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TAMIL NADU



STATES



NATIONAL



INDIA & THE WORLD



INTERNATIONAL



SCHEMES



DEFENCE



SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY



EVS



ECONOMY



COURT VERDICTS



CONFERENCES &
SUMMITS



AWARDS



PERSONALITIES



BOOKS & AUTHORS



SPORTS



RANKS & REPORTS



DAYS



OBITUARY



NEWS OF THE MONTH



KNOWLEDGE



APPOINTMENTS



COMMITTEES



APPS / PORTALS



MISCELLANEOUS

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—FEBRUARY 1-28, 2022

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TAMIL NADU

➤ **Barrier-free Environment - 10 Government Buildings**

- ✓ The Collector's offices in Chennai and Coimbatore, and the Government College of Technology in Coimbatore are among the list of the 10 State government buildings, where barrier-free environment will be created under the Accessible India Campaign.
- ✓ In the State capital, the Government Museum and the Directorate of Agriculture will have barrier-free environment for the benefit of disabled persons.

➤ **English Translation of Tamil Literary Works**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is likely to release a set of books, including The Cilappatikaram, translated into English under the 'Taking Tamil to the World project'.
- ✓ 'Taking Tamil to the World' is a collaboration between Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation (TNTB and ESC) and private publishers to promote the rich literary history and culture of Tamil Nadu.

➤ **State's Borrowing Less than Indicated**

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

➤ **Aran**

- ✓ Pudukottai district administration - has launched an initiative called 'Aran' to help school children and adolescents open up on issues affecting their studies and mental health.
- ✓ The initiative seeks to help children and young people access information and support related to their rights, needs, safety and protection, legal assistance, mental and physical health, sexual and reproductive health.

➤ **AquaMAP**

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

➤ **NEET Bill**

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

- ✓ A history of sorts will be created on Tuesday if the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopts again a Bill seeking to dispense with the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) in the State.
- ✓ This will be for the first time in the history of the State legislature that the House will re-adopt the same draft of the bill, which has been returned by Governor R. N. Ravi.

- **State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)**
- ✓ The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) - has given the nod for the first ever industrial housing project for labourers, besides the furniture park at Tuticorin.
- ✓ The industrial park along with the housing facility would come up in a span of 353 acres of land as part of the Vallam -Vadagal expansion (part-II).
- ✓ The state industries promotion corporation of Tamil Nadu would execute the industrial housing project.

- **Indian Institute of Technology**
- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras - have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) tool to study the processes involved in the transformation of biomass to gaseous fuel.
- ✓ The research team used a Machine Learning method called Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) to study the reactions that occur during the conversion of lingo-cellulosic biomass into energy-dense syngas (gasification of biomass).

- **Tirukkural-Themed Calendars**
- ✓ Tirukkural-themed desktop calendars by the State Tamil Development Department and the Tamil Virtual Academy are on sale.
- ✓ The desktop calendar with 365 Tirukkural themed paintings by children with month and dates could be used any year.

- **T.N.'s Success in Poverty Reduction**
- ✓ All the three editions of NITI Aayog, the Centre's policy think tank's implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), have one common feature -Tamil Nadu finishing on top with regard to Goal 1 - "No Poverty."

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

- ✓ CM also launched the third part at Sivagalai in Tuticorin district and the first ever excavation at Vembakottai in Virudhunagar district, Perumbalai in Dharmapuri district and Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli.
- ✓ The second phase of excavations in Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur district, and Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district were also launched during the occasion
- ✓ The eighth part of the excavation at Keeladi and its cluster villages of Konthagai, Manalur and Agaram would carry forward the earlier discoveries of brick constructions.

➤ **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M)**

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

- ✓ Under the partnership, two Asha-IIT Madras Pravartak Rural Technology Centres were inaugurated in Kanakamma Chatham and Seethanjeri villages in Tiruvallur district
- ✓ The centres, which will train students of classes 9 to 12, is being funded by IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation.

➤ **Green Methodology**

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

➤ **International Epilepsy Day**

- ✓ Nearly 3.94 lakh in State have epilepsy.
- ✓ An awareness programme was organised to mark the International Epilepsy Day at the Government Stanley Hospital on Monday.

➤ **Inland Wetland Survey**

- ✓ Tirunelveli records 33,000 birds of 41 species in inland wetland survey.
- ✓ After coastal wetlands, the survey for inland wetlands was done in Tamil Nadu covering 339 wetlands from 25 districts.
- ✓ This comprised of 14 inland waterbird sanctuaries including the historical waterbird sanctuary such as Vedanthangal.
- ✓ Salem hosted 97 inland wetlands which was the highest followed by Chennai with 28 wetlands.

➤ **Press Council of Tamil Nadu**

- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin - has given his consent to make appropriate amendments in law to establish an exclusive media body, the Press Council of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The process of circulation and approval from the competent authorities for formation of Press Council of Tamil Nadu likely to be completed soon
- ✓ The amended Tamil Nadu State News Media Representative Accreditation Rules, 2021 will be issued later as a government order.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has sent a proposal to the Union government to designate 13 potential wetlands of international significance in the state as Ramsar site.
- ✓ The proposal has been made as part of the 'Tamil Nadu wetlands Mission' with a sole purpose of promoting the wise use of wetlands for creating more livelihood opportunities for the local communities.
- ✓ The State government has launched the Tamil Nadu Wetland Mission (TNWM) on August, 2021, for restoration of 100 wetlands over a period of five years.

➤ **IIT Madras**

- ✓ The researchers of IIT Madras have developed a special class of origami metamaterials to reduce shock. It has a constant value of Poisson's Ratio when subjected to stress.
- ✓ This special class of Origami metamaterials has been developed by combining the Japanese art of paper folding (origami) and the existing material of choice.

➤ **Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women**

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

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

- ✓ He was a renowned Tamil Scholar who is admired for his contributions to the Tamil culture and language. He popularised works from the Sangam era and helped conserve precious heritage.
- ✓ Iyer published over 90 books in his lifetime, on a variety of matters connected to classical Tamil literature, and collected over 3,000 paper manuscripts, palm-leaf manuscripts, and notes of various kinds.

➤ **OCEANS 2022**

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Research Park and the National Institute of Ocean Technology are jointly hosting, for the first time in India, the OCEANS 2022 conference, a bi-annual event of global marine researchers.
- ✓ The Department of Ocean Engineering is coordinating the event on behalf of the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Ocean Engineering Society and Marine Technology Society.

➤ **188 Vehicles for Ambulance Scheme**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin flagged off 188 new ambulances in a function at Chitlapakkam in Chengalpattu district on Wednesday.
- ✓ He also distributed the medical kit to the 50th lakh beneficiary of the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' scheme and also witnessed the physiotherapy treatment given to the patient under the scheme.
- ✓ Of the 188 new ambulances, four would be earmarked for service to people in hilly areas in Udthagamandalam, Valparai, Arasur (Pollachi) and Mottampatti (Kallakurichi).

➤ **Panruti Cashews GI tag**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Cashew Processors and Exporters Association has applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Panruti cashews.
- ✓ Panruti cashew is mainly cultivated in laterite, red and coastal sands.

