



CURRENT AFFAIRS-FEBRUARY 1-28, 2023

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EXCELLENCE



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

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TAMIL NADU

➤ **Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme**

- ✓ On February 1, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched the Rs. 2,400 crore Perasiriyar Anbazhagan school development scheme at the inaugural function held in Katpadi government boys higher secondary school in Vellore.
- ✓ The new scheme, named after the late DMK leader K Anbazhagan, seeks to renovate government schools, construct new classrooms and other facilities across the state.

➤ **Lab-Grown Diamonds (LGD)**

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology, Madras - has got a grant of Rs.242 crore for five years from the Union department of commerce to promote research and development on lab-grown diamonds (LGD).
- ✓ This is in line with the 2023-24 Union Budget recommendation, as announced by Union Finance Minister.
- ✓ The India Centre for Lab Grown Diamonds (InCent-LGD) at IIT Madras was identified for this prestigious project
- ✓ Lab-grown diamonds are chemically, physically, and optically the same as those found beneath the earth's surface.

➤ **'Pudumai Penn' Scheme - Phase 2**

- ✓ Chief Minister - launched phase 2 of the 'Pudumai Penn' scheme on February 8.
- ✓ During the event, the CM announced that more than 1.16 lakh girl students benefited from the first phase of the state scheme 'Pudumai Penn'.
- ✓ This scheme has been designed to bring back girl students, who were unable to continue their higher studies, and prevent dropouts among them.
- ✓ Implemented by the social welfare and women empowerment department.
- ✓ The students would be paid Rs 1,000 monthly till they complete their graduation or diploma courses.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicles Policy 2023**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has unveiled a new electric vehicle (EV) policy to promote the growth of a strong EV ecosystem in the state.
- ✓ The 'Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicles Policy 2023' was released by Chief Minister M K Stalin on February 14, 2023.
- ✓ The new policy seeks to strengthen the EV manufacturing value chain, improve EV adoption across vehicle segments, improve green electricity value chain, and promote rapid EV infrastructure development.

- **'Maaperum Tamil Kanavu**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Virtual Academy (TVA) - has jointly launched a programme, 'Maaperum Tamil Kanavu' (The Big Tamil Dream), in coordination with various government departments.
- ✓ The new programme seeks to create awareness among college students on Tamil culture and heritage and kindle their interest in the language as well as make them aware of various opportunities available in different fields.

- **DNA Sequencing Facility**
- ✓ The state forest department - inaugurated a DNA sequencing facility at the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) in Vandalur on February 16.
- ✓ The new facility will function under the Centre for Wildlife Forensics and wildlife histopathology laboratory at the Centre for Animal Care Sciences.
- ✓ This is the first such facility established and run by a state forest department in the entire country.

- **Fortified Rice**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu civil supplies corporation (TNCSC), along with the food safety department - will start the distribution of fortified rice through fair price shops in Chennai to the Priority Household (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cardholders.
- ✓ The initiative was taken to combat malnutrition and chronic anaemia, especially among the underprivileged sections of society.

- **Geographical Indications (GI) Tag**
- ✓ Vellore spiny brinjal and Ramanathapuram mundu chilli - have been conferred the Geographical Indications (GI) tag for their unique physical and geographical characteristics.
- ✓ With this, the total number of products that have earned GI recognition from Tamil Nadu has gone up to 45.
- ✓ Karnataka has got maximum GI tags with 46, followed by Tamil Nadu in second place and Kerala in third position with 36 GI products.

- **Sagarmala Programme**
- ✓ The first ever short-haul coastal container feeder service between Chennai and Puducherry ports - will be flagged off on February 27 under the Centre's Sagarmala Programme.
- ✓ The vessel, named 'Hope Seven', will be operated twice a week.

- ✓ The Indian government, under its Sagarmala programme, has been promoting the economic and environmental benefits of coastal shipping as compared to transport by the road mode.



