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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-JANUARY 1-15, 2022

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# TAMIL NADU

## ➤ **New Police Commissionerates**

- ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin - inaugurated the new Avadi and Tambaram New Police Commissionerates in suburban Chennai on January 1, 2022.
- ✓ The Tambaram commissionerate is headed by M Ravi, ADGP.
- ✓ The Avadi commissionerate is headed by Sandeep Rai Rathore, ADGP.

## ➤ **Net Zero**

- The two mofussil bus terminuses coming up at Kuthambakkam and Kilambakkam - are likely to be the first public buildings in Chennai to be near net zero, using renewable energy generated on campus.
- ✓ They will act as the hubs for generating solar power, which will also be used to recharge e-vehicles there.

## ➤ **Rani Velu Nachiyar**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Rani Velu Nachiyar, the Sivaganga queen in Tamil Nadu who waged war against the British, on her birth anniversary on 03 January 2022.
- ✓ She was the first Indian queen to wage war with the East India Company in India.
- ✓ She is known by Tamils as Veeramangai.

## ➤ **Akshaya Patra Foundation**

- ✓ On January 5, the Akshaya Patra Foundation - has set up its 60th kitchen in the country and the first in the Union territory of Puducherry to implement the government's flagship midday meal scheme.
- ✓ The centralised kitchen will serve midday meals to 50,800 children in 291 schools.

## ➤ **Agro-industrial Corridor Project**

- ✓ Governor R.N. Ravi on Wednesday said the agro-industrial corridor project would commence next year. The project would address the "industrial infrastructure deficit in Cauvery delta districts by promoting agro-based industries.
- ✓ The medical devices industry has been identified as a sunrise sector and in order to develop a comprehensive ecosystem for this industry, a medical devices park is being established over 150 acre.
- ✓ The State will also be setting up the nation's first large-scale furniture park over 1,100 acre in Thoothukudi, the Governor said. These two parks would generate employment for around three lakh persons.

- ✓ The government has declared January 12 as 'World Tamil Diaspora Day', which will be marked by special events every year.
- **Country Planning Act, 1971**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has decided to amend the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, to extend the validity of planning permissions from five years to eight years.
- **Chennai Airport**
- ✓ As per aviation analytics firm 'Cirium', India's Chennai airport is the only one from India to feature in the Top10 global list for On-time performance, in the year 2021.
- ✓ Chennai ranked 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Bills To Create New Local Bodies**
- ✓ The State Government on Thursday introduced bills for establishing more municipal corporations in the State Legislative Assembly.
- ✓ Municipal Administration Minister K.N. Nehru introduced the bills for creation of Municipal Corporations for Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Sivakasi, Karur, Tambaram and Kumbakonam.
- ✓ He said considering the rapid pace of urbanisation in the State, it was imperative to reorganise the urban local bodies.
- **Thirukkural Conference 2022**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi - inaugurated International Thirukkural Conference 2022 in Coimbatore on January 7.
- ✓ The governor sought more commentaries with a spiritual perspective on Thirukkural and not just translations to make it more popular across the world.
- ✓ He also recalled the works of former Madras Collector Francis Whyte Eliss to recognise the value of Thirukkural and for translating the work into English.
- **Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act**
- ✓ Term of co-operative societies cut to 3 years.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Friday passed the Bill to further amend the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983 to reduce the term of the office of the board of directors of co-operative societies from five years to three years.
- **E-Vaadagai**

- ✓ On January 8, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched E-Vaadagai, a mobile app to help farmers get farm machineries on rent
- ✓ E-vaadagai will help farmer's book machinery without having to visit agricultural offices.
  
- **Nemmeli Third Desalination Plant**
- ✓ Nemmeli third desalination plant to be ready by April 2023.
- ✓ The 1,259.38-crore project is being implemented under the AMRUT scheme and with financial assistance from KfW (German Development Bank) at a 10.6-acre site in the same site of 100 mld desalination plant.
  
- **TNPSC (Additional Functions) Bill 2022**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a bill to empower the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission to conduct recruitment tests for posts in quasi-government entities.
- ✓ The move comes amid increasing complaints of irregularities and corruption in filling vacancies in PSUs and corporations.
- ✓ According to the TNPSC (Additional Functions) Bill 2022, the commission will carry out the recruitment process for filling certain vacancies in PSUs, corporations, statutory boards, and authorities under the government.
  
- **Universal Basic Income**
- ✓ Member of Economic Advisory Council to the Chief Minister Arvind Subramanian said he was in favour of the State introducing a universal basic income scheme.
- ✓ An idea of a minimum basic income would help complete Tamil Nadu's social safety net project and help in individuals realising their potential, Despite having the technology and talent, Chennai had only three Unicorns (startups valued over \$1 billion) out of 80 in India.
  