➤ **Vadakkuppattu**

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

➤ **TANSIM**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM) - has launched the third edition of TANSEED (Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund) to support early-stage startups based in the state with seed money.
- ✓ Under the TANSEED scheme, eligible startups will be identified by an eminent jury and be given a grant funding support of Rs. 10 lakhs.

STATE

➤ **Happiness**

- ✓ The Madhya Pradesh government - is planning to introduce 'happiness' as a subject in the syllabus of its high school and higher secondary school classes from the next academic session.
- ✓ Once introduced, the State would be possibly the first state in the country where this subject will be introduced in schools.

➤ **National Single Window System (NSWS)**

- ✓ Jammu & Kashmir - became the first Union Territory to be integrated with the National Single Window System (NSWS).
- ✓ National Single Window System (NSWS), a 2020 budgetary announcement of the Government of India, is a digital platform that provides support to the investors in getting government approvals for projects.

➤ **India's 1st Bullet Train Station**

- ✓ First glimpses of India's first Bullet Train station in Surat are finally out. The Ministry of Railways on February 10, shared the graphical representation of Surat's Bullet Train station to be constructed between Mumbai- Ahmedabad route.
- ✓ National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) will be constructing this project that is scheduled to be completed by December 2024.

➤ **Medaram Jatara**

- The historic Medaram Jatara, the largest tribal congregation in the country - begins in Telangana on February 16
- ✓ Medaram Jatara is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela
- ✓ It is celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana - the Koya tribe. Koya tribe is the largest adivasi tribe of Telangana.

➤ **Smart Card Arms License**

- ✓ Delhi Police become the first to introduce 'Smart Card Arms License'.
- ✓ In order to provide techno-friendly digital services to the citizens of Delhi, the Delhi Police has become the first police force in the country to introduce a 'Smart Card Arms License'.

➤ **Asia's Largest Bio-CNG Plant**

- ✓ PM Modi will virtually launch Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant at Indore in Madhya Pradesh on 19 February 2022.

✓ This Bio CNG plant will be run from 100% wet waste. The plant is built in PPP mode. 400 buses can be run daily with the gas generated from the Bio-CNG plant.

➤ **Shahid Diwas**

- ✓ Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar - said that February 15 would henceforth be commemorated as "Shahid Diwas" in the state.
- ✓ The day will be observed in memory of the 34 freedom fighters who were shot dead by police in Tarapur town of Bihar's Munger district on February 15, 1932.
- ✓ The Tarapur massacre was the biggest carried out by the British police after the one in Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in 1919.

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

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

NATIONAL

➤ **India's First Geological Park**

- ✓ The first 'geological' park of country will be built at Lamheta village on the banks of river Narmada in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Approval for the park has been granted by Geological Survey of India, under ministry of mining.
- ✓ Significantly, this site is already present in the tentative list of UNESCO's geo-heritage for the protection of natural heritage.

➤ **Union Budget**

- ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 1 February 2022 presented the Union budget 2022-2023.
- ✓ The government has decided to levy 30% tax, the highest tax band in the country, on income arising out of the sale of digital assets.
- ✓ Digital rupee will be issued using blockchain technology by the RBI starting 2022-23.

➤ **Budget: e-Passports**

- ✓ The government will issue e-passports in the financial year 2022-23.
- ✓ The e-passport will use Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) and biometrics to verify the identity.

✓ **Budget 2022-23**

- ✓ The Centre will be launching a National Tele Mental Health program.
- ✓ A record 25,000 km of National Highways will be built.
- ✓ A National Master Plan on Expressways will be formulated in 2022-23, to facilitate faster movement of people and goods.
- ✓ Around 68% of the capital procurement budget for Defence has been earmarked for domestic industry to promote Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

➤ **Union Budget - 2022-23**

- ✓ On February 1, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman - presented the Union Budget for 2022-23 and tabled the Finance Bill 2022 to the Parliament.
- ✓ The Union Budget focused on 4 pillars of development – PM Gati Shakti, investment financing, productivity enhancement, energy transition and climate action
- ✓ During her speech, the FM announced laying the foundation for “Amrit Kaal”, a new term for the 25-year period in the run-up to India at 100.

➤ **Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022**

- ✓ The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India has announced the “Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022”.
- ✓ It has been launched under its “Waste to Wealth” Mission.
- ✓ It will empower young innovators who are engaged in community work of waste management, waste awareness campaigns, etc. as Swachhta Saarthis and implement actions to reduce waste for a greener planet.

➤ **Sagarmala Scheme**

- The Union government - has announced to develop Puducherry port in three phases at a cost of 304.8 crore under the Sagarmala scheme to utilize it as a feeder port for Chennai port.
- ✓ As per the Union Minister, Chennai Port Trust and Puducherry Port Department signed a memorandum of understanding in March 2017 with the approval of the Union shipping ministry to utilize port in Puducherry as a feeder port to Chennai port.

➤ **Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures” (OECM)**

- ✓ The Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, Haryana - has been declared as India's first “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECM) site.
- ✓ This was informed by the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change on the occasion of World Wetlands Day on February 2.

➤ **Statue Of Equality**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 216-feet tall ‘Statue of Equality’ commemorating the 11th-century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya and dedicated to the nation the ‘Statue of Equality’ in Hyderabad.

➤ **Indradhanush 4.0**

- ✓ On February 7, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya - virtually launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0.
- ✓ The fourth round of the Universal Immunisation Programme aims to protect children and pregnant women from life-threatening diseases.
- ✓ Under this world’s largest inoculation drive, annually over 3 crore pregnant women and 2.6 crore children are covered.

➤ **Operation AAHT**

- ✓ The Railway Protection Force has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking. As part of “Operation AAHT”, special teams will be deployed

on all long-distance trains/routes with focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.

- ✓ The Railways, which operate about 21,000 trains across the country daily, is the most reliable mode of transportation for the traffickers who often move their victims on long-distance trains.

➤ **Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray (NONS)**

- ✓ On February 9, Glenmark pharmaceuticals - launched the first ever nasal spray in India to treat high-risk adult patients suffering from Covid-19.
- ✓ The high-risk patients include non-vaccinated patients, patients in the middle and older age group and patients with co-morbidities.
- ✓ The company has launched Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray (NONS), named FabiSpray, in partnership with Canadian pharmaceutical company SaNOTize Research & Development Corp.

➤ **Biomass-Based Hydrogen Plant**

- ✓ India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up at the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Everyday this plant will produce one tonne of hydrogen, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock.

➤ **Indian Railways Management Service (IRMS)**

- ✓ On February 9, the Centre - formally notified the unification of eight services related to Indian Railways under the Central Civil Services into the newly created Group 'A' Central service called 'Indian Railways Management Service' (IRMS).
- ✓ With the unification, railways is left with just two departments, namely the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Medical Service Department (MSD).

➤ **Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH)**

- ✓ Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) - announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative.
- ✓ The tie-up seeks to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions.

➤ **PMKSY till March 2026**

- ✓ The 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till March 2026.

- ✓ The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- ✓ The scheme aims for the overall growth and development of the food processing sector.

- **100th Textile Train**
- ✓ The Mumbai Central Division of the Western Railway zone - has achieved a milestone of operating the 100th Textile train in the country.
- ✓ The textile trains are significant for textile market of Surat region because they are economical, faster and safer mode of transport.