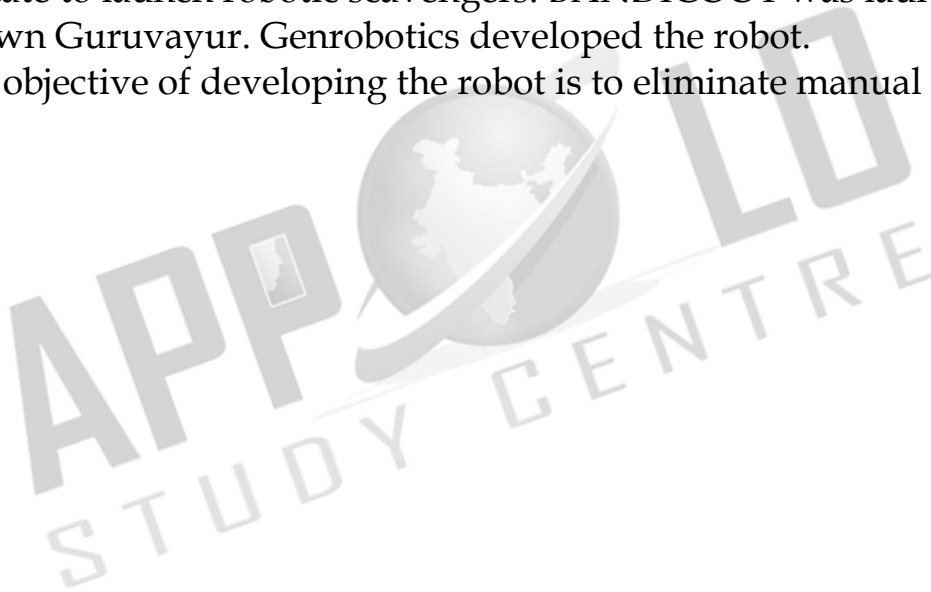
STATE

➤ **New Capital - Visakhapatnam**

- ✓ Visakhapatnam, a port and industrial city brimming with cosmopolitan culture has been in the news ever since Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's government announced that it would be the new capital of the state.
- ✓ The announcement of Visakhapatnam, a new capital for Andhra comes nine years after the state of Telangana was carved out of its territory and given Hyderabad as its capital.

➤ **Kerala: First State To Use Robotic Manhole Cleaners**

- ✓ Kerala uses a BANDICOOT robot to clean sewage. With this, it has become the first state to launch robotic scavengers. BANDICOOT was launched in the temple town Guruvayur. Genrobotics developed the robot.
- ✓ The main objective of developing the robot is to eliminate manual scavenging.



NATIONAL

➤ **India to be Theme Country**

- ✓ India to be Theme Country at 2025 Madrid International Book Fair.
- ✓ India will be invited as the focal country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025, the Ambassador of Spain to India.
- ✓ Spain is the theme country at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair.
- ✓ The Madrid International Book Fair is an annual event held in the Buen Retiro Park in Madrid.

➤ **Visit India Year 2023 Campaign**

- ✓ Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy - recently launched the "Visit India Year 2023 campaign" to encourage inbound travel to the country on January 31.
- ✓ The minister also launched a logo of the campaign during the event.
- ✓ In the logo, elements of India's heritage, its monuments have been depicted, as also modern achievements of India in space and other sectors.
- ✓ The Visit India Year 2023 campaign is an initiative of the Tourism Ministry.

➤ **World's 1st Living Heritage University**

- ✓ Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, West Bengal founded by Rabindranath Tagore in 1921, is set to become the world's first "living heritage university".
- ✓ The university is expected to receive the heritage tag from UNESCO in April or May 2023.
- ✓ The institute was granted the status of a Central University in the year 1951 through a Central Act.
- ✓ It is the only university whose Chancellor is the PM of India.

