-2019.

➤ **The World's Top Economy**

British consultancy Cebr - predicted China will become the world's top economy in dollar terms in 2030, overtaking the United States

- ✓ According to the agency's report, the world's economic output will exceed \$100 trillion for the first time in the year 2022
- ✓ India looks set to overtake France next year and then Britain in 2023 to regain its place as the world's sixth biggest economy.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
December 1	World AIDS Day	Theme - Ending Inequalities
December 1	BSF celebrates 57th Raising Day	-
December 2	National Pollution Control Day	-
December 2	World Computer Literacy Day 2021	-
December 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Theme 2021 - "Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world".
December 3	World Day of the Handicapped	-
December 3	Dr Rajendra Prasad's 137th birth anniversary	-
December 4	Indian Navy Day	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.
December 5	World Soil Day 2021	-

December 5	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development	The theme for International Volunteer Day 2021 is "Volunteer now for our common future."
December 6	Mahaparinirvana Divas	-
December 7	International Civil Aviation Day	Theme: "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development".
December 7	Armed Forces Flag Day	-
December 8	SAARC Charter Day	-
December 9	International Anti-Corruption Day	The theme for 2021 is "Your right, your role: Say no to corruption".
December 9	Genocide Prevention Victims Remembrance Day:	-
December 10	Human Rights Day	The theme for 2021 is 'Equality-Reducing inequalities and advancing human rights'.
December 10	Nobel Prize Day	-
December 11	Mahakavi Subramanian Bharati's Birth Anniversary	-
December 11	International Mountain Day	
December 12	International Day of	

	Neutrality	
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day	Theme 2021 - 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Energy Efficient India' and 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Clearer Planet.'
December 16	Vijay Diwas	
December 18	Minorities Rights Day	
December 18	International Migrants Day	The theme of International Migrants Day 2021, is harnessing the potential of human mobility
December 19	Goa Liberation Day	-
December 20	International Human Solidarity Day:	The aim is to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity, especially in the global arena
December 22	National Mathematics Day	-
December 23	Kisan Diwas	-
December 24	National Consumer Rights Day	Theme 2021 - 'tackling plastic pollution'.
December 25	Good Governance Day	Good governance Day is observed every year to create awareness about the duties and responsibilities of the citizens towards the government of the country.
December 27	International Day of	The United Nations and

	Epidemic Preparedness	World Health Organization marked December 27 as the International day for Epidemic Preparedness.
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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.