- **Section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act**
- ✓ On February 14, the government - has blocked 54 Chinese apps under Section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act over privacy, security, and espionage concerns.
- ✓ The request for blocking of apps was received from the home ministry under an emergency provision in the Information Technology Act.

- **New Frontiers Program**
- ✓ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to host “New Frontiers” program.
- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is conducting a program on renewable energy namely “New Frontiers” as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ✓ A meeting on “Roadmap to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070” will be held on 18 Feb.

- **Digital Maps of all Villages**
- ✓ India plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities.
- ✓ An ongoing scheme, piloted by the Panchayati Raj Ministry, called SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2020.

- **National Hydrogen Policy**
- ✓ India will launch the first part of the National Hydrogen Policy on 17 February 2022.
- ✓ The policy is aimed at boosting green hydrogen production in the country.

- **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)**
- ✓ The Centre - to soon roll out the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) to drastically reduce logistics costs and make Indian goods competitive.

- ✓ The Platform aims to integrate about 24 logistics systems across 6 ministries and departments to provide real time data to all stakeholders and ensure efficient movement of goods through different modes.
- **Biosafety Level-3 Mobile Laboratory**
 - ✓ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has announced that India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory was launched in Nashik, Maharashtra, on 18 Feb 2022.
 - ✓ It has been set up to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections that are highly infectious and of lethal potential to human beings.
 - ✓ It has been designed by the Indian Council of Medical Research.
- **India's First Water Taxi Service**
 - ✓ India's first water taxi service was inaugurated in Maharashtra on Thursday connecting the Navi Mumbai area to mainland Mumbai.
 - ✓ Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated the Belapur jetty while Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbanand Sonowal flagged off the service.
- **Kisan Drones**
 - On February 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - virtually flagged off 100 '**Kisan drones**' for spraying pesticides and farm chemicals in different cities and towns of India.
 - ✓ He also addressed a group of farmers gathered at Manesar near Gurgaon, from where the "Drone Kisan Yatra" was flagged off.
 - ✓ The PM labelled it as a "milestone" for Indian agriculture and said new technologies would bring a "world of opportunities for farmers and youth"
- **Asia's Biggest Bio-CNG plant**
 - ✓ Prime Minister on 19 February 2022 inaugurated Asia's biggest Bio-CNG plant in Madhya Pradesh's Indore via video conferencing.
 - ✓ The PM said that the work is on to set up similar gohar dhan Bio-CNG plants in 75 big municipal bodies across the country in the next two years.
 - ✓ The campaign will help a lot in making India's cities clean, pollution free, clean energy.
- **Integrated Plant Nutrition Management Bill**

The fertiliser ministry - has proposed to bring an 'Integrated Plant Nutrition Management Bill' to promote the use of bio fertilisers and non-chemical fertilisers.

- ✓ In the proposed Bill, the ministry has recommended the setting up of a regulatory body to control prices, supply and import of fertiliser
- ✓ As per the draft Bill, the Centre may fix the maximum price at which fertilisers would be sold.

- **India Tourism Vision Document 2035**
- ✓ Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) has released the FAITH 2035 vision document.
- ✓ It contains goals and an execution path for making Indian tourism preferred and loved by the world by the year 2035.
- ✓ The vision document has been launched commemorating the 75th year of Indian independence.

- **Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate Programme**
- ✓ Union Ministry of Science and Technology has selected three institutions in Madhya Pradesh to organise this programme.
- ✓ It is a week-long, nationwide programme of competitions and lectures for school students and collegians.
- ✓ The Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate programme was launched with the aim of attracting students to scientific knowledge of articles of daily use.

- **Signature Tune of Vande Bharatam**
- ✓ In a celebration under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the event on International Mother Language Day named “Ekam Bharatam” along with a cultural evening was hosted by the Ministry of Culture at IGNCA, Delhi on 22nd February 2022.
- ✓ The signature tune for “Vande Bharatam” composed by Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej and Oscar contender Bickram Ghosh was released by Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi.

- **Draft India Data Accessibility & Use Policy, 2022**
- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) - has released the draft data policy titled as, “Draft India Data Accessibility & Use Policy, 2022” for public consultations and feedback.
- ✓ This policy is seen as an upgrade to the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) and the Open Government Data Platform India.

➤ **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**

- ✓ On February 26, the Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi - approved the nationwide roll-out of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) with a five-year budget of 1,600 crore.
- ✓ The Digital Mission was one of focus areas of Union Budget 2022-23
- ✓ It aims to create an online platform to enable interoperability of health data within the health ecosystem.

➤ **Photovoltaic Plant**

- ✓ Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) - has installed a 1.7 MW solar photovoltaic plant at Bina in Madhya Pradesh for the Indian Railways.
- ✓ This is the first such Solar Power Plant commissioned on the Indian Railways network to directly feed power to traction systems.
- ✓ To become 'Net Zero Carbon Emission' Rail Network, the Indian Railways had developed plans to set up 20 GW capacity solar power plants by utilizing its vacant land by 2030.

➤ **Operation Ganga**

- ✓ On February 27, 2022, the ministry of external affairs set up 24×7 control centres in order to assist the evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine.
- ✓ India also launched a multi-prong evacuation plan titled 'Operation Ganga'.

SCHEMES

➤ **Mission Vatsalya**

- ✓ Government implements 'Mission Vatsalya' for rehabilitation of children.
- ✓ The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Centrally sponsored 'Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme - 'Mission Vatsalya.'
- ✓ It is for rehabilitation of children in difficult circumstances including, orphan and destitute children.

➤ **Parvatmala Scheme**

- ✓ The Union Finance Minister in the Union Budget for 2022-23 announced National Ropeways Development Programme - "Parvatmala" to improve connectivity in hilly areas.
- ✓ The idea is to improve connectivity and convenience for commuters, besides promoting tourism.

➤ **SMILE**

- ✓ The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment will launch the scheme "SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise" on 12 February 2022.
- ✓ There are 2 sub-schemes under this - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons' and 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'.

➤ **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)**

- ✓ On February 16, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar - launched the "Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)" for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the government seeks to provide free coaching to students for civil services examinations, competitive exams for admission to professional courses; health insurance; livelihood support and housing.

➤ **New India Literacy Programme**

- ✓ Government has approved a new scheme "New India Literacy Programme" for the period 2022-2027.
- ✓ It will cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22.
- ✓ The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all states/UTs in the country.

➤ **Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme**

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

➤ **Maternity Benefit Scheme**

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

➤ **Meri Policy, Mere Haath**

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

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Quad Meet - Indo-Pacific Ties**

- ✓ Calling for justice for the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai (2008) and the Pathankot airbase attack (2016) for the first time since the group was formed, the Foreign Ministers of Australia, India, Japan and the U.S. said the Quad was already cooperating on sharing intelligence on threats in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ✓ The group of Ministers, who held their fourth Quad Ministerial meeting in Melbourne on Friday, also resolved to speed up delivery of more than a billion COVID-19 vaccines to be manufactured in India, to hold a special meet on climate change this year, and to step up efforts to ensure maritime security in the region.

➤ **Munich Security Conference**

- ✓ Since 1963, the Munich Security Conference has been held in Munich, Germany, as an annual conference on international security policy.
- ✓ External Affairs minister, S. Jaishankar will be representing India at this conference.