➤ **Save Wetlands Campaign**

- ✓ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav in February 2023, launched the 'Save Wetlands Campaign.'
- ✓ The campaign is based on a "whole of society" approach to wetland conservation.
- ✓ It provides an opportunity to sensitise people about the value of wetlands, increase the coverage of wetlands and citizen participation for wetland conservation.

➤ **Lithium Reserves**

- ✓ On February 9, the government - announced that lithium reserves have been found for the first time in the country in Jammu and Kashmir.

- ✓ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified availability of lithium-inferred resources of 5.9 million tonnes in Salal-Haimana area of Reasi in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ Lithium is a non-ferrous metal and is a key component of lithium-ion batteries in electric vehicles (EVs) and other chargeable instruments.
- **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)**
- ✓ On February 15, the Union cabinet - approved a decision to establish two lakh primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) across the country in the next five years.
- ✓ The plan aims to establish viable Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in each uncovered Panchayat, viable dairy cooperatives in each uncovered Panchayat or village, and viable fishery cooperatives in each coastal Panchayat or village.
- **Project Cheetah**
- ✓ On February 18, twelve South African cheetahs - were released into enclosures inside Kuno National Park of Sheopur district in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Union environment minister Bhupendra Yadav and chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the tigers as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Project Cheetah.
- ✓ Kuno is now home to 20 cheetahs, including eight that were brought from Namibia and released by PM Modi in September last year.
- **First Semiconductor Plant of India**
- ✓ The Vedanta group and the Foxconn of Taiwan have come together to build the first semiconductor manufacturing unit in Dholera of Gujarat.
- ✓ The companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gujarat Government. According to the agreement, they will invest Rs 1,54,000 crores in this project.
- ✓ The semiconductor plant will be built in the Dholera Special Investment Region in Ahmedabad. It is a greenfield industrial city.
- **First Solid Waste-to-Hydrogen Plant**
- ✓ The country's first solid waste-to-hydrogen plant - will be set up in Pune at a cost of over Rs 430 crore.
- ✓ It will treat 350 tonnes of solid garbage every day by next year, producing 10 tonnes of hydrogen daily.
- ✓ The plant will use "Plasma Gasification Technology" to convert waste organic material into hydrogen fuel.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ 7.8 Magnitude Earthquake

- ✓ A powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake - hit southern Turkey and northern Syria early on February 6, killing more than 2,600 people and injuring thousands.
- ✓ The earthquake struck at a depth of about 18 kilometres near the Turkish city of Gaziantep, which is about 60 km from the Syrian border, causing extensive damage to properties and significant casualties.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ India-France-UAE Trilateral Cooperation Initiative

- ✓ In recent times, India has been increasing its bilateral trade with UAE. With CEPA and the Golden Visa program (extension) of UAE, business relations have increased exponentially.
- ✓ On the other hand, India has strong defence relations with France. From fighter jets to drones, the Indian military is using French-made goods. Extending the ties further, India is launching Trilateral Cooperation Initiative with the countries.

➤ Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate

- ✓ U.S. and UAE collectively launched the 'Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate' AIM4C in November 2021. India also joined the global platform.
- ✓ The aim was to strengthen investment and provide support for climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation, as stated by the US Department of state.
- ✓ India has joined with as many as 275 partners out of which 42 are governments who are working together to accelerate the mission.

SCHEMES

➤ **PM VIKAS - PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman**

- ✓ PM VIKAS is a package of assistance for traditional artisans and craftspeople.
- ✓ The scheme will enable them to improve the quality, scale and reach of their products, integrating them with the MSME value chain.
- ✓ Components of scheme include financial support, skill training, knowledge of modern digital techniques, promotion, market linkage, digital payments, and social security.

➤ **Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)**

- ✓ On February 15, the Union cabinet - approved a Rs. 4,800 crore allocation for the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' (VVP), a centrally-sponsored scheme, to ensure the comprehensive development of villages along the northern border areas.
- ✓ The scheme will cover ten sectors including economic growth, livelihood generation, road connectivity, energy, development of cooperative sectors for 24X7 electricity and water, besides promotion of tourism of culture.