- **Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) & 11 New Medical Colleges**
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Chennai on 12th January 2022.
- ✓ CICT is contributing to the promotion of classical Tamil by doing research activities.
- ✓ PM Modi also inaugurated 11 new Government Medical Colleges across Tamil Nadu via video conference.
  
- **Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission**

- ✓ On January 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced an assistance of 3,000 crore to Tamil Nadu in the next five years under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.
- ✓ The Centre's assistance would be used to address critical gaps in health infrastructure and health research, especially at the district level.
  
- **Natural Resources**
- ✓ The state government - has formed a new department, Natural Resources, by separating the subjects relating to mines and minerals from the industries department.
- ✓ As per the order, the heads of the departments, directorate of geology and mining, Tamil Nadu Minerals and Tamil Nadu Magnesite will be brought under the control of the newly formed department.
- ✓ The new department would be headed by Water Resources Minister, Durai Murugan.
  
- **Thanthai Periyar & Dr Ambedkar Award**
- ✓ On January 13, Chief minister M K Stalin - announced the state government's Thanthai Periyar award for social justice to Dravidian scholar and historian K Thirunavukkarasu and Dr Ambedkar award to retired judge of Madras high court, Justice K Chandru.
  
- **Revamped Pension Scheme**
- On January 13, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched a revamped pension scheme for temple priests and staff.
- ✓ The government has enhanced the pension for priests and temple staff by 1,000.
  
- **New Doppler Weather Radar**
- ✓ Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh - inaugurated a new doppler weather radar installed in the National Institute of Ocean Technology campus at Pallikaranai on January 14.
- ✓ The new equipment is a dual polarised doppler weather radar capable of providing coverage in an area with a radius of 150km around Chennai.
  
- **Pongal Bird Count (PBC)**
- ✓ The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Pongal Bird Count (PBC), an annual bird monitoring programme - will take place from January 14 to 17, 2022
- ✓ The four-day bird counting exercise will be undertaken by the Tamil Birders' Network (TBN) and Bird Count India (BCI) in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

# STATE

## ➤ **Kochi Water Metro Project**

- ✓ First Water Metro ferry handed over to Kochi Metro Rail.
- ✓ The first of the 23 fully air-conditioned, battery-powered electric ferries of the 747-crore Kochi Water Metro project was handed over by the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) to the Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) here on Friday morning.

## ➤ **Waiver of Property Tax**

- ✓ Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray - has announced a complete waiver of property tax for all homes measuring less than 500 square feet in Mumbai
- ✓ The waiver move is expected to benefit around 16 lakh families in the city.

## ➤ **Major Dhyan Chand Sports University**

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

## ➤ **Good Governance Index**

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

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

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

## ➤ **1<sup>st</sup> LPG Enabled & Smoke-Free State**

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

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

- ✓ The Government of Uttar Pradesh has decided to rename the Sainik School at Mainpuri after the first Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat who died in a helicopter crash in December 2021.
- ✓ UP CM has decided to rename the Sainik School as General Bipin Rawat Sainik School.
  
- **India's First Paperless Court**
- ✓ The Kerala High Court is all set to become India's first paperless court.
- ✓ Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud inaugurated the smart courtrooms on 1 January 2022.
  
- **India's First Open Rock Museum**
- ✓ The Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first unique 'Rock' museum in Hyderabad.
- ✓ The Open Rock Museum in Hyderabad has been set up with an aim to educate and enlighten the masses about several lesser-known facts.
- ✓ The ages of the rocks range from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years of the Earth's history.
  
- **First Sanitary Napkin Free Panchayat in India**
- ✓ Kerala's Kumbalangi gram panchayat - has become the first sanitary napkin free panchayat in India.
- ✓ This was announced by the State Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on January 13
- ✓ The panchayat is moving towards this eco-friendly change under the Prime Minister's Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) scheme.



# NATIONAL

## ➤ **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme**

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

## ➤ **Padhe Bharat**

- ✓ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan - launched a 100-day reading campaign 'Padhe Bharat' on January 1, 2022.
- ✓ The launch of the reading campaign is in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which provides importance to the promotion of joyful reading culture for children.

## ➤ **Covid-19 vaccination Drive - Children**

- ✓ Covid-19 vaccination drive covering children between the age group of 15-18 years will be launched across India today, January 3, 2022.
- ✓ The children will be administered Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

## ➤ **Kalpana Chawla Space Science Research Centre**

- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science and Technology (KCCRSST) at Chandigarh University on January 03, 2022.

