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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-JANUARY 1-31, 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.

➤ **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 8th.

➤ **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.

➤ **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.

➤ **John Pennycuick**

- ✓ On January 15, Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced that a statue of British engineer Colonel John Pennycuick, who built the Mullaperiyar dam in 1895, will be installed by the state government in a park in his native town of Camberley in the UK.
- ✓ In a statement, the CM said he was happy to make the announcement on January 15, Pennyquick's birth anniversary.
- ✓ The dam is currently operated by the Tamil Nadu government.

➤ **Kumari Ananthan**

- ✓ On January 15, Tamil Nadu government - has chosen veteran Congress leader Kumari Ananthan for Perunthalaivar Kamarajar award for 2021.
- ✓ Making the announcement, Chief Minister M K Stalin said the annual Ayyan Thiruvalluvar award would be given to All India Tamil Sanga Peravai president M Meenakshi Sundaram.
- ✓ Each award carries a cash prize of 1 lakh, a gold medal and a citation.

➤ **GI Tag**

- ✓ GI tag sought for Kumbakonam Vetrilai, Thoivalai Manikka Malai.
- ✓ Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has received applications seeking GI tag for two famous products from Tamil Nadu – Kumbakonam Vetrilai and Thoivalai Manikka Malai.

➤ **Mayors of Municipal Corporations**

On January 17, the State government - notified the reservations of the office of Mayors of municipal corporations.

- ✓ Chennai and Tambaram Corporations will be electing Schedule Caste Women as Mayors in the coming urban local body elections as per the reservation of the posts, notified by the government on Monday.
- ✓ The Avadi Mayor post has been reserved for Schedule Caste (general) candidates, while the Mayors of nine other Corporations would be women (general).

➤ **Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT)**

The Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) - is planning to establish four classical Tamil chairs in the prominent universities in Southeast Asian countries during the next academic year (2022-23).

- ✓ The Tamil chairs will be set up in countries having a large Tamil population and ancient cultural ties with Tamil Nadu.

➤ **Central Institute of Classical Tamil Releases Eight Books**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin released eight books published by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Chennai when he visited its new premises at Perumbakkam here on Monday.

- ✓ The books are: Tholkappiya Aayvu, Dheivachchilayaar Uraineri, Ayngurunooru Kurinji, Ayngurunooru Paalai, Vaaymozhi Vaaypattu Kotpaattu Nokkil Sanga Ilakkiyam, Puthiya Nokkil Kalabirar Varalaaru, Dravidian Comparative Grammar - II and A Historical Grammar of Tamil.

- ✓ He announced that the Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award for the years between 2010 and 2019 would be given away at a function at Anna Centenary Library on January 22.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has appointed U Mathivannan as the chairman of the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation.
- ✓ The agency was established in 1974 by then chief minister M Karunanidhi.
- ✓ It was set up with an objective to implement economic development schemes, skill development and training programmes for scheduled tribes and scheduled castes.

➤ **Greater Chennai Corporation**

- ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation - has reserved 100 wards for women after cancelling its previous order that had allotted more than 50% wards to women.
- ✓ As per the new order, 16 wards have been reserved for scheduled caste (women), 84 for women (general) along with 16 for scheduled caste (general).
- ✓ The mayors of all three corporations under GCC – Chennai, Tambaram and Avadi – have been reserved for SCs with Chennai and Tambaram to have their first women mayors.

➤ **State Planning Commission (SPC) to Monitor Schemes**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday called upon the members of the State Planning Commission (SPC) to come up with comprehensive suggestions for the development of the State. He urged them to monitor whether the welfare schemes implemented by the government reached the people at the grassroots.
- ✓ Development was to be achieved in various fronts – quality of life, life span, education, raising of children, eradication of poverty, public health, human rights, social justice and welfare of the marginalised communities.
- ✓ Encouraging the commission to come up with guidelines to ensure development in all sectors, Mr. Stalin pointed out: “We have to agree that our development is not equally distributed.
- ✓ Industrial growth differs between districts and so is education. While poverty is low in some districts, it is high in other districts. You are aware of the financial situation. We need your suggestions on how to save funds. Revenue is generated only through registration and excise. We have to generate revenue from tourism, MSMEs, handicraft, handlooms, among other sectors.”

➤ **Republic Day Celebrations**

- ✓ The Republic Day celebrations of the Tamil Nadu government - will not include any tableaux of government departments this year, due to surge in Covid cases in Chennai
- ✓ Instead, the state’s Republic Day tableaux rejected by the Centre will roll out on Kamarajar Salai in Chennai, complete with Subramaniya Bharathiyar, V O Chidambaram, Velu Nachiyar and Maruthu Pandiyar brothers.
- ✓ The elements will appear with modifications in two tableaux, accompanied by a third tableau with the freedom fighters of Tamil Nadu summing up the theme ‘Tamil Nadu in Freedom Struggle’.