APP
STUDY CENTRE

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ **Indian Rice Congress 2023**

- ✓ The second edition of the Indian Rice Congress was recently inaugurated by President Murmu at National Rice Research Institute at Cuttack, Odisha.
- ✓ The 2023 congress was held on the theme “Transforming Rice Research”.
- ✓ The congress focused on the global food crisis and the recent scientific developments that will help in increasing the production and yield of paddy crops.

➤ **World Hindi Conference**

- ✓ Foreign minister S Jaishankar - will join Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka in inaugurating the 12th World Hindi Conference at Nadi in Fiji on February 15.
- ✓ The main theme of the conference is ‘Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence’.
- ✓ A 270-member delegation will travel to Fiji for the conference.

➤ **The World Government Summit 2023**

- The World Government Summit 2023 - is set to begin on February 13 in Dubai.
- ✓ The Summit will be held under the theme of "Shaping Future Governments".
 - ✓ It will bring together global thought leaders, global experts, and decision makers.
 - ✓ India is to announce its partners of “India Stack” at this year’s World Government Summit.

➤ **B20 (Business 20)**

- ✓ A B20 (Business 20) Conference for the delegates from G20 countries and other invited countries - was held in Imphal, Manipur on February 17.
- ✓ The conference was a part of the official G20 Dialogue Forum for the global business community.
- ✓ The theme of the conference was ‘Sustainable Growth and Development’.

➤ **18th World Security Congress**

- ✓ A 3-day long 18th UIC World Security Congress jointly organised by the International Union of Railways (UIC), Paris and the Railway Protection Force (RPF) began on 21 February.
- ✓ Theme of this year’s Congress is “Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future”.

➤ **Youth 20 India Summit**

- ✓ The Youth 20 India Summit will be held at the Maharaja Sayajirao University Vadodara in Gujarat which was attended by more than 600 delegates from 62 countries.
- ✓ The Youth 20 India Summit is organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India to mark the celebration of India's G20 Presidency, the focus would be on 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making sustainability a Way of Life'.

➤ **BioAsia Summit 2023**

- ✓ The 20th Edition of BioAsia, Asia's largest Life Sciences and Healthcare Convention, concluded in Hyderabad on 26 February 2023.
- ✓ The summit 2023 was inaugurated on 24 Feb 2023, by KT Rama Rao, Minister for Industries and Commerce & IT, Government of Telangana.
- ✓ The theme of the event for 2023 is "Advancing for ONE: Shaping the next generation of humanized healthcare".

➤ **Women20 Inception Meeting**

- ✓ The first meeting of the W20 (Women 20) under India's G20 presidency will be held at Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra on 27-28 February 2023.
- ✓ 'Pursuit of Gender Equality, Equity and Dignity for Women-led Development' is the theme of the meeting.
- ✓ W20 (Women 20) is an official engagement group under the G20 which was established during the Turkish presidency in 2015.

➤ **International Biotech Conclave**

- ✓ Union Minister of Science & Technology on 25 February 2023 inaugurated the 'International Biotech Conclave' in Imphal, Manipur.
- ✓ It was held along with the 22nd Congress of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology and the 10th Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology.
- ✓ The theme for the conclave was "Reimagine Ethnopharmacology: Globalisation of Traditional Medicine".

DEFENCE

➤ **Operation Dost**

- ✓ As part of "Operation Dost," India is deploying a field hospital, supplies, and rescue personnel to the earthquake-stricken countries of Turkey and Syria.
- ✓ A 7.8-magnitude earthquake that occurred while people were asleep destroyed thousands of buildings, trapped an undetermined number of people, and may have affected millions of people.