## ➤ **National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) 3.0**

- ✓ NEAT is an initiative for providing the use of best-developed technological solutions in education sector for enhancing the employability of youth.
- ✓ These solutions make use of artificial intelligence for a customised and personalised experience for better learning outcomes and skill development across niche areas.

## ➤ **25th National Youth Festival**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - chose Puducherry to hold the 25th National Youth Festival.
- ✓ The Prime Minister is expected to inaugurate the festival and address the youth.
- ✓ The festival will be held under the theme, 'Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva' meaning 'Capable Youth, Strong Youth' from January 12 to 16, 2022.

➤ **Meri Saheli Teams**

- ✓ The Railway Protection Force has deployed 244 Meri Saheli teams at major railway stations in the country in order to provide security to the lady passengers in long-distance trains, particularly those who are travelling alone.

➤ **Automatic Generation Control**

- ✓ Power and new and renewable energy minister, Raj Kumar Singh has dedicated Automatic Generation Control (AGC) to the nation.
- ✓ The AGC sends signals to power plants every four seconds to maintain the frequency and thereby reliability of India's power system.
- ✓ It will help in achieving the government's target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel-based generation capacity by 2030.

➤ **One District-One Product**

- ✓ Food Processing Industries Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras has launched six brands developed as part of the 'One District-One Product' approach.
- ✓ They were launched under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME) in New Delhi on 5 Jan 2022.

➤ **The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF)**

- ✓ The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India have entered into a partnership to enhance the effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (formerly mid-day meal scheme).
- ✓ India was strategically important for School Meals Coalition that was launched in 2020 with WFP as a coordinating body, as it implemented the largest school feeding programme in the world.

➤ **Election Commission of India (ECI)**

- ✓ On January 6, the Election Commission of India (ECI) - announced the raising of maximum poll expenditure for candidates in case of both assembly and parliamentary constituencies.
- ✓ For assembly constituencies, the ceiling has been increased from 20 lakh to 28 lakh, and 28 lakh to 40 lakh, in respective states and Union territories.
- ✓ Meanwhile, for parliamentary constituencies, the ceiling has been raised from 54 lakh to 75 lakh, and 70 lakh to 95 lakh.

➤ **Green Energy Corridor Phase 2**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the Green Energy Corridor phase 2 with an outlay of Rs. 12,000 crores.
- ✓ The second phase of the Scheme will help in achieving the target of 450 GW installed Renewable Energy capacity by 2030.

#### ➤ **Veer Gatha Project**

- ✓ The Government of India launched "Veer Gatha Project" as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav under which government has been introducing several events to mark to 75th year of India's independence.
- ✓ Veer Gatha project was launched to inspire the school children in India, by making them aware with stories of war heroes and brave hearts.

#### ➤ **Vaccination Programme**

- ✓ On January 7, India - has reached the historic milestone of administering 150 crore vaccine doses to its citizens in its vaccination programme.
- ✓ According to health ministry, over 91% of the adult population has received at least one dose, while over 66% have been fully vaccinated.

#### ➤ **National Water Awards-2020**

- ✓ UP tops in 'Best State Category' in National Water Awards-2020.
- ✓ The 3rd National Water Awards-2020 was announced on January 7, 2022, by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh has secured top position in the 'Best State Category', followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

#### ➤ **Mobile Honey Processing Van**

- ✓ KVIC chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena launched the country's first Mobile Honey Processing Van at a Sirora village in Ghaziabad, UP to support farmers and beekeepers.
- ✓ This mobile honey processing unit can process up to 300-KG of honey in 8 hours.

#### ➤ **Introduction Of Cheetah In India**

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

#### ➤ **Veer Bal Diwas**

- ✓ On January 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced the government decision to observe December 26 as 'Veer Bal Diwas' in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh's sons.
- **Cleanest Medium City**
  - ✓ Noida has bagged the Cleanest Medium City in Swachh Survekshan 2021.
  - ✓ It is an annual survey of hygiene, cleanliness, and sanitation in India.
- **Cultural Survey of Villages**
  - ✓ The Government-promoted CSC SPV, (Common Service Centres Special Purpose Vehicle) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, will undertake the first-ever cultural survey of India's villages.
  - ✓ The survey is titled 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar'.
  - ✓ It will document the cultural identity at the village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block, or district unique.
- **National Professional Standards for Teachers" (NPST)**
  - ✓ The Ministry of Education – releases draft guidelines to assess the professional standards of school teachers.
  - ✓ As mandated by the National Education Policy 2020, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has been restructured as a professional standard setting body and is developing the NPST.
- **Surya Namaskar Demonstration Programme**
  - ✓ The Ministry of Ayush - organized the first ever 'Surya Namaskar Demonstration programme' on 14 January 2022 for 75 lakh people globally on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.
  - ✓ Leading yoga institutes, the Indian Yoga Association, National Yoga Sports Federation, Yoga Certification Board, FIT India, and many government and non-government organisations participated in this worldwide program.

# SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **27% Quota for Other Backward Class (OBC)**
- ✓ On January 7, the Supreme Court - approved the 27% quota for other backward class (OBC) in MBBS and MD courses under all India quota (AIQ) seats.
- ✓ It also permitted the Centre to set aside additional 10% seats for economically weaker sections (EWS) for the academic year 2021-22.
- ✓ It was notified in January 2019 for the admissions to UG and PG medical courses for 2021-22.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Europol**
- ✓ South Korea has recently become the 10th country outside of Europe to join Europol.
- ✓ The National Police Agency of South Korea joined Europol by signing the agreement, which was approved unanimously by the 27 EU nations.
- ✓ Europol is the European Union law enforcement cooperation agency that fights terrorism and other international crimes.
- **European Union (EU) Presidency**
- ✓ France has taken charge of the presidency of the Council of the European Union with effect from January 01, 2022, and will hold the EU presidency for the next six months till June 30, 2022.
- **World's Longest Metro Line**
- ✓ World's longest Metro line opened in China.
- ✓ Shanghai has opened two new metro lines, upholding its rank as the city with the largest Metro network in the world.
- ✓ With the new lines, the total length of Shanghai's metro network has extended to 831 km, continuing to be the longest in the world.
- **European Union**
- ✓ France took over the EU's rotating presidency on 1 January 2022.
- ✓ France has taken over the President for the first time in the last 14 years.
- ✓ The presidency of the Council rotates among the EU member states every 6 months.

➤ **Apple**

- ✓ Apple Inc. became the world's first company to touch \$3 trillion Market Cap. The market cap of Apple hit \$182.86 per share, which made it the world's first company to touch the \$3 trillion mark.

➤ **UNSC Statement on Nuclear War**

- ✓ United Nations Security Council statement on Nuclear War was published by Kremlin on January 3, 2022.
- ✓ Five nuclear powers, namely Russia, China, Britain, the United States and France, stated in a joint statement that further spread of nuclear arms and a nuclear war should be avoided.

➤ **Trincomalee Oil Tank Complex**

- ✓ Sri Lanka, India to Jointly Develop Strategic Trincomalee Oil Tank Complex.
- ✓ Sri Lanka has agreed to implement a joint project with India to redevelop the strategic World War II-era oil tank farm in the eastern port district of Trincomalee, the island nation's government announced.

➤ **Justice Ayesha Malik**

- ✓ Pakistan - has confirmed the appointment of the first female Supreme Court judge - Justice Ayesha Malik of the Lahore High Court - in the 75 years since the country's independence.

➤ **Deltacron**

- ✓ Scientists in Cyprus have detected a new variant of coronavirus dubbed as 'Deltacron'- combining both the Delta and Omicron variants.
- ✓ As per reports, 25 cases have been detected so far.

➤ **Secretary-General of SCO**

- ✓ China's senior diplomat Zhang Ming has taken charge as the new Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- ✓ The SCO comprises eight member states.
- ✓ They are India, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

➤ **Pacific Archipelago of Vanuatu**

- ✓ On January 12, the European Commission - proposed a suspension of a visa-free travel agreement with the Pacific archipelago of Vanuatu because of its scheme offering passports to rich foreigners.

- ✓ According to EU, such schemes could pose security and money laundering risks.
- ✓ The Commission has concluded that Vanuatu's investor citizenship schemes present serious deficiencies and security failures.



## INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

### ➤ **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**

- ✓ The UK government - announced the launch of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with India.
- ✓ In this regard, a meeting took place between commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and UK trade secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan for the 15th UK-India Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) on January 13.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

### ➤ **G7 Presidency**

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

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

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

## COMMITTEES

### ➤ **UNSCs Counter-Terrorism Committee**

- ✓ India has taken charge as the chairmanship of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee.
- ✓ India will hold chairmanship for one year, beginning from January 01, 2022, till January 01, 2023.

### ➤ **Energy Transition Advisory Committee (ETAC)**

- ✓ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas - has set up the **Energy Transition Advisory Committee (ETAC)**, headed by the former petroleum Secretary, Tarun Kapoor.
- ✓ The government is planning to prepare an energy transition roadmap for the oil and gas sector that could prove to be a key step on India's path to net-zero emissions by 2070.