➤ **Military Operation in Ukraine**

- ✓ On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin - announced military operation in Ukraine to defend Donbas separatists in eastern Russia.
- ✓ Russia invaded Ukraine on three sides through assault by land, sea and air, in the biggest attack on a European state since World War II.

➤ **Plant-Based Covid-19 Vaccine**

- ✓ Canada - has become the first country to authorize the use of a plant-based Covid-19 vaccine.
- ✓ On February 24, Canada approved the use of Covifenz, the world's first plant-derived Covid-19 vaccine jointly developed by Medicigo Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline Plc
- ✓ The vaccine has been cleared for people aged 18 to 64.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ **Indo-Pacific Strategy**

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

➤ **Unitary Digital Identity Framework**

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

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

➤ **Indo-German Working Group**

- ✓ India and Germany have signed the work plan 2022 during the 8th annual meeting of the Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure.
- ✓ The Work Plan 2022 agreed between both countries will include collaboration in mobility, energy, circular economy, smart farming/ agriculture, etc.

➤ **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**

- ✓ India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will sign a trade and investment agreement on 18 February 2022 during a virtual summit attended by the countries two leaders. It is called the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- ✓ Under the agreement, two trading partners will reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them.

➤ **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)**

- ✓ Nepal will be first country to adopt India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) as the payments platform.
- ✓ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service Pvt Ltd and Manam Infotech Private Limited to deploy UPI in Nepal.

➤ **India-UAE Trade Deal**

- ✓ The government of India will be setting up an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as a part of the India-UAE trade deal that was signed on February 18, 2022.
- ✓ This will be the first time an IIT would be established outside of the country.
- ✓ India currently has 23 IITs.

➤ **Blue Economy and Ocean Governance**

- ✓ India and France - have agreed on a 'Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance' to promote cooperation in maritime security.
- ✓ The agreement was signed during External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar's three-day visit to France with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian on February 20.



CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ **Reimagining Museums Global Summit 2022**

- ✓ The first-of-its-kind Global Summit - 'Reimagining Museums in India' will be held on February 15-16, 2022.
- ✓ The summit aims to bring together experts from across the world to share best global practices for museum development and management, understanding the current needs of Museums in India and developing a blueprint for renewal of Indian museums.

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

- ✓ NITI Aayog, in collaboration with PhonePe, AWS and EY, has organized a three-week-long virtual summit, 'Fintech Open', from 7-28 February.
- ✓ A first-of-its-kind initiative, Fintech Open will bring together regulators, fintech professionals and enthusiasts, industry leaders, the start-up community, and developers to collaborate, exchange ideas and innovate.

➤ **ASEAN-India High-Level Conference**

- ✓ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of External Affairs - jointly hosted the ASEAN-India High-Level Conference on Renewable Energy (RE) from February 7-8, 2022 through video conference.
- ✓ The meeting took place on the theme of "Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market".

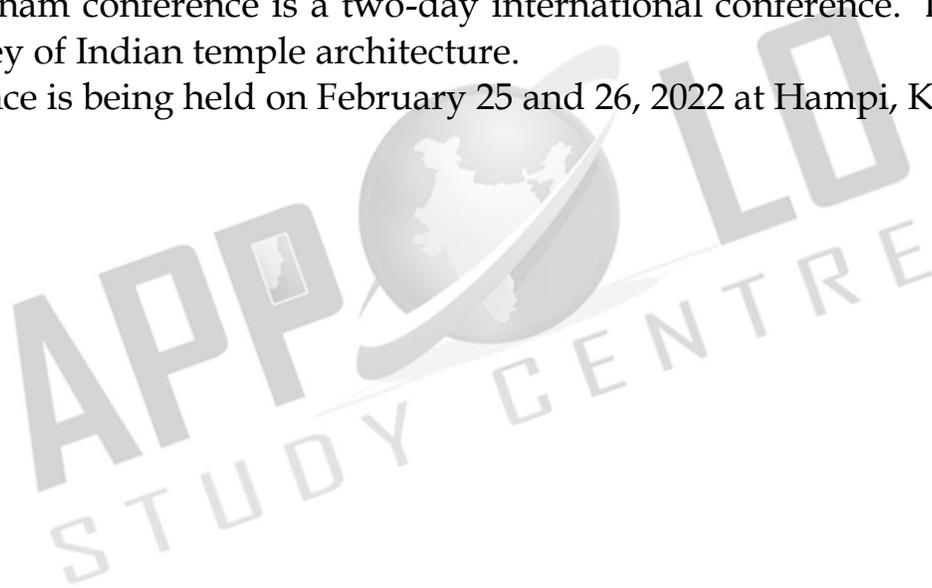
➤ **One Ocean Summit**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the high-level segment of the One Ocean Summit.
- ✓ The One Ocean summit is organised by France from 9-11 February in Brest in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.
- ✓ The objective of the summit is to mobilise the international community to take tangible action towards preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.

➤ **4th QUAD Foreign Ministers' Meet**

- ✓ On February 11, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar - participated in the 4th QUAD Foreign Ministers' meet in Melbourne, Australia alongside his US, Japanese, and Australian counterparts.

- ✓ This was the third in-person meeting of Quad foreign ministers, following their meeting in Tokyo in October 2020 and the inaugural meeting in New York in September 2019.
- **World Sustainable Development Summit 2022**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address virtually at TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit on February 16, 2022.
- ✓ The World Sustainable Development Summit 2022 Theme is 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'.
- **Devayatanam Conference**
- ✓ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is organising "Devayatanam Conference", as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ✓ Devayatanam conference is a two-day international conference. 'Devayatanam is an odyssey of Indian temple architecture.
Conference is being held on February 25 and 26, 2022 at Hampi, Karnataka.



DEFENCE

- **Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene submarine "Vagir"**
 - ✓ Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene submarine "Vagir" begins its sea trials.
 - ✓ The fifth submarine of Project 75, "Vagir" commenced its sea trials on 1 February.
 - ✓ It was launched in November 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).

- **Konkurs-M**
 - ✓ On February 2, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Indian Army - have signed a three-year contract for the manufacture and supply of anti-tank guided missile Konkurs-M to the Indian Army.
Konkurs-M is a second-generation, mechanised infantry anti-tank guided missile, to destroy armoured vehicles.

- **Milan 2022**
 - ✓ US and Russia - have confirmed the participation in India's biggest-ever maritime exercise 'Milan 2022' to be held from 26 February to 4 March 2022.
 - ✓ A total of 46 countries have been invited, out of which over 35 have confirmed participation.
 - ✓ 'Milan' is a biennial multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy.

- **Def Expo 2022**
 - ✓ Ministry of Defence - to host the 12th edition of biennial defence exhibition Def Expo 2022 from 10th to 13th March 2022 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
 - ✓ More than 900 defence firms and 55 countries have confirmed their participation in Asia's largest defence exhibition, DefExpo 2022.
 - ✓ Theme for Defexpo 2022 is "India-The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub".

- **Eastern Bridge VI**
 - ✓ The Indian Air Force and Royal Air Force of Oman - kicked off the sixth edition of bilateral air combat exercise 'Eastern Bridge VI' on February 21 at Air Force Station, Jodhpur.
 - ✓ The exercise seeks to promote professional interaction, exchange of experiences and enhancement of operational knowledge, besides strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

➤ **Eastern Bridge-VI**

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) have begun a five-day bilateral air force exercise 'Eastern Bridge-VI'.
- ✓ It will be held at Jodhpur Air Force Station from 21 to 25 February.
- ✓ It is the sixth edition of this exercise.