➤ **Police Commission**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has issued orders to constitute a new police commission and named retired Madras High Court judge C.T. Selvam as the head of the panel.
- ✓ The commission will examine measures for the welfare of police personnel and the aspects related to policing and submit its recommendations within a specific time frame.
- ✓ It will suggest measures to improve policing and the relations between the police and members of the public, prevent cybercrimes and promote policing with a humanitarian approach.

➤ **Korkai**

- ✓ A reconnaissance survey in the sea off the coast of Korkai in Thoothukudi district, which finds mention in Sangam literature, will be undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department in collaboration with the Indian Maritime University & National Institute of Ocean Technology.
- ✓ From the first week of February, archaeological excavations would be undertaken at seven sites across the State. The excavations would be undertaken in Keeladi and nearby locations (Konthagai, Agaram and Manalur) in Sivaganga district (Phase VIII); Sivagalai in Thoothukudi district (Phase III); Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur district (Phase II); Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district (Phase II); Vembakkottai in Virudhunagar district (Phase I); Thullukarpatti in Tirunelveli district (Phase I); and Perumpalai in Dharmapuri district (Phase I).

➤ **CLAPP**

- ✓ On January 21, Chief Minister MK Stalin - launched a new online application 'CLAPP' at the Secretariat.
- ✓ Using CLAPP, referring to Complete Leave App, police personnel of all ranks can now apply for leave and get it sanctioned immediately
- ✓ The new mobile app has been designed to prevent delays, summary rejections or favoritism and at ensuring more transparency in the leave sanctioning process.

➤ **Alanganallur**

- ✓ On January 21, Chief Minister M K Stalin - said that the state government will build a state-of-the-art arena at Alanganallur with world class facilities to enable thousands of people to view its signature jallikattu event.

➤ **E-Seva Services**

- ✓ On January 22, the Tamil Nadu government - announced that it would provide e-seva services at private browsing centres at affordable costs.
- ✓ Minister of information technology T Mano Thangaraj issued 36 licences to set up the e-seva services at private browsing centres.
- ✓ At present, the state has 2,457 e-seva centres under the department.

➤ **Semmozhi Tamil Awards**

- ✓ Semmozhi Tamil Awards presented to 10 scholars.
- ✓ The awards are presented by the Kalignar M. Karunanidhi Tamil Aivu Arakkatalai, which was set up by the former Chief Minister after the Central Institute of Classical Tamil was set up in 2008.
- ✓ Mr. Stalin said Medavakkam-Sholingnanallur Link Road, which houses the new campus, will be called 'Semmozhi Salai' and added that the Semmozhi Tamil Chair would be created in five universities in South East Asia.

➤ **The Hands Behind Keeladi Excavations**

- ✓ The archaeological excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district have highlighted how urbanised the Vaigai valley was as early as the 6th Century B.C. Now, an artist has documented the lives and work of the men and women involved in the excavation.
- ✓ V. Saranraj's photographs have been displayed, under the title, 'Keeladi,' as part of the Chennai Photo Biennale (CPB) Edition-III at the Roja Muthiah Research Library at Taramani. They showcase the role of these workers in the excavation and the steps involved in the process before artefacts were presented.

➤ **Global Community Oscar Award 2021**

- ✓ Suriya, Jyotika, and Udhayanidhi are on the list for Global Community Oscars.
- ✓ The mentioned awards recognize celebrities who have made a significant contribution to the strengthening of human communities and have made a significant impact internationally.

➤ **70 Civic Infrastructure Projects**

- ✓ The State government has given administrative sanction for 70 civic infrastructure projects by the Greater Chennai Corporation under the Namakku Naame Thittam. More works are expected to be taken up shortly.
- ✓ Government has initiated the Namakku Naamae Thittam, where these projects can be undertaken if you have more than 33% contribution.

✓ If you have 50% contribution then the donors themselves can execute the project. If it is more than 33% but less than 50% then tendering has to be done, but the remaining amount will be given by the government.

➤ **State's Sixth Tiger Reserve**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu forest department - is planning a proposal to create the state's sixth tiger reserve in the Erode forest division.
- ✓ The Erode division is home to up to 20 tigers besides elephants, leopards, wild dogs, wild boars, Indian gaurs, deer and other rare species in an area spread over 82,144 hectares.
- ✓ A year back, the Centre has approved the Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve as India's 51st tiger reserve and Tamil Nadu's fifth.

➤ **Padma Shri award for 2022 - TN**

- ✓ Seven eminent persons from Tamil Nadu - have been conferred with Padma Shri award for 2022 for their achievements in the fields of arts, social work and medicine.
- ✓ The seven Padma Shri awardees are Sirpi Balasubramaniam for Literature and Education, S Damodaran for Social Work, S. Ballesh Bhajantri, Sowcar Janaki, R. Muthukannammal and A.K.C.Natarajan for Art, and Dr.Veeraswamy Seshiah for medicine.