# DEFENCE

## ➤ SAHAYAK-NG

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with the Indian Navy conducted a trial of 'SAHAYAK-NG' from an IL-38SD aircraft at Goa. 'SAHAYAK-NG' is India's first indigenously developed air-droppable container.

## ➤ Exercise Milan 2022

- ✓ India has invited a total of 46 nations to participate in the multinational naval exercise 'Milan' in Visakhapatnam, scheduled from February 25, 2022.
- ✓ The theme of this edition of exercise Milan is camaraderie, cohesion and collaboration.

## ➤ Sea Dragon 2022

- ✓ India is participating in the multinational exercise Sea Dragon 2022 at Guam in the Western Pacific.
- ✓ The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the United States, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and South Korea.

## ➤ BrahMos Cruise Missile

- On January 11, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully test-fired the naval variant of the supersonic **BrahMos cruise** missile
- ✓ The missile was launched from the Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth guided-missile destroyer INS Vishakhapatnam off the Western coast.

## ➤ Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)

- ✓ On January 11, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully flight tested the final deliverable configuration of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

## ➤ Climate-Friendly Combat Uniform

- ✓ Indian Army introduced a light and more climate-friendly combat uniform for its personnel on Army Day.
- ✓ The new Army Combat Pattern Uniform has been developed with the help of NIFT (National Institute of Fashion Technology).  
It will be based on a 'digital disruptive' pattern and will be available in 13 sizes.

# ECONOMY

## ➤ **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**

- ✓ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions - hit a new record in December 2021, both in volume and value terms.
- ✓ According to data released by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI recorded 4.56 billion transactions worth Rs 8.27 trillion in December.

## ➤ **GST Revenue Collections**

- ✓ The gross GST revenue collections - stayed above the 1 lakh crore mark for the sixth consecutive month in December 2021.
- ✓ The revenues for December are 13% higher than the same month last year and 26% higher than the GST revenues in December 2019.

## ➤ **GST Collection**

- ✓ Odisha has touched a collection of Rs 4080.14 crore during December 2021, registering a growth of 43 per cent.
- ✓ This is also the second-highest ever gross collection of GST by the state since the launching of GST.

## ✓ **Highest-Ever Monthly Exports**

- ✓ India has achieved its highest-ever monthly exports of 37 billion USD in December 2021, registering a jump of 37 percent from December 2020.

## ➤ **Scheduled Bank Status to Airtel Payments Bank**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has included Airtel Payment Bank in the 'Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934' on January 04, 2022.
- ✓ Airtel has announced that it's Airtel Payments Bank has been categorised as Scheduled Bank by the Reserve Bank of India.

## ➤ **India's First Cryptocurrencies Index IC15**

- ✓ The global cryptocurrency app CryptoWire has launched India's first index of cryptocurrencies named IC15. IC15, which will track the market capitalization and liquidity of top 15 global digital currencies globally, in terms of market capitalization, listed on leading crypto exchanges of the world.

## ➤ **Reliance Industries (RIL)**

- ✓ Reliance Industries (RIL) - has raised \$4 billion in the biggest foreign currency bond sale by an Indian corporate.

✓ The bonds were bought by investors from Asia (53%), America (33%) and Europe (14%).

➤ **Gold Imports**

✓ India, the second largest consumer of Gold after China - reported a record \$55.7 billion on gold imports last year.

✓ This far surpassed gold imports worth \$22 billion in the previous year 2020 and the earlier all-time high of \$53.9 billion in 2011.

➤ **The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**

✓ The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) - has amended rules to mandate that all bank fraud cases involving more than 3 crore will be referred to an expert panel to decide if they need investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

✓ According to CVC, a separate board for cases between Rs 3 crore and Rs 50 crore will be set up.

➤ **Integrated Steel Plant**

✓ Billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani's group and South Korea's Posco - have signed a \$5-billion (nearly Rs 37,000 crore) pact for setting up an integrated steel plant in Gujarat.

✓ With this, the Adani Group is set to compete with Tata Steel, JSW Steel and Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel.

➤ **India Economy**

✓ India's economy - is expected to grow 8.3% in the fiscal year ending March 2022, unchanged from the June 2021 outlook

✓ This was revealed in the World Bank forecast in its latest global economic prospects report.

✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also projected a 9.5% growth for India.

➤ **Cryptocurrency Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF)**

Asia's first cryptocurrency exchange-traded fund (ETF) - could be launched in India's GIFT City this year.

✓ Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC has signed an MoU with BSE's international arm India INX to launch digital asset-based products, which will be traded on GIFT City's IFSC (International Financial Services Centre).