➤ **Cobra Warrior 2022**

- ✓ The Indian Air Force will participate in the multi-nation air exercise called 'Ex Cobra Warrior 22' at Royal Air Force Base in Waddington, United Kingdom.
- ✓ India will be sending five indigenous LCA Tejas fighter aircraft to participate in the exercise and a C-17 aircraft will provide transport support.

➤ **Milan 2022 Kick-Off**

- ✓ The latest edition of the Indian Navy's multilateral exercise MILAN 2022 is commencing from 25 Feb 22 in the 'City of Destiny', Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ The theme of the MILAN 2022 exercise is 'Camaraderie - Cohesion - Collaboration' which aims to project India as a responsible maritime power to the world at large.

➤ **India-Japan to hold Joint Military Exercise**

- ✓ EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022, a joint military exercise, will be held between India and Japan in Karnataka from February 27 to March 10, 2022.
- ✓ Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual training event that is being conducted in India since 2018.

ECONOMY

➤ **National Land Monetisation Corporation**

- ✓ Government has established National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC).
- ✓ NLMC has been set up to fast track monetization of land and non-core assets of public sector entities.

➤ **India's Top Trade Partner in 2021**

- ✓ The United States was India's top trading partner in the calendar year 2021 with a trade of \$112.3 billion.
- ✓ The US is followed by China on second. The value of trade between India and China was \$110.4 billion.

➤ **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**

- On February 10, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) - decided to maintain the status quo on the benchmark interest rate or repo rate at its six and final bi-monthly review meeting of FY22

➤ **e-RUPI**

- ✓ In another key decision, the cap under e-RUPI prepaid digital vouchers has been enhanced from 10,000 presently, to 1 lakh per voucher and the vouchers can be used more than once for multiple transactions until the amount is fully redeemed.
- ✓ The move, aimed at enhancing the delivery of government schemes, will also help companies offer a larger range of benefits to their employees through the vouchers.

➤ **Financial Literacy Week**

- ✓ RBI has selected "Go Digital, Go Secure" as the theme for Financial Literacy Week 2022.
- ✓ This theme is one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025. RBI will focus on creating awareness about the convenience of digital transactions.

➤ **Exports Rise 25%**

- ✓ Gold imports fall sharply to just \$2.4 billion; trade deficit reaches \$17.4 billion.
- ✓ India's merchandise exports touched \$34.5 billion in January, 25.3% higher than a year ago, while imports grew at a slightly slower pace, taking the country's trade

deficit to a five-month low of \$17.4 billion, say official estimates released on Tuesday.

➤ **JP Morgan**

- ✓ The largest bank in the US, JP Morgan - became the first leading bank to enter 'Metaverse' by opening a lounge in the blockchain-based 3D virtual metaverse platform called 'Decentraland'.
- ✓ The metaverse is a virtual world where people can interact, attend events, and explore, as digital avatars of themselves.

➤ **IATA Pay**

- ✓ On February 24, Global banking group, Standard Chartered - announced it has partnered with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to launch IATA Pay in India. It is an airline industry payment platform.
- ✓ The service uses the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), a domestic real-time payments scheme in India, thereby enabling consumers to instantly pay for airline tickets from their bank accounts.



APPOINTMENT

➤ Lt General Manoj Pande

- ✓ On February 1, Lt General Manoj Pande - took over as the new vice-chief of the Indian Army.
- ✓ Pande, comes to Army headquarters after commanding the eastern command in Kolkata.

➤ Dinesh Prasad Saklani

- ✓ Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani - has been appointed the new director of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on February 4.
- ✓ Professor Saklani has been awarded with Distinguished Academy Award by Punjab Kala and Sahitya Academy, Jalandhar for Historical writing in 2005.

➤ Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit

- ✓ Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit - has become the first woman to hold the position of vice-chancellor at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).
- ✓ A professor of political science at the Savitribai Phule Pune University in Maharashtra since 1992, Pandit has been appointed for a period of five years.

➤ Sukla Mistry

- ✓ Sukla Mistry - has taken over as Director (Refineries) of Indian Oil and became the first woman Director on the board of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil refining and fuel marketing company.

➤ Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair

- Renowned scientist and launch vehicle specialist Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair - took charge as the director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) on February 7.
- ✓ VSSC is a key space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and specialises in rocket and space vehicles for satellite programs.

➤ S. Kishore

- ✓ Senior bureaucrat S. Kishore has been appointed as the Chairman, Staff Selection Commission (SSC).
- ✓ According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

✓ **Kala Ramachandran**

Kala Ramachandran, a 1994-batch Haryana-cadre IPS officer - has become the first woman police commissioner of Gurgaon

Kala Ramachandran is originally from the Tamil Nadu cadre of IPS officers.

➤ **G Ashok Kumar**

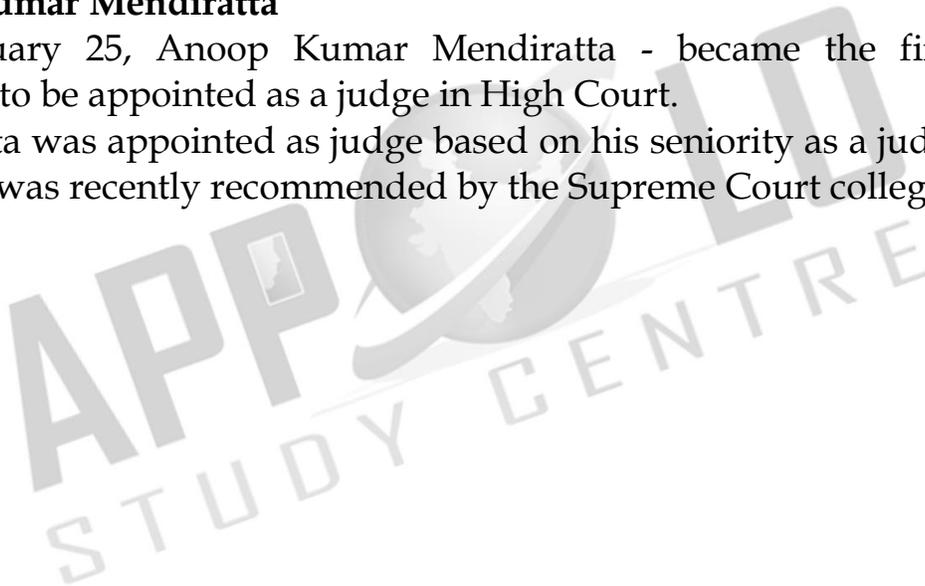
✓ Former Navy vice chief G Ashok Kumar - has been appointed as the first National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC) in the National Security Council Secretariat.

✓ The national maritime security coordinator is mandated to ensure cohesion among various key stakeholders with an overall objective to strengthen the country's maritime security.

➤ **Anoop Kumar Mendiratta**

✓ On February 25, Anoop Kumar Mendiratta - became the first Union Law Secretary to be appointed as a judge in High Court.

✓ Mendiratta was appointed as judge based on his seniority as a judicial officer and his name was recently recommended by the Supreme Court collegium.