➤ **Public Libraries Act**

- ✓ Public Libraries Act, Rules to be revisited.
- ✓ Conscious of the problem of lack of funds being faced by public libraries and the consequent adverse impact on development works of the Libraries Department, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to revisit the Public Libraries Act, 1948, and the Public Libraries Rules, 1950.

➤ **Chola-Era Inscriptions**

- ✓ They belong to the period of Kulottunga I, Vikrama Chola and Kulottunga II.
- ✓ Inscriptions of the Chola period were discovered at the Vishnu temple at Angur in Villupuram district.
- ✓ They belong to the period of Kulottunga I (1070-1120), Vikrama Chola (1118-1135) and Kulottunga II (1133-1150).

➤ **T.N. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Corpn. Expo**

- ✓ Institute set up at a cost of 10 crore.

✓ Inaugurating the Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Corporation exhibition in Anna University, Chennai, which has been set up at 10 crore, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday said the need for drones were on the rise.

➤ **All India Federation For Social Justice**

✓ On the occasion of Republic Day, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said he will soon launch an All India Federation for Social Justice, which will have “leaders from oppressed classes from all States”.

✓ Addressing a national webinar on ‘Taking Forward The Struggle For Social Justice and Joint National Programme (JNP) for Social Justice Movement’, Mr. Stalin said, “The [proposed] federation will provide suggestions to all States on laws related to social justice.

➤ **Awards For Scholars**

✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday announced the 2021 awards for scholars, organisations and media houses that contributed to the development of Tamil language.

✓ In a statement, he said from this year the award money has been increased to 2 lakh from 1 lakh each. The award-winners will be honoured with a one-sovereign gold medal, a shawl and a citation.

✓ Perarignar Anna Award will be presented to Nanjil Sampath while Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award will be conferred on Bharathi Krishnakumar.

✓ Pavendhar Bharathidasan Award will be presented to Senthalai Gowthaman while Sollin Selvar Award will be given to Surya Xavier.

✓ Madukkur Ramalingam has been chosen for Singaravelar Award and Malaysian Tamil Writers Association for Thamizhthai Award.

✓ As per the announcement, Thiruvalluvar Award will be conferred on Sanjeevirayar and Si Pa Aditanar Award will be presented to Uyirmmai magazine.

✓ Bharathi Baskar will be presented Kambar Award while G.U. Pope Award will be given to veteran journalist and former Readers’ Editor of The Hindu A.S. Panneerselvan.

✓ Maraimalai Adigalar Award will be presented to Suki Sivam and Ilango Adigal Award will go to Nellai Kanan. Ayothidas Pandithar Award will be presented to Gnana Aloysius.

➤ **Tiger Reserve wins TX2 Award**

✓ The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu has been awarded the international TX2 Award for doubling its tiger population since 2010.

✓ It is located in Erode district, and now houses 80 tigers in its 1408 sq. km campus.

- ✓ Nepal's Bardia National Park was also jointly conferred the award, for doubling its population of wild tigers.
- **Telecom Infrastructure Policy, 2022**
- ✓ The State government has formulated the Tamil Nadu Telecom Infrastructure Policy, 2022, aiming at developing a robust and secure state-of-the-art telecommunication network that would provide seamless coverage by easing the process of application, approval and installation of telecom infrastructure.
- **Millets to be Sold through Ration Shops**
- ✓ The State government has issued orders for selling minor millets through ration shops in Chennai and Coimbatore run by cooperatives and Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation on pilot basis.
- ✓ The State government constituted a State-level committee for framing modalities for processing and value addition of minor millets and pricing. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies would be the chairperson of the panel, said the G.O. issued on January 25.
- **46 Lakh Jobs by 2030**
- ✓ Steps are being taken to open new industrial parks in Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Sivaganga, Theni, Kanniyakumari, Pudukottai, Dindigul and Tirunelveli. Work is in progress in six of these districts.
- ✓ For setting up industrial complexes and development centres, SIPCOT will allocate land with 50% subsidy and 100% exemption from stamp duty.
- **Draft Policy for Elders**
- ✓ The Government of Tamil Nadu has framed a draft policy for senior citizens in an acknowledgement of the State's on-going demographic transition.
- ✓ A Directorate for the Welfare of Senior Citizens is also being planned.
- ✓ The draft document is based on Article 41 of the Constitution, which requires the State to secure the right to work, education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu had 13.6% of senior citizens last year. It is projected to have the second highest proportion of people aged 60 and above (after Kerala), with 18.2% in 2031.
- **Housing Scheme for Construction Workers**
- ✓ The State government has decided to launch a housing scheme for construction workers under which beneficiaries will be given an assistance of 4 lakh each.