➤ **Tapas-BH**

- ✓ India's first indigenous advanced unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for strategic reconnaissance and surveillance "Tapas-BH" - will be unveiled next week.
- ✓ The Tapas-BH (Tactical Aerial Platform for Advanced Surveillance-beyond horizon) drone was developed by DRDO.
- ✓ The medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) Tapas-BH is developed for ISTAR (intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance) requirements of the Army, IAF and Navy.

➤ **TARKASH**

- ✓ The National Security Guard (NSG) and US Special Operations Forces (SOF) - are currently conducting an exercise named Operation TARKASH in Chennai.
- ✓ This marks the sixth edition of the exercise, which started on January 16 and will conclude on February 14.
- ✓ This is the first joint military exercise between India and USA in 2023.

➤ **SWARM' Drone System**

- ✓ Indian Army gets world's 1st fully operational 'SWARM' Drone System.
- ✓ NewSpace Research company has delivered 'SWARM' drones to Indian Army in February 2023.
- ✓ It makes the Army the first armed force in the world to operationalise SWARM drones.
- ✓ The swarm of 100 drones is capable of hitting targets at least 50 kms away into enemy territory.

➤ **Dharma Guardian**

- ✓ The fourth edition of the India-Japan joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian' - will be held at Camp Imazu in the Shiga province of Japan from February 17 to March 2, 2023.

- ✓ This annual exercise will strengthen bilateral relations between India and Japan and enhance the level of defence cooperation between the two forces.
- **VAYULINK**
- ✓ The Indian Air Force - has developed an innovative solution called VAYULINK to help pilots in dealing with bad weather and also provide jam-proof uninterrupted communication with the base station.
- ✓ The Vayulink system also prevents aircraft collision, provides better combat teaming and helps real-time planning where multiple teams can get together and 'go towards the target coming from different areas.
- **Desert Flag-VIII**
- ✓ An Indian Air Force contingent - has arrived at Al Dhafra airbase of United Arab Emirates to participate in a multi-nation 'Desert Flag-VIII' exercise.
- ✓ The IAF, with 110 personnel, would be participating in the exercise with five LCA Tejas and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.
- ✓ The Desert Flag-VIII exercise, to be held from February 27 to March 17, will also witness the participation of air forces of the US, UK, Australia, France, Kuwait, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain and South Korea.
- **Cobra Warrior**
- ✓ On February 26, India - dispatched an air-force contingent for the multination 'Cobra Warrior' air combat exercise in the United Kingdom.
- ✓ The Cobra Warrior, scheduled from March 6 to 24, is a multilateral exercise in which air forces from the US, Finland, Sweden, South Africa and Singapore will be participating, alongside the Royal British Air Force and IAF.
- **Dustlik 2023**
- ✓ The 4th edition of India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise 'Dustlik 2023' - is currently underway at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The 14 days joint training, to be held till March 5, will focus on sharing best practices in Sub Conventional Operations under UN mandate.
- ✓ The biennial exercise will include field training exercises, combat discussions, lectures, demonstrations and culminate with a validation exercise.

APPOINTMENT

➤ **New World Bank President**

- ✓ US President Joe Biden recently nominated the former Master Card CEO Ajay Banga as the new World Bank President. Ajay has expertise in handling climate change-related economic issues.
- ✓ He is now serving as the Vice Chairman of General Atlantic, a private firm. His business experience with the master card is more than 30 years. He is the first Indian-born nominee to serve at the World Bank.

AWARDS

➤ **Lifetime Achievement Honour**

- ✓ Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh - was recently announced as the winner of Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honours in London for his contribution to economic and political life.
- ✓ The award acknowledges Dr Singh's academic achievements at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

➤ **Prestigious Space Foundation Award**

- ✓ The James Webb Telescope is an infrared space telescope orbiting the sun.
- ✓ The telescope was jointly developed by European Space Agency, NASA, and Canadian Space Agency.
- ✓ The James Webb Telescope has been discovering many new facts and making extraordinary explorations since its launch.
- ✓ Recently, the James Webb Telescope won the Space Foundation Award.