AWARDS

➤ **NHRC's Short Film Award**

- ✓ A Telugu short film 'Street Student' by Akula Sandeep depicting the story of a street urchin with a strong message on right to education has bagged the first prize in a competition organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

➤ **Tableau of Uttar Pradesh**

The tableau of Uttar Pradesh - has been selected as the best tableau among the 12 States/UTs which participated in the Republic Day parade.

- ✓ This was announced by the Ministry of Defence on February 4.

➤ **Writing With Fire**

- ✓ Indian documentary 'Writing With Fire' - has been nominated in the Best Documentary Feature category at the 94th edition of the Academy Awards.
- ✓ It is also the only Indian film to earn the nomination this year.

➤ **Voice of Customer Recognition**

Seven Indian airports - have been chosen for 'Voice of Customer Recognition' under Airports Council International (ACI) World's Voice of the Customer initiative

- ✓ The seven AAI airports that were chosen after participating in ACI-ASQ survey in 2021 includes Chennai, Kolkata, Goa, Pune, Patna, Bhubaneswar & Chandigarh
- ✓ Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey is the world-renowned and internationally established global benchmarking programme.

➤ **Neena Gupta**

- ✓ The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians for the year 2021 has been conferred upon Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician of the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata.
- ✓ She has received the award for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
- ✓ Prof Gupta is the fourth Indian and second female winner of the award from the country.

PERSONALITIES

➤ **Queen Elizabeth II**

- ✓ Queen Elizabeth II has become the first British monarch to rule for 70 years. She surpassed Louis XIV of France as the longest-reigning monarch of a sovereign state.
- ✓ Elizabeth II is the Queen of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms. On 6 February 1952, Elizabeth became queen after the death of her father King George VI.

➤ **Gautam Adani**

- ✓ Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani - has become the richest person in India and Asia, surpassing Reliance Industries Ltd's Mukesh Ambani.
- ✓ Adani's net worth stood at \$88.5 billion on February 8 as against Ambani's \$87.9 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index
- ✓ With this massive spike, Adani has overtaken Mukesh Ambani, to become the world's 10th richest person.

➤ **World's First Chickenpox Vaccine Developer**

- ✓ Google Doodle celebrated the 94th birth anniversary of Dr Michiaki Takahashi who developed the world's first chickenpox vaccine on February 17, 2022.
- ✓ The Japanese virologist had studied medicine and turned his expertise towards effectively combatting the highly transmissible and infectious disease after his son caught it.

➤ **Ketanji Brown Jackson**

- ✓ On February 25, US President Joe Biden - nominated federal appeals court Judge **Ketanji Brown Jackson** to the U.S. Supreme Court
- ✓ With this, Jackson becomes the first Black woman to serve on the US Supreme Court.

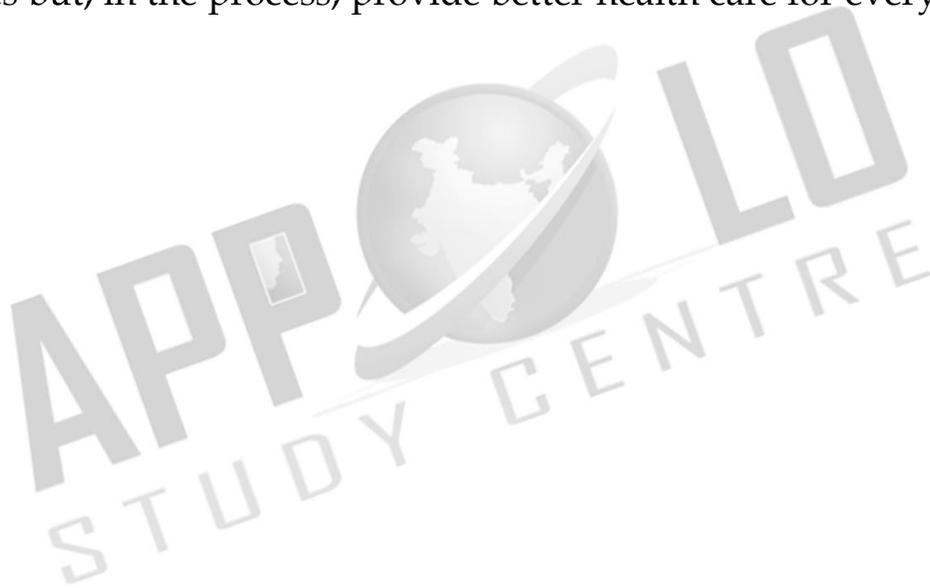
BOOKS & AUTHORS

➤ **Book Titled “Atal Bihari Vajpayee”**

- ✓ A book titled “Atal Bihari Vajpayee” authored by Sagarika Ghose has been launched. It is a biography of the former Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ Sagarika Ghose is a journalist. She has also authored a book titled “Indira: India’s Most Powerful Prime Minister”.

➤ **How to Prevent the Next Pandemic**

- ✓ A book titled ‘How to Prevent the Next Pandemic’ has authored by Bill Gates will be published this year in May 2022.
- ✓ In the book Bill Gates has written about specific steps that can only stop future pandemics but, in the process, provide better health care for everyone around the world.



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **World's First Hydrogen-powered Flying Boat 'The Jet'**

- ✓ Dubai firm, THE JET ZeroEmission announced the launch of the World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat 'THE JET' in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ 'THE JET' features cutting-edge characteristics and technologies, making it capable of flying in silence over the waters at a cruising speed of 40 knots and also has a capacity of carrying 8-12 passengers.

➤ **Chandrayan-3**

India - is set to launch the Chandrayan-3 in August this year.

- ✓ The ISRO has planned 19 missions that including eight launch vehicle missions, seven spacecraft missions and four technology demonstrator missions have been planned for this year.
- ✓ This year is expected to be quite busy for ISRO as major projects such as Gaganyaan and Aditya solar mission are also in the pipeline.

➤ **Param Pravega**

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bengaluru, has installed and commissioned Param Pravega, one of the most powerful supercomputers in India.
- ✓ It is also the largest supercomputer in an Indian academic institution.

➤ **Nanoparticle-Coated Antiviral Face Mask**

- ✓ Indian scientists have developed self-disinfecting Copper-based Nanoparticle-coated Antiviral Face Mask, which is biodegradable, highly breathable and washable.
- ✓ It has been developed by scientists at International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), in collaboration with the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) and Resil Chemicals, a Bengaluru based company.

➤ **Scomberoides Pelagicus**

- ✓ The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has identified a new carangid (Vatta) species from the Indian coast.
- ✓ The fish, Scomberoides pelagicus, is a member of the 'queen fish' family and is locally known as 'pola vatta.'

- **Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS)**
- ✓ The Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) - has become the first asteroid detection system to scan entire night sky to detect hazardous asteroids moving towards the Earth
- ✓ The NASA-funded system is operated by the University of Hawaii's (UH) Institute for Astronomy.

- **Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)**
- ✓ On February 2, India - signed a cooperation agreement to confirm its participation in 'Square Kilometre Array Observatory' (SKAO) project
- ✓ The agreement signed to set up the world's largest radio telescope will be valid for one year.

- **Space Station to Retire in 2030**
- ✓ NASA - announced plans for the International **Space Station to retire in 2030** and then crash it into an uninhabited area known as 'Point Nemo' into the Pacific Ocean in 2031.