- ✓ There are two streams under the scheme, one of which is a beneficiary-led contribution and the other is the purchase of tenements of the Urban Habitat Development Board.
- ✓ If the beneficiary opts for the other stream, the norms under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) will be followed with a maximum assistance of 4 lakh.

➤ **PM Lauds Coconut Vendor**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday praised M. Thiammal, 43, a tender coconut-vendor at Udumalpet in Tiruppur district, for having donated 1 lakh to a government school in her locality.

In his monthly radio address to the nation, Mr. Modi explained how Ms. Thiammal came to know that the Panchayat Union Middle School at Chinnaveerampatti was looking for funds to improve infrastructure. She donated 1 lakh from her savings.



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.

➤ **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.

➤ **1st 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.

➤ **Food Security**

- ✓ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Odisha government have joined hands.
- ✓ They will improve the food security of small and marginal farmers by strengthening their resilience to climate change.

➤ **Smoke-Free State**

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh has become the first 'smoke-free state' in India.
- ✓ It has achieved this feat with the help of many welfare schemes like Ujjwala Yojana, Himachal Grihini Suvidha scheme, etc.
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh has also become the first 100% LPG-enabled state in the country.

➤ **Vaccination Milestone**

- ✓ On January 23, Karnataka - achieved a vaccination milestone in inoculating 100% of the eligible population with one dose against Covid-19.
- ✓ Karnataka is the first state in the country with a population of above four crore to achieve this feat.

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh was the first state in the country to vaccinate all eligible beneficiaries with at least one dose.

- **AVGC Center of Excellence**
- ✓ The government of Karnataka has launched India's first AVGC Center of Excellence (CoE) (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) in Mahadevapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ It is funded by the Department of Electronics Information Technology Biotechnology and Science & Technology.
- ✓ Karnataka became India's first state to set up such an AVGC CoE, it is also the biggest centre in Asia.

- **Graphene Innovation Centre**
- ✓ Kerala to get country's first Graphene Innovation Centre.
- ✓ The Digital University Kerala, along with CMET-Trichur will set up India Innovation Centre for Graphene.
- ✓ Graphene is the thinnest and strongest material in the world ever known and has good chemical stability.

- **Brain Health Initiative**
- ✓ Karnataka has launched the 'Brain Health Initiative' undertaken by NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences) in association with NITI Aayog in the state.
- ✓ It is a first-of-its-kind in the country.
- ✓ Under this programme, the doctors will be trained in screening and treating mental health patients.

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.

➤ **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.

➤ **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.

➤ **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

➤ **The Republic Day celebrations**

The Republic Day celebrations - will now begin every year from January 23 instead of January 24 to include the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

- ✓ The advancement by a day is in line with the government's focus on commemorating important aspects of India's history and culture.
- ✓ Last year, the Centre had decided to observe Netaji's birth anniversary on January 23 as "Parakram Diwas".

➤ **World's Largest Khadi National Flag**

- ✓ The world's largest national flag, made of Khadi fabric was put to display to celebrate the "Army Day" on January 15, 2022.
- ✓ It was displayed at Longewala, along the India - Pakistan Border in Jaisalmer. Longewala was the centre stage of the historic battle of 1971 between India and Pakistan.

➤ **National Technical Textiles Mission**

- ✓ Government clears 20 projects under National Technical Textiles Mission.
- ✓ The Ministry of Textiles has cleared 20 strategic research projects worth 30 crores in the areas of specialty fibers and geotextiles.
- ✓ These strategic research projects fall under the government's flagship program 'National Technical Textiles Mission.'

➤ **Collarwali Tigress**

- ✓ India's "Supermom" tigress, popularly known as 'Collarwali', has passed away at Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Madhya Pradesh, due to old age.
- ✓ 'Collarwali' tigress was known for giving birth to 29 cubs during her lifetime. It is believed to be a world record.
- ✓ She gained the Collarwali title as she became the first tigress in the park to be fitted with a radio collar in 2008.

➤ **National Commission For Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for three years beyond 31.3.2022.
- ✓ The total implication of the extension for three years would be approximately Rs.43.68 crore.

The major beneficiaries would be the Safai Karamcharis and identified manual scavengers in the country since the NCSK for 3 more years beyond 31.3.2022. The number of Manual Scavengers identified under the MS Act Survey as on 31.12.2021 is 58098.

➤ **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**

- ✓ On January 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced that he would unveil a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate on January 23, the 125th birth anniversary of the legendary freedom fighter.
- ✓ On the day, a special programme will be held to honour the winners of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Apada Prabandhan Award, which is given to recognise the contributions in the area of disaster management.