➤ **Fintech Department**

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) - has **set up** a **Fintech department** to focus on the "dynamically" growing financial sector and to facilitate innovation

- ✓ All matters related to inter-regulatory coordination and internal coordination on fintech shall also be dealt with by the Department.



# APPOINTMENT

## ➤ Ashok Elluswamy

- ✓ Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy - became the first employee to be hired for his electric vehicle company's Autopilot team.
- ✓ This was announced by Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk.
- ✓ According to Musk, Ashok will be the head of Autopilot engineering.

## ➤ Alka Mittal

- ✓ Alka Mittal - has been appointed interim chairman and managing director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
- ✓ With this elevation, Mittal becomes the first woman to lead the country's largest oil and gas exploration and production company.

## ➤ G Asok Kumar

- ✓ G Asok Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti has taken over as new Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti on Jan 04, 2022.

## ✓ TS Tirumurti

- ✓ India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, TS Tirumurti - was named the new Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations on January 4, 2022.

## ➤ International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- ✓ French-born economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas has been named as the next chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ✓ He will succeed Gita Gopinath, the first woman to serve as the Fund's chief economist.

## ➤ S Somanath

- ✓ Eminent rocket scientist S Somanath - has been appointed as the tenth chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and secretary, department of space (DoS).
- ✓ The post of the ISRO chairman, the Space Secretary and the Space Commission chief is usually held by one person only.

## ➤ Alikhan Smailov

- ✓ Alikhan Smailov has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Kazakhstan.
- ✓ His appointment was approved by the parliament of Kazakhstan.

➤ **Urjit Patel**

- ✓ Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor, Urjit Patel - has been appointed as the vice-president for investment operations in South Asia, the Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia at the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- ✓ AIIB is a multilateral development bank that aims to improve economic and social outcomes in Asia.

## AWARDS

➤ **Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award**

- ✓ Surat's noted industrialist Viral Desai, popularly known as 'Greenman' for his passion for the environment - has been awarded the prestigious Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award.
- ✓ It is conferred annually to an individual who is working to restore and protect global environment.

➤ **Mumbai Press Club's RedInk Award 2020**

- ✓ Photojournalist Danish Siddiqui, who died during an assignment in Afghanistan, has been posthumously awarded as the 'Journalist of the Year' for 2020 by the Mumbai Press Club.
- ✓ Chief Justice of India, N V Ramana presented the annual 'RedInk Awards for Excellence in Journalism'.

✓ **International Craft Award 2021**

- ✓ Kerala Arts and Crafts Village Organization (KACV) from Kovalam, Kerala was awarded the 'International Craft Award for 2021' for the best craft village in the world by the World Crafts Council International.

# PERSONALITIES

## ➤ Captain Harpreet Chandi

- ✓ Captain Harpreet Chandi, a British-born Indian Sikh woman - has made history by becoming the first woman of colour to complete a solo expedition to the South Pole.

## ➤ Maya Angelou

- ✓ Poet and activist Maya Angelou - becomes the first Black woman to appear on a US coin.
- ✓ Angelou rose to international prominence after the publication of her groundbreaking autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," with its raw account of rape and racism in the segregated South.

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

## ➤ Ziyuan-1 02E

- ✓ China - launched a new Earth observation satellite named 'Ziyuan-1 02E' into space on December 27, 2021.
- ✓ "Ziyuan-1 02E" or "Five Meter 02 Optical Satellite" is a new satellite having a camera capable of taking photos of the ground with a resolution of five meters.

## ➤ Monoceromyia Flavoscutata

- ✓ It is a new species recently discovered in India, along with Monoceromyia flavoscutata, researchers also found Monoceromyia nigra.
- ✓ They are wasp like flower flies or syrphid flies.
- ✓ Monoceromyia flavoscutata was discovered in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Monoceromyia nigra was discovered in Bastar district of Arunachal Pradesh.

## ➤ Molnupiravir

- ✓ On January 3, the antiviral drug, Molnupiravir - was launched as a full five-day course.
- ✓ Molnupiravir recently got emergency use approval for treatment of mild to moderate Covid-19 in India.
- ✓ The drug was developed by Merck and its partner Ridgeback Biotherapeutics.

## ➤ ISRO

- ✓ ISRO gearing up for multiple space missions in 2022.