ECONOMY

➤ **Repo Rate**

- ✓ On February 8, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) - hiked the repo rate by 25 basis points.
- ✓ The sixth consecutive rise since the RBI started hiking rates in May 2022 has resulted in a 250-basis-point increase in interest rates.
- ✓ The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate will stand revised to 6.25% and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate will now be 6.75%.
- ✓ The RBI has also projected a GDP growth for the next fiscal at 6.4%.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **Digital India Mobile Van launched.**

- ✓ It was launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in New Delhi.
- ✓ The objective is to spread awareness of Digital India initiatives and also to spread the word about the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG).
- ✓ Lucknow is the first destination of the van where G20 DEWG's first meet is being held. It will tour various other cities in the country as well.

➤ **Gaganyaan Astronauts**

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and IIT M - have recently signed an MoU for the training of Gaganyaan astronauts.
- ✓ Indian astronauts on India's first human space flight mission Gaganyaan will undergo training with modules developed by IIT-Madras using extended reality (XR), which includes immersive technologies like augmented reality, virtual reality and mixed reality.

➤ **Jupiter - Planet with Most Moons**

- ✓ Jupiter is the biggest planet in the sun's family. Scientists believed that Saturn had the maximum number of moons, 82 moons have been discovered around Saturn so far.
On the other hand, it was believed that Jupiter had 80 moons. However, the latest discovery revealed Jupiter has 12 more moons. With this, the count of Jupiter's moons increased to 92.

➤ **SSLV-D2**

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - successfully launched its second developmental flight of a Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, SSLV-D2.
- ✓ Isro's smallest and latest commercial rocket, SSLV-D2 lifted off from the first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre-SHAR, Sriharikota on February 10.
- ✓ The SSLV-D2 placed three satellites - ISRO's Earth Observation Satellite - EOS 07, U.S.-based firm Antaris' Janus-1 and Chennai-based space start-up SpaceKidz's AzaadiSAT-2 - developed by start-ups in a 450-km circular orbit around the Earth.

➤ **Snapdragon Satellite**

- ✓ Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. - has introduced the world's first satellite-based two-way capable messaging solution called 'Snapdragon Satellite' for premium smartphones.
- ✓ The Snapdragon Satellite will offer global connectivity using mobile messaging from around the world.
- ✓ The first devices to get this technology will be those that are based on the flagship Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 Mobile platform.

➤ **World's First Cloud-Built Demo Satellite**

- ✓ World's First Cloud-Built Demo Satellite Launched Successfully.
- ✓ World's first satellite fully conceived, designed, and manufactured using the Antaris company's end-to-end cloud platform, JANUS-1 has successfully reached orbit.
- ✓ JANUS-1 was recently launched on the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) new mini-rocket SSLV-D2.

➤ **India's First Hybrid Rocket**

- ✓ India's first hybrid sounding rocket by private players was successfully launched from Pattipulam village in the Chengalpattu district of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Martin Foundation, in association with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and Space Zone India, launched the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission- 2023.

➤ **LLaMA**

- ✓ Meta, formerly known as Facebook - has announced the release of a new large language model called LLaMA, which stands for Large Language Model Meta AI.
- ✓ After Microsoft ChatGPT and Google's Bard, the California-based tech major, Meta, has introduced a new research tool that will soon aid in building AI-based chatbots.

The new model will be available to researchers and entities affiliated with the government, civil society, and academia under a non-commercial license for now.

SPORTS

➤ ISSF World Cup 2023

- ✓ India's Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil won the men's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 in Cairo.
- ✓ He defeated Germany's Maximilian Ullbrich by 16-8 in the gold medal match to clinch the top prize.