➤ **Tiger Reserve Status**

- ✓ The Centre - has given its approval of granting tiger reserve status to three new sites and agreed in-principle to give its nod to two more.
- ✓ These five new sites are expected to be formally declared tiger reserves (TR) in India by the end of this year, taking the total number of tiger reserves to 56.
- ✓ All 5 new sites are expected to be formally notified before Global Tiger Summit which is to be held at Vladivostok.
- ✓ Srivilliputhur Meghamalai in Tamil Nadu was the last one (51st) that was formally notified as a tiger reserve in 2021.

➤ **Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI)**

- ✓ Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh - released the revised Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI) Guidelines prepared by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on January 20, 2022
- ✓ The release of RADPFI guidelines would supplement the efforts of the Centre such as the SVAMITVA scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj and RURBAN Mission of Ministry of Rural Development and facilitate better utilisation of Geospatial information.

➤ **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)**

- ✓ Banaras Hindu University (BHU) - has become the first university in the country to introduce "Hindu dharma" in its regular curriculum.
- ✓ The university has started a two-year postgraduate course in Hindu studies, which is an interdisciplinary programme, in line with the New Education Policy 2020
- ✓ This is the first such course offered by any university in the country.

➤ **Parakram Diwas**

- ✓ 23 January 2022, marked the 125th birth anniversary of freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- ✓ The day will also be celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas' from 2022 onward.

➤ **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**

- ✓ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) - launched Season 2 of India Cycles4Change challenge and Streets4People Challenge in an online event.
- ✓ Under the 'Streets for people Challenge', 38 cities innovated important streets each by prioritizing them for pedestrians.
- ✓ The Smart Cities Mission has been organising inter-city challenges since 2020, for making public spaces more people-friendly.
- ✓ These challenges are organised in line with "2006 National Urban Transport Policy".

➤ **Abide With Me Hymn**

- ✓ The song "Abide with me" is traditionally sung during the Republic Day procession is replaced by Kavi Pradeep's "Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon."
- ✓ It was written during the India-China war by Kavi Pradeep. It was first sung by Lata Mangeshkar on 27 January 1963. It was composed by C Ramachandra.

➤ **R-Day Celebration**

- ✓ Flypast and State tableaux mark R-Day celebration at Rajpath.
First woman Rafale fighter jet pilot Shivangi Singh was part of IAF turnout.

➤ **Drone Certification Scheme**

- ✓ On January 26, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) - notified a drone certification scheme to make certification of drones simpler, faster and transparent.
- ✓ The drone certification scheme was notified under Rule 7 of the liberalized Drone Rules, 2021.
- ✓ The move is in line with Centre's bid to make India the "drone hub of the world" by 2030.

➤ **6% of MSMEs Owned by SC Entrepreneurs**

- ✓ Maharashtra tops India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes with as many as 96,805 enterprises.
- ✓ The proportion of enterprises owned by Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs in the overall national tally of MSMEs is 6%.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu with 42,997 enterprises and Rajasthan with 38,517 units occupy the second and third slots, according to the number of SC-owned enterprises covered under the Udyam system of registration.

➤ **Villages of Excellence**

- ✓ India to convert 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence.'
- ✓ The Centre has decided to convert as many as 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 states with technical assistance from the Israeli government.

➤ **Spice Exchange Portal**

The Spice Board of India - recently launched the Spice Exchange Portal, which will connect the Indian spice exporters with buyers from all over the world.

- ✓ The spicexchangeindia.com is a 3D virtual platform created exclusively for spice exports.
- ✓ The first-of-its-kind platform was developed by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



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.

➤ **50% PG Medical Seats**

- ✓ The Madras high court - has confirmed Tamil Nadu's decision to reserve 50% PG medical seats to in-service candidates working in rural areas in the state-quota and additional 30 marks as an incentive.
- ✓ Accordingly, the in-service candidates can compete in both the 50% reserved seats and the open category in future
- ✓ The judge also rejected the objections for providing the weightage marks for service in hilly/difficult/rural areas to be considered along with NEET score for admission.
- ✓ The judge held the view that entry 25 List III of the Constitution is entirely the State's domain.

➤ **Hindu Succession Act, 1956**

- ✓ On January 20, the Supreme Court - held that daughters of Hindu fathers would be entitled to inherit his self-acquired and other inherited properties, if the father dies without making a will.
- ✓ The landmark judgement, which came on an appeal against the Madras High Court verdict, dealt with the property rights of Hindu women and widows under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956
- ✓ As per the judgement, such daughters would get preference over other collateral members of the family such as sons and daughters of brothers of the deceased father.
- ✓ It said the law of inheritance would apply to partition of properties even if the father died intestate before 1956.

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.

➤ **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.

➤ **Dhaka International Film Festival 2022**

- ✓ Dhaka, Bangladesh, hosts the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival.
- ✓ Between the 15th and the 23rd of January, the festival will screen 225 films from 70 countries in ten categories at various venues throughout Dhaka.