- ✓ After a rather muted 2021 in terms of satellite launches, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for a number of missions in 2022, including the launch of the first unmanned mission of Gaganyaan.
- **Covid-19 New Variant 'IHU'**
  - ✓ Scientists and experts in France have reportedly identified a new variant of COVID-19 termed 'IHU'.
  - ✓ The new variant is said to be a more mutated strain than Omicron.
- **OmiSure**
  - ✓ OmiSure becomes first RT-PCR kit approved by ICMR to detect Omicron.
  - ✓ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a kit that will be used to detect Omicron.
  - ✓ The kit is manufactured by Tata Medical and Diagnostics and is named OmiSure.
- **Artificial Sun**
  - ✓ China successfully tests 'Artificial Sun', 5 times more powerful than real sun.
  - ✓ China has been experimenting with its 'artificial sun' to facilitate a way for clean energy in the future.

In a recent successful test of China's artificial sun, the fusion reactor ran successfully for almost 20 minutes at a stunning 70 million degrees Celsius.
- **National Science Day (NSD) 2022**
  - ✓ Union Minister of State Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh launched the theme of National Science Day (NSD) 2022 on 5 January 2022.
  - ✓ The theme is 'Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future'.
  - ✓ National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on 28 February.
- **Uvariopsis Dicaprio**
  - ✓ Uvariopsis Dicaprio is a newly identified tree species.
  - ✓ It is the first new tree species to be described in 2022.
  - ✓ It was discovered in tropical Ebo forest of Cameroon and is native to the region.
  - ✓ The tree has been classified as critically endangered.
- **Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)**
  - ✓ In its latest annual assessment, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) - confirmed that 2021 was Earth's fifth hottest year on record.
  - ✓ According to the European Union's satellite system C3S, the previous seven years have been considered to be the hottest on record.



- ✓ Furthermore, the negative impacts of increasing temperatures could be seen in a number of extreme climate events like floods and heat waves that have occurred throughout the world during the last year.
- **Genetically Modified Heart of a Pig**
  - ✓ For the first time ever, surgeons in America - have successfully transplanted the genetically modified heart of a pig into a human patient.
  - ✓ The "historic" procedure took place recently on January 7 and took about eight hours
  - ✓ Dr. Bartley Griffith is the lead surgeon in the breakthrough achievement, which could offer a solution to organ shortage crisis in the long run.
- **Indian Sat**
  - ✓ Nasa - to launch Indian Sat, an experimental satellite built by Indian students, in June 2022.
  - ✓ Indian Sat, one of the smallest and lightest, was built with 3D reinforced graphene polymer.
  - ✓ Weighing just 30 gram, the satellite was developed by Tospace Private Limited, a space startup based in Tamil Nadu, over a period of two years.
- **Gaganyaan Programme**

On January 12, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) - successfully conducted the qualification test of the cryogenic engine – CE-20 – to be used for Gaganyaan programme.

  - ✓ The test was conducted for a duration of 720 seconds at the Isro Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- **New Drugs For COVID-19**
  - ✓ The World Health Organisation has recommended the use of two new drugs called interleukin-6 (IL-6) and baricitinib in combination with corticosteroids to treat patients with severe or critical COVID-19 infection.

# SPORTS

## ➤ U-19 Asia Cup

- ✓ India - defeated Sri Lanka by nine wickets to win the U-19 Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on December 31, 2021.
- ✓ In eight editions of the U-19 Asia Cup, India had won eight times, which includes a shared trophy in 2012.

## ➤ Draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP)

- ✓ Draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP) has been released by Ministry of Civil Aviation for public feedback.
- ✓ Its vision is to make India one of the top air sports nations by 2030.

## ➤ National Rowing Championships

- ✓ The quartet of Tamil Selvi, Rose Mastica Meril, Lavanya Nambiyar and Bagavathi R (Tamil Nadu) - finished third at the National Rowing championships at Pune, Maharashtra.

## ✓ World Rapid Chess Championship 2021

- ✓ Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan), won the World Rapid Chess Championship 2021 by defeating Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia) in a tiebreaker and dethroning Magnus Carlsen, the current World Number 1.

## ✓ Bharath Subramaniam

- ✓ Chennai's Bharath Subramaniam - became India's 73rd Grandmaster at the age of 14, after bagging his third and final GM norm at the Vergani Cup in Cattolica, Italy on January 9.

## ➤ Tasnim Mir

- ✓ 16-year old Gujarat girl, Tasnim Mir - created history by becoming the world No. 1 in the girls badminton singles category.
- ✓ As per the Badminton World Federation (BWF) U-19 rankings released on January 12, Tasnim has 10,810 points.
- ✓ Tasnim's feat has never been achieved by any Indian girl, including two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and London bronze winner Saina Nehwal.

## ➤ Title Sponsor of the IPL

- ✓ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has informed that Tata group has replaced Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Vivo as the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

# OBITUARY

## ➤ Viktor Saneyev

- ✓ The three-time Olympic triple jump champion and former world record-holder Viktor Saneyev has died at the age of 76, the World Athletics said.
- ✓ The Soviet Union man won his Olympic titles in three consecutive Games.