- **2DPA-1**
- ✓ Researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - have developed a new two-dimensional polymer material called 2DPA-1 that is stronger than steel but light as plastic.
- ✓ The new polymer has twice the yield strength of steel and up to six times the deformation resistance of bulletproof glass.

- **Asteroid 38971 (2001 CB21)**
- ✓ A giant asteroid called 138971 (2001 CB21) is heading towards the Earth and is likely to make a close pass in March.
- ✓ It is estimated to be four times bigger than the Eiffel Tower and has been tagged as potentially hazardous, as it will come as close as 4.5 million km.

- **COVID-19 DNA Vaccine**
- ✓ India has become the first country in the world to administer a DNA vaccine against COVID-19.
- ✓ The ZyCoV-D which is the World's first plasmid DNA vaccine has been produced by Ahmedabad-based vaccine manufacturer Zydus Cadila and it was administered for the first time in Patna.

- **ISRO Launch Earth Observation Satellite**

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation will launch radar imaging satellite EOS-04 on February 14, 2022.
- ✓ The satellite has been designed to provide high-quality images under all weather conditions. It will be launched aboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C52) at 05:59 hours on February 14th from the First Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

- **Sputnik Light Covid-19 Vaccine**
- ✓ The Drugs controller General of India - granted Emergency Use Permission to single dose Sputnik light Covid-19 vaccine.
- ✓ With this, it has become the ninth Covid-19 vaccine to get the approval for usage in the country
- ✓ Sputnik and Sputnik Light is based on recombinant human adenovirus vector platform.

- **Lactobacillus Plantarum JBC5**
- ✓ Indian scientists develop a next-generation probiotic.
- ✓ A team of Indian scientists from the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, has identified the next-generation probiotic bacterium Lactobacillus Plantarum JBC5 from a dairy product.
- ✓ The product showed great promise in promoting healthy aging.

- **NASA**
- NASA - has selected two science missions to help improve the understanding of the Sun-Earth connection, the dynamics of the Sun, and the constantly changing space environment.
- ✓ The two missions chosen by NASA are Multi-slit Solar Explorer (MUSE) and HelioSwarm missions, which aim at studying the sun's corona and also measuring the magnetic field of the solar wind.

- **ISRO PSLV-C52 Satellite**
- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C52, carrying three satellites (EOS-04, a radar imaging satellite along with its two passenger satellites, INSPIRESat-1 and INS-2TD) on 14 Feb 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

- **Polaris Dawn**
- ✓ SpaceX engineer Anna Menon will be among the crew of a unique space mission announced on 14 Feb 2022 by Jared Isaacman.

- ✓ The first mission is named Polaris Dawn
- **Koalas as Endangered Species**
 - ✓ Australia has officially listed koalas as endangered species.
 - ✓ Koala species are inhabited in Australia for at least 25 million years.
 - ✓ At present, only one species remains – the *Phascolarctos cinereus*.
- **Pluto's Atmospheric Pressure**
 - ✓ A team of scientists, including Indian and International collaborators, have derived the accurate value of Pluto's atmospheric pressure at its surface.
 - ✓ It is more than 80,000 times less than the atmospheric pressure at mean sea level on Earth.
 - ✓ The pressure was calculated from data obtained using 3.6-m Devasthal optical telescope (DOT) (India's largest optical telescope).
- **Alcyoneus**
 - ✓ Alcyoneus is the largest galaxy ever discovered by humans.
 - ✓ Researchers from the Leiden Observatory have found Alcyoneus, the largest galaxy ever discovered by humans.
 - ✓ Alcyoneus is 240 billion times the size of sun. It is named after the son of Greek god of sky, Ouranos.
- **First Woman Reported Cured of HIV**
 - ✓ A U.S. patient with leukemia has become the first woman and the third person to date to be cured of HIV after receiving a stem cell transplant from a donor who was naturally resistant to the virus that causes AIDS.
 - ✓ The case of a middle-aged woman of mixed race, presented at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Denver, is also the first involving umbilical cord blood.
- **Study on Greater Maldive Ridge**
 - ✓ Recently, researchers traced the tectonic evolution of "Greater Maldive Ridge (GMR)" which is a geodynamic feature in the western Indian Ocean.
 - ✓ The tectonic evolution can help in reconstructing the original Gondwanaland fracture.
 - ✓ This feature led to the present-day configuration of continents, continental fragments, as well as the formation of ocean basins in the Indian Ocean.

➤ **Bent-Toed Gecko**

- ✓ A team of researchers recently discovered a new species of bent-toed gecko or lizard, from Umroi Military station in the Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya.
- ✓ The new species of Gecko or lizard belongs to the family of *Cyrtodactylus exercitus* ('exercitus' means army, in Latin).
- ✓ It has been named to honour the valour of the Indian Army for its services to India.

➤ **Storm Eunice across Europe**

- ✓ Storm Eunice sparked the first-ever red weather warning in London on February 19, 2022.
- ✓ It was one of the most powerful storms in Europe since 1984, when the Great Storm hit Britain and northern France.

➤ **Euphlyctis Jaladhara**

- ✓ The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Pune, has discovered a new frog species which are growing in the freshwater regions along all the states spanning the Western Ghats.
- ✓ The common name of this frog is Jaladhara skittering frog and *Euphlyctis jaladhara* is the scientific name. This species was first discovered in freshwater bodies located near the Thattekad Bird Sanctuary in Ernakulam District of Kerala.

➤ **'Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa' (GKMS) Project**

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee - has organized a regional farmers' awareness programme as part of the 'Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa' (GKMS) project and launched KISAN mobile application for the farmers.
- ✓ Farmers can now easily access the block-level weather forecast and weather based Agromet Advisory Bulletins on their mobile phones through the 'Kisan' App.

SPORTS

➤ **World Games Athlete of the Year**

- ✓ On January 31, Indian Hockey goalkeeper, P R Sreejesh - won the prestigious 'World Games Athlete of the Year' award for his 2021 performances.
- ✓ Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, who won the award in 2020, is the only other Indian to win the honour for her performances in 2019.

➤ **Laureus 'World Breakthrough of the Year' Award**

- ✓ On February 2, India's champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra - nominated for the prestigious Laureus 'World Breakthrough of the Year' award.
- ✓ Neeraj was the first Indian track and field athlete to win an Olympic gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics on August 8, 2020.

➤ **Winter Olympics**

- ✓ On February 3, India - announced a diplomatic boycott of the Winter Olympics in China, scheduled from February 4-20.
- ✓ The Indian mission in Beijing will not participate in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games.
- ✓ This followed the decision of China that Qi Fabao, a PLA regiment commander involved in the June 2020 Galwan clash was named as one of the torchbearer during the 'Torch Relay' at the Olympics.

➤ **2028 Los Angeles Olympics**

- ✓ The International Olympic Committee - has approved a proposal to include surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics scheduled for July 21 to August 6, 2028.
- ✓ Breakdancing will debut at the 2024 Olympics at the request of the Paris organisers.

➤ **U-19 World Cup**

- ✓ India - won a record-extending fifth U-19 World Cup title after defeating England by four wickets in the final at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua on February 5.
Earlier, India had won the U-19 World Cup in 2000, 2008, 2012, and 2018.