- **PM Modi Introduces P3 Movement at WEF**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the P3 (Pro-Planet-People) movement underlining India's climate change commitments at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda 2022.
- ✓ Under the P3 movement, PM Modi highlighted the challenges that our lifestyle causes for the climate. He stated that the throw away culture has deepened climate change. He said it is important to move from a 'take-make-use' dispose' economy to a circular economy.
- **Mrs World 2022**
- ✓ Mrs America Shaylyn Ford has been crowned the winner of Mrs World 2022.
- ✓ She hails from Granville, Ohio.
- ✓ The Mrs World 2022 pageant took place in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, in January 2022.
- **Nusantara-Indonesia New Capital**
- ✓ The Indonesians are moving to a new capital. It is East Kalimantan.
- ✓ It is now called 'Nusantara'. Earlier, Jakarta was the capital of Indonesia.
- **555.55-Carat Black Diamond - The Enigma**
- ✓ The 555.55-carat black diamond, called 'The Enigma', will be auctioned in London in February and is expected to be sold for the equivalent of nearly \$9.5 million dollars.
- ✓ The number 'five' bears important significance to the diamond, which has 55 facets as well.
- ✓ This diamond is believed to have been created when an asteroid or a meteorite hit the Earth more than 2.6 billion years ago.
- **First Woman President of Honduras**
- ✓ Xiomara Castro became the first female president of Honduras on January 27, 2022.
- ✓ She is a former first lady of Honduras, as she is the wife of former President Manuel Zelaya who was deposed in a coup in 2009.
- **World's-Largest Canal Lock**
- ✓ Dutch King Willem-Alexander officially opened the IJmuiden Sea Lock in January 2022. IJmuiden, a small port city connecting the North Sea Canal to the port of Amsterdam. It is the largest sea lock in the world.
- ✓ Construction of the massive infrastructure project began in 2016 and was completed in 2021.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ **Green Fuels**

- ✓ India, Denmark agree to initiate joint research on green fuels.
- ✓ India and Denmark have agreed to initiate joint research and development on green fuels including green hydrogen.

The Joint Science and Technology Committee meeting was held in January 2022 to discuss national strategic priorities and developments in science, technology, and innovation of both countries.

➤ **India and Israel**

- ✓ India and Israel – discussed to widen the scope of the bilateral Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (**I4F**) at its eighth governing body meeting recently on January 18.
- ✓ They approved three joint research and development projects worth USD 5.5 million and suggested measures to create a broader India-Israel collaborative ecosystem.

➤ **India and France**

- ✓ India and France - have signed an MoU for joint research on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and inherited disorders
- ✓ The MoU was signed between France Institut Pasteur and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of India under the purview of Ministry of Science and Technology.

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'.

➤ **World Economic Forum Davos Agenda Summit**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Agenda virtual event on 17 January 2022.
- ✓ The event is being convened on the theme of 'The State of the World'.
- ✓ The Davos Agenda 2022 will also mark the launch of several WEF initiatives to accelerate the race to net-zero emissions.

➤ **First India-Central Asia Summit**

- ✓ PM Modi will host the first India-Central Asia Summit on January 27, 2022.
- ✓ The summit will be held with the participation of the Presidents of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan.
- ✓ The upcoming summit will also be the first kind of engagement of its kind between India and the Central Asian countries at the level of leaders.

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).

➤ PASSEX

- ✓ Russian ship Admiral Tributs and INS Kochi conducted the PASSEX exercise in the Arabian sea on 14 January.
- ✓ The exercise was organized to showcase cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies.

➤ Brahmos Missile

- ✓ India successfully test-fires new version of Brahmos missile.

- ✓ India successfully test-fired a new version of supersonic cruise missile Brahmos off the Odisha coast on 20 January 2022.
- ✓ BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.

- **BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missiles**
- ✓ On January 28, India - signed the \$374.96 million (2,770 crore) contract to export BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines.
- ✓ This is India's first significant defence export. This is the first export order for the missile, a joint product of India and Russia.

- **ALH Mark-III**
- ✓ On January 28, the strategically located Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) - formally inducted the latest maritime version of the indigenous advanced light helicopters (ALH Mark-III) at the naval base INS Utkrosh in Port Blair.

- **INS Khukri - India's 1st Full Warship Museum**
- ✓ INS Khukri, the first built missile corvette, which was decommissioned after 32yrs of service in December 2021, was handed over to the Diu Admin on January 26, 2022.
- ✓ The INS Khukri will be turned into India's 1st full warship museum.

- **Paschim Lehar' (XPL-2022)**
- ✓ A joint tri-service maritime exercise 'Paschim Lehar' (XPL-2022) conducted by Indian Navy - concluded off the West Coast on January 25, 2022
- ✓ The exercise was conducted over 20 days to validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army, and Indian Coast Guard.