## ➤ SH Sarma

- ✓ The Indian Navy's 1971 Indo-Pak war veteran Vice Admiral S.H. Sarma died, at the age of 100.
- ✓ Sarma was the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet during the 1971 war.

## ➤ Sindhutai Sapkal

- ✓ Sindhutai Sapkal, known as 'Anathanchi Maye' or 'Mother of orphans' has passed away at the age of 74 due to a heart attack at a private hospital in Pune.
- ✓ She was known for her work in raising hundreds of orphans, abandoned and destitute children, as well as towards the rehabilitation of women.

# REPORT

## ➤ IHS Markit Report

- ✓ According to the IHS Markit Ltd report, India will become the second-largest economy in Asia by 2030.
- ✓ India is likely to overtake Japan by 2030 and it will also become the third-largest economy in the world by surpassing Germany and United Kingdom.
- ✓ India's nominal GDP will rise from 2.7 trillion USD to USD 8.4 trillion by 2030.
- ✓ India will be one of the world's fastest-growing economies in the next decade.
- ✓ At present, India is the sixth-largest economy in the world behind the US, China, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

# INDIA STATE OF FOREST REPORT 2021

## ➤ India State of Forest Report 2021' (ISFR-2021)

- ✓ Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav - released the 'India State of Forest Report 2021' (ISFR-2021) prepared by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) on January 13, 2022.

- ✓ As per the report, the total forest and tree cover of the country stood at 80.9 million hectare, which is 24.62% of the geographical area of the country.
- ✓ **In the past two years, Tamil Nadu expanded its forest cover by 55sqkm, but lost 406sqkm of tree cover.**
- ✓ The state is ranked ninth in the country in terms of forest cover at 20% of its total geographical area.
- ✓ Chennai has turned greener in the past 10 years as tree cover in the city has increased by nearly 1,200 acres or 5sqkm.



# RANKING

## ➤ **India's Passport Rank**

- ✓ India's passport power has improved this quarter compared to 2021.
- ✓ It now ranks at 83rd position in the Henley Passport Index, climbing seven places from 90th rank last year.
- ✓ However, in 2020, its rank stood at 84 while in 2016, India was ranked 85th along with Mali and Uzbekistan. Japan and Singapore top the index.

# IMPORTANT DAYS

## ➤ **1 January - Global Family Day**

- ✓ It is celebrated as a day of peace and sharing.
- ✓ Its aim is to unite and spread a message of peace by considering and promoting the idea that Earth is one Global Family so as to make the world a better place to live for everyone.

## ➤ **World Braille Day - January 4**

- ✓ World Braille Day is observed every year to highlight the importance of Braille, which serves as a communication medium for blind and partially sighted people.
- ✓ This day marks the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, who was the inventor of Braille, born on January 04, 1809, in France.

## ➤ **World Day of War Orphans - January 6**

- ✓ World Day of War Orphans is marked on 6 January to create awareness about the plight of children who have lost their parents due to conflict.

## ➤ **Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas - January 9**

- ✓ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of the country
- ✓ The main idea behind this event is to reconnect the Non-Resident Indian community with their original roots.

## ➤ **World Hindi Day: 10 January**

- ✓ World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10 since 2006 to promote the language at the global stage.
- ✓ The day marks the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference which was inaugurated on January 10, 1975, by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

- **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day 2022: 11th January**
- ✓ This year National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is observed on January 11, 2022, which is on Tuesday.
- ✓ The day aims at raising awareness of the plight of human trafficking victims, and promoting and protecting their rights.
  
- **National Youth Day 2022: January 12**
- ✓ In India, the National Youth Day is celebrated on 12 January annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
  
- **Armed Forces Veterans Day: 14 January 2022**
- ✓ In India, the Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed each year on 14 January since 2017.
- ✓ The day aims to acknowledge and honour the selfless devotion and sacrifice of our veterans in the service of the nation.
  
- **Indian Army Day - 15 January**
- ✓ The Army Day in India is celebrated on 15 January every year, to salute the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens. This year marks the 74th Indian Army Day.
- ✓ It is celebrated in commemoration of Lt Gen KM Cariappa taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.
  
- **Thiruvalluvar Day: 15 January**
- ✓ Thiruvalluvar Day was observed in Tamil Nadu on 15 Jan, 2022.
- ✓ Among Tamil's, poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar is regarded as a cultural icon.
- ✓ His primary work is Thirukkural, which has 1330 couplets (kurals).