REPORT

➤ World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

- ✓ On February 14, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) - said that rise in sea level has been 4.5mm per year during 2013-22.
- ✓ According to the WMO, the rise could continue through this century, recording a total rise of 0.6 metre by 2100, as compared to 1995-2014 level, even under the low greenhouse gas (GHG) emission scenario.
- ✓ The danger is especially acute for 900 million people who live in coastal zones at low elevations and also for assets worth up to \$14. 2 trillion by 2100 within the coastal floodplains.

RANKING

➤ World Happiness Index 2023

- ✓ The World Happiness Index 2023 Report will mark its tenth anniversary with this year's Globe Happiness Reflect, which uses data from international surveys to show how people rank their lives in more than 150 countries.
- ✓ In these dark times, there is a glimmer of optimism revealed by the World Happiness Index 2023. The pandemic not only caused anguish and suffering, but it also led to a rise in social assistance and charitable giving.
- ✓ Finland was named the world's happiest country for the fifth year in a row, according to the World Happiness Report.
- ✓ India ranked 136th out of 150 in the World Happiness Report 2023.

➤ Largest Milk Producer In The World - India

- ✓ India is the largest milk producer in the world. It contributed to 24% of the global milk production in the year 2021-22.
- ✓ India's milk production has registered a growth of 51% during the last eight years - 2014-15 and 2021-22. Production has increased to 220 million tonnes in 2021-22.
- ✓ The data was released by Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistics Database (FAOSTAT).

➤ **Organ Donation - 2022**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu - is ranked at second place in organ donation in 2022 with 156 donations.
- ✓ Telangana, which was far behind Tamil Nadu till a few years ago, is now at the top of the table with 194 donations.
- ✓ The state has been the leader in organ donations till 2018.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu was among the first states to make it mandatory for all government hospitals to declare brain deaths.

➤ **Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021**

- ✓ India - has been placed at the fifth position out of 184 countries in terms of its accreditation system, as per the recently released Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021.
- ✓ Germany topped the list, followed by China and the US.
- ✓ The ranking is based on the 184 economies' infrastructure quality.
- ✓ The country's overall ranking is 10th in the GQII index.
In terms of metrology and standardization, India was ranked 21st and ninth, respectively, in the world.

➤ **Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI)**

- ✓ India - was ranked at 47th position among 50 countries in Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for the year 2022.
- ✓ Last year, the country was ranked at 48th position.
- ✓ Japan was ranked at the top, followed by UK, Netherlands, Czech, and Chile in second, third, fourth, and fifth places respectively.
- ✓ The countries in the last four spots were Indonesia (at the 50th spot), Thailand (49), Russia (48), and India (47).
- ✓ The report covers service trade regulations among all its members.

➤ **International IP Index 2023**

- ✓ US Chambers of Commerce has published the International Intellectual Property Index 2023 and ranked India at 42 among 55 global economies.
- ✓ While the US topped the report, UK and France come next to the US. The report shows an in-depth assessment of intellectual property rights like patent and copyright policies of each economy across the world.
- ✓ The senior VC of the US association, Patrick Kilbride proclaimed that India is now fully prepared to head the growing markets as it is transforming itself through IP-driven innovation.

IMPORTANT DAY

Date	Day	Theme
February 01	Indian Coast Guard Day	It aims to prevent the sea-borne smuggling of goods
February 02	World Wetlands Day	The theme of World Wetlands Day 2023 is "It's Time for Wetlands Restoration"
February 04	World Cancer Day	The theme for World Cancer day for the last three years - 2022, 2023 and 2024 - is "Close The Care Gap"
February 04	International Day of Human Fraternity	Motto: Harmony in difference
February 06	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	The primary objective behind observing this day is to amplify and direct efforts on the elimination of this cruel practice
February 07	Safer Internet Day 2023	The theme for Safer Internet Day 2023 is 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'
February 10	World Pulses Day	Theme 2022 - Pulses for a sustainable future
February 11	World Unani Day	World Unani Day is observed every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of social reformer and renowned Unani scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2023	The theme for 2023 is 'IDEAS (Innovate, Demonstrate, Elevate, Advance, Sustain)'