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.

✓ **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.

➤ **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%).

➤ **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.

➤ **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.

- **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)**
- ✓ National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2021 by the number of contracts traded.
- ✓ NSE is ranked fourth in the world in cash equities by the number of trades as per the statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) for 2021.

- **1500 Crore Rupees In IREDA**
- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved infusion of 1500 crore rupees in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited.
- ✓ It will help generate 10,200 jobs a year and reduce carbon emissions equivalent to approximately 7.49 million tonnes per year.

- **Largest Exporters of Cucumber and Gherkins**
- ✓ India has emerged as the largest exporter of cucumber and gherkins in the world.
- ✓ India has exported cucumber and gherkins to the tune of over 1,23,000 Metric Tonnes with a value of 114 million US dollars during April-October 2020-21.

- **World Economic Outlook**
- ✓ India's economy - is estimated to grow by 9% in the current fiscal year, according to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook
- ✓ This is slightly lesser than the agency's earlier forecast of 9.5%, amidst the impact of the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The IMF raised India's GDP growth estimate to 9% for 2022-23 from its earlier estimate of 8.5% in October and for 2023-24 it forecast the economy to grow by 7.1%.

- **\$300 Billion Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026**

- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in association with India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) - released its vision document, '300 billion Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026.'
- ✓ This report provides a year-wise break-up and production projections for the various products that will lead India's transformation into a \$300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse, from the current \$75 billion.

- **National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)**
- ✓ The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) - has received all approvals to commence operations.
- ✓ The NARCL, also called the bad bank, proposes to take over non-performing loans (NPLs)
- ✓ 5 loans worth Rs 50,000 crore from banks would be transferred to the bad bank by end of March 2022.

- **Google**
- ✓ US-based internet major Google - has announced **an investment of up to \$1 billion** in partnership with Delhi-based telecom company Bharti Airtel.
- ✓ This includes a \$700 million equity investment in Bharti Airtel for a 1.28% stake in the company.
- ✓ Google will also invest another \$300 million in multi-year commercial agreements, which will include investments in making smartphones affordable across price range and focus on India-specific use cases for 5G.

- **Electronic Goods Exports**
- ✓ India's electronic goods exports - registered a growth of 49% at \$11.0 billion in April-December 2021 compared to \$7.4 billion during the same period in 2020.
- ✓ The top five export destinations in April-November 2021 are - USA (18%), UAE (16.6%), China (7.6%), Netherlands (4.5%) and Germany (4.2%).
- ✓ Mobile Phones constitute a major chunk of India's electronics goods exports.

APPOINTMENT

✓ **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.

➤ **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.

➤ **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.

➤ **President of European Parliament**

- ✓ Roberta Metsola, a Christian Democrat from Malta, was elected president of the European Union's parliament.
- ✓ She is only the third woman elected to the post. She is the European Parliament's youngest president.

➤ **V Anantha Nageswaran**

- ✓ On January 28, the Centre - appointed V Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).
- ✓ The CEA is usually responsible for drafting the Economic Survey presented on the eve of the Budget.

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.

- **National Startup Awards (NSA) 2021**
 - ✓ India Accelerator has received the 'Best Accelerator of the Country' award at The National Startup Awards (NSA) 2021 hosted by Startup India.
 - ✓ It is one of the country's premier seed accelerators and the only one associated with GAN (Global Accelerator Network).

- **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually interacted with the winners of Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for the years 2021 and 2022.
 - ✓ A total of 29 children were honored with the Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022 and they were selected from all regions across India for their outstanding achievement in social service, sports, innovation, bravery, art and culture, and scholastic.

- **Netaji Award 2022**
 - ✓ Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by Netaji Research Bureau.

- ✓ Consul General of Japan in Kolkata Nakamura Yutaka received the honour on behalf of Mr. Abe at a function at the Elgin Road residence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary.
- **Dhaka International Film Festival**
 - ✓ P S Vinothraj directed film Koozhangal from India won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition section at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival.
- **Padma Vibhushan Awards**

On January 25, the central government - announced the Padma awards on the eve of the country's 73rd Republic Day

 - ✓ India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh have been posthumously conferred with Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest highest civilian honour.
 - ✓ The other two Padma Vibhushan awardees are late Radheyshyam Khemka, one of the leading lights of Gita Press, the Gorakhpur-based legendary institution which played a key role in popularising Hindu religious texts, and Prabha Atre, the renowned Indian classical vocalist from Maharashtra.
- **Mukta Arya**
 - ✓ On January 25, the Election Commission - honoured IAS officer Mukta Arya with the Best Electoral Practices Award on the occasion of 12th National Voters' Day.
- **Satyabrata Sahoo**
 - ✓ Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu Satyabrata Sahoo has been selected for the national award under the category of best-performing State.
 - ✓ This award is for overall performance in various areas of election management during the legislative assembly elections in the state during 2021.