➤ **Ireen Wust**

- ✓ Ireen Wust - became the first athlete to win individual gold at five different Olympic Games.

- ✓ Ireen Wust is already one of the best speed skaters in the history of the sport
- ✓ Dutchwoman Wust won the 1,500 meters at this edition in Beijing, thereby becoming the first athlete ever to win individual gold medals in five different Olympic Games.
- **Draft National Air Sports Policy 2022**
- ✓ According to Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Gen. Dr. V K Singh, Government has prepared a draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP 2022) for promoting air sports in India.
- ✓ Under the policy, domestic design, development & manufacturing of air sports equipment will be promoted in line with Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- **Shakibul Gani**
- ✓ Bihar's Shakibul Gani - created history by hitting a triple century on his First Class debut in Kolkata on February 18.
- ✓ With this, Gani became the world's first-ever player to score a triple century on first-class debut.
- ✓ **International Olympic Committee's (IOC) session**
India - won the right to host the 2023 International Olympic Committee's (IOC) session in Mumbai
- ✓ The session, to be held in May or June next year, could possibly see the election for the host country for the 2030 Winter Olympics and sports programme for LA 2028 Olympic Games.
- **R Praggnanandhaa**
- ✓ Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa - stunned world no 1 Magnus Carlsen in the eighth round of the Airthings Masters, an online rapid chess tournament, on February 21.
- ✓ At 16, he is now the youngest player to defeat Carlsen since the latter became world champion for the first time in 2013.

OBITUARY

➤ **Lata Mangeshkar**

- ✓ Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar passed away on February 6, 2022.
- ✓ She crooned songs in over a thousand Hindi films and has sung in over thirty-six Indian languages.
- ✓ Nicknamed as 'The Nightingale of India', the singer was bestowed with India's highest civilian honor Bharat Ratna in 2001.
- ✓ She was also honored with the Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan.

➤ **Luc Montagnier**

- ✓ French researcher and virologist Luc Montagnier, who won a noble prize for discovering HIV in 2008 – died on February 8 at the age of 89 years at Neuilly-sur-Seine, Paris.
- ✓ His involvement in studying about AIDS started in 1982, when the information about a transmissible agent, possibly a virus, was circulated.

➤ **Praveen Kumar Sobti**

- ✓ Actor-athlete Praveen Kumar Sobti passed away.
- ✓ He was best known for playing Bheem in the TV series “Mahabharat” and for winning an Asian Games gold medal.
- ✓ He won four medals at the Asian Games, including two gold medals in 1966 and 1970.

➤ **Pranab Dastidar**

- ✓ Pranab Dastidar, who pushed the button on India’s first nuclear weapon test at Pokhran on May 18, 1974, passed away recently in California on February 11.
- ✓ A reputed scientist, Pranab played a key role in the development and design of the reactor of India’s indigenous nuclear submarine INS Arihant.

REPORT

➤ **India's Unemployment Rate**

- ✓ India's unemployment rate has fallen to 6.57 percent in January 2022, which is the lowest since March 2021, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).
- ✓ Unemployment in urban India stood at 8.16 percent in January, while in rural areas it was the lowest at 5.84 percent.

➤ **Most Congested Cities in the World 2021**

- ✓ Mumbai was ranked as the fifth most congested city in the world 2021, as per TomTom's Traffic Index 2021.
- ✓ Bengaluru was ranked 10th in the index, followed by New Delhi at the 11th place and Pune at the 21st place.
- ✓ Istanbul was ranked as the most congested city in the world, followed by Russia's capital Moscow.

➤ **National Crime Records Bureau**

- ✓ As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, the first pandemic year, 2020, witnessed the highest number of suicides among the unemployed in the recent past.
- ✓ The suicide toll has crossed 3,000-mark for the first time. 3548 people died by suicide.

➤ **Child Welfare Scheme**

- ✓ Union Minister Smriti Irani has said that a children-centric scheme of the government had seen a “390%” increase in budgetary allocations since 2014.
- ✓ One graph showed an increase of “390.66%” for Mission Vatsalaya (an umbrella scheme for child welfare and protection) for which allocations rose from 300 crore in 2013-14 to 1,472 crore in 2022-23.
- ✓ Another graph showed an increase of “14.48%” for Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (an umbrella scheme for nutritional development of children) for which 17,700 crore was set aside in 2013-14 compared to 20,263 crore for the next fiscal.

RANKING

➤ **Global Digital Skills Index 2022**

- ✓ Salesforce, a leading company in Customer Relationship Management (CRM), has released the Global Digital Skills Index, 2022.
- ✓ India topped the Salesforce Global Digital Skills Index 2022 with a score of 66 out of 100.
- ✓ Brazil and Thailand are on the second spot and third spot with a score of 53 and 48 respectively. The index measures global employee sentiments and readiness to acquire key digital skills.

➤ **EIU's Democracy Index**

- ✓ India has ranked 46th position in the 2021 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit.
- ✓ With the highest score of 9.75, Norway topped the Democracy Index 2021 by Economist Intelligence.
- ✓ India scored 6.91 to rank 46th on the list.

➤ **US Green Building Council (USGBC)**

- ✓ India ranks 3rd in 9th US Green Building Council.
- ✓ The US Green Building Council (USGBC) has released the 9th annual ranking of top 10 countries outside of the United States (US) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2021 in which India ranked 3rd with 146 projects.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
February 2	World Wetlands Day	The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2022 is 'Wetlands Action for People and Nature'.
February 4	World Cancer Day	The World Cancer Day 2022-24 theme is "Close the Care Gap".
February 4	International Day of Human Fraternity	The day aims to raise awareness about different cultures and religions, or beliefs, and the promotion of tolerance.
February 6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	The theme for 2022 is "Accelerating Investment to End FGM"
February 10	World Pulses Day	This year World Pulses Day's theme: "Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems"
February 10	National Deworming Day	It is observed to raise awareness about the importance of deworming all preschool and school-age children between the ages of 1-19 years
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	The 2022 theme of the Day is "Equity,

		Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us”.
February 12	Darwin Day	The day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Charles Darwin and the contributions he made in the field of science and humanity
February 12	National Productivity Day	The theme of the National Productivity Week 2022 is 'Self Reliance Through Productivity'
February 13	National Women's Day	National Women's Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of the Nightingale of India Sarojini Naidu
February 13	World Radio Day	The theme for World Radio Day 2022 is “Radio and Trust”002E
February 14	International Epilepsy Day	International Epilepsy Day seeks to raise awareness and educate the general public on the true facts about epilepsy and the urgent need for improved treatment, better care, and greater investment in research
February 18	Pluto Day	Pluto Day is celebrated annually on February 18 to commemorate the anniversary of the discovery of Pluto in

		1930
February 20	World Day of Social Justice	The theme for 2022 is “Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment”
February 21	International Mother Language Day	Theme 2022 - “Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities
February 22	World Thinking Day	The theme for World Thinking Day 2022 is Our World, Our Equal Future
February 27	National Protein Day	'Food Futurism' is the theme for the year 2022, declared by Right to Protein, a national level public health initiative
February 27	World NGO Day	The theme for 2022 is yet to be announced while the theme of World NGO Day 2021 was 'Celebrate, Commemorate, Collaborate, Donate'
February 28	National Science Day	Theme 2022 - 'Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future'