February 12	India celebrates National Productivity Day	This year's National Productivity Day theme is "Productivity, Green Growth, and Sustainability: Celebrating India's G20 Presidency"
February 13	National Women's Day	The day is observed every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, popularly known as the nightingale of India
February 13	International Epilepsy Day	Theme 2023 - 'Stigma'
February 13	World Radio Day	Theme 2023 - "Radio and Peace"
February 15	International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD)	Theme for the three-year (2021-2023) campaign for ICCD is 'Better Survival'
February 18	World Pangolin Day 2023	It is a day to remember and celebrate pangolins
February 19	Soil Health Card Day	To remember the beginning of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme and to raise awareness of its advantages
February 20	World Day of Social Justice	Theme - "Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice"
February 21	International Mother Language Day	Theme 2023- 'multilingual education - a necessity to transform education
February 22	World Thinking Day	Our World, Our Peaceful Future', the theme for World Thinking Day 2023
February 27	World NGO Day 2023	The theme for the year 2023 is "the role and influence of NGOs in advancing human rights"

February 28	National Science Day	National Science Day is observed every year on February 28 to mark the discovery of a phenomenon known as the Raman Effect by eminent Indian scientist and physician, Sir C.V.Raman
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CURRENT AFFAIRS - TNPSC ORIGINAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - EXAMS CONDUCTED IN FEBRUARY 2023

- The Announcement that, ECR (East Coast Road) will be renamed "Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar Karunanidhi Salai" was made by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M.K. Stalin in
 - February 02, 2022
 - March 02, 2022
 - April 02, 2022
 - May 02, 2022**
 - Answer not known

Science and Technology

- 'ORCAM Read' is a device invented in 2021 to assist people with impairment in
 - sight**
 - hearing
 - eating
 - mobility
 - Answer not known

Eminent personalities and places in news

- Which sports person is the author of the book 'Playing it my way'?
 - Kapil Dev
 - Yuvaraj Singh
 - Sachin Tendulkar**
 - Sania Nehwal
 - Answer not known

Profile of States

- The "Kavalan" App is an initiative of the Tamil Nadu Police. The main target group is
 - Men
 - Women**
 - Children
 - Parents
 - Answer not known

Problems in Public Delivery Systems

5. Choose which districts in Tamil Nadu are the first to implement the 'One Country One Ration Card' Scheme:
- i. Chennai
 - ii. Tirunelveli
 - iii. Tuticorin
 - iv. Coimbatore
- a. (i) and (iv) only b. (ii) and (iv) only c. (i) and (ii) only
d. **(ii) and (iii) only** e. Answer not Known

Welfare oriented Government schemes and their utility

6. Choose the right answers:
Which of the following statements are correct about MKSP; Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana?
- 1. It was initiated in the year 2019
 - 2. To empower women by making a systematic investment
 - 3. To involve women in the sports activities
 - 4. To ensure food and nutrition security at household
- a. **2 and 4 are correct** b. 2 and 3 are correct c. 1 and 2 are correct
d. 3 and 4 are correct e. Answer not Known
7. Which of the following statements are true about women empowerment?
- (i) Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana and stand - up India Scheme are supporting steps for women community.
 - (ii) Agriculture and rural development initiatives and the recently announced Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.
 - (iii) UJJAWALA scheme, one stop centre and gender budgeting implemented by the Ministry of women and child development.
- a. (i) only b. **(i) and (iii) only** c. (i) and (ii) only
d. (ii) and (iii) only e. Answer not Known

8. PMRY means
- a. Prime Minister Rural Yojana
 - b. Prime Minister Regional Yojana
 - c. Prime Minister Rashtriya Yojana**
 - d. Prime Minister Rashtriya Yojana
 - e. Answer not Known