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.

➤ **Prajakta Koli**

- ✓ Content creator and actress Prajakta Koli become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion.
- ✓ She won the title under her partnership with the UNDP.
- ✓ Title has been conferred to her because of her contribution towards mental health, girl child education and women's rights through various global social campaigns.

➤ **Parkash Singh Badal**

- ✓ Five-time Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal (94 years) - will be the oldest contestant in any election in the country.
- ✓ Earlier, this record was held by former Kerala chief minister VS Achuthanandan who had contested assembly election in 2016 at the age of 92 years.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

➤ **India's Women Unsung Heroes**

- ✓ Union Minister of State for Culture, Meenakashi Lekhi has released a pictorial comic book titled 'India's Women Unsung Heroes', as a tribute to the forgotten women freedom fighters of the country.

➤ **Fearless Governance**

- ✓ The book titled 'Fearless Governance' authored by Dr Kiran Bedi has been released. She is the former Lt Governor of Puducherry and IPS (retd).
- ✓ This book is based on the ground realities of nearly five years of service of Dr Bedi as Lt. Governor of Puducherry and her vast experience of 40 years in the Indian Police Service.

➤ **A Little Book of India**

- ✓ A new book titled "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 Years of Independence" authored by Ruskin Bond was released recently.
- ✓ The book is the blend of "physical and spiritual" attributes of India.
- ✓ It also highlights the last 75 years of India's progress as a nation.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **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.

➤ **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.

➤ **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.

➤ **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.

- **Radio-Frequency Identification based E-Passport**
 - ✓ India will soon start issuing e-passports which will use Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) and biometrics.
 - ✓ The new e-passport will secure biometric data, and also be in line with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

- **Volcanic Eruption in Tonga**
 - ✓ An underwater volcano erupted in Tonga (a country in the Pacific Ocean) recently.
 - ✓ It is called the “Hunga Tonga Hunga Haapai” volcano.
 - ✓ Though the volcano was located under water and 2,383 km away, it was heard in Tonga. Also, the eruption created tsunami waves.

- **China’s Artificial Moon**
 - ✓ After China’s artificial Sun reached temperatures five times hotter than the Sun, China is ready with its first artificial moon.

- ✓ Scientists have built an “artificial moon” research facility. The facility will help them in conducting low-gravity environments using magnetism.
- ✓ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**

On January 20, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) – said it successfully completed a 25-second qualification test of the high thrust Vikas engine for the Gaganyaan programme.
- ✓ The qualification test was carried out at the Isro Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu to verify the robustness of the engine by operating beyond its nominal operating conditions.
- **Pristimantis gretathunbergae**
- ✓ A new species of rainfrog, discovered in the Panama jungle, has been named after Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg.
- ✓ The species has been named as *Pristimantis gretathunbergae*, or popularly known as the Greta Thunberg Rainfrog.
- **India’s 1st Weather Hazard and Vulnerability Atlas**
- ✓ India has got its first climate vulnerability atlas.
- ✓ The Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India has been developed by the scientists at the Climate Research and Services (CRS) office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune.
- ✓ It is based on 14 extreme weather events and the risks they pose to the local population, livelihoods, and economy of each district.
- **Oldest Human Fossils**
- ✓ As per a recent study, one of the oldest known *Homo sapiens* fossils, Omo Kibish I, maybe around 35,000 years older than it was previously thought.
- ✓ Omo Kibish I was first unearthed in Ethiopia in 1967.

Omo I is the only fossil, with all the morphological characteristics of modern man.
- **CDRI Develops Omicron Testing Kit named “OM”**
- ✓ CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) has developed an indigenous RT-PCR diagnostic kit, ‘Om’, for the testing of the Omicron variant of coronavirus.
- ✓ It is the first kit made by any government institution, and the third to be made indigenously, for specific testing of Omicron.
- **Digital Sansad App**
- ✓ On January 27, the Lok Sabha secretariat - launches ‘Digital Sansad App’ to stream live proceedings in Parliament to citizens.

- ✓ It is designed to provide a one-stop destination for viewing all information related to the daily business of the Lok Sabha.
- **World's 1st Dual-Mode Vehicle**
- ✓ Japan has introduced a minibus lookalike world's first dual-mode vehicle (DMV) in its town of Kaiyo.
- ✓ The vehicle can run on normal rubber tyres on the road but its steel wheels, which are in its underbelly, descend when it hits the rail tracks.



SPORTS

➤ 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.

➤ 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.

➤ 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.

➤ FIFA Awards 2021

- ✓ Robert Lewandowski has been awarded the best men’s player in the world at the FIFA awards 2021. In the women’s award at FIFA awards 2021, Alexia Putellas added the FIFA trophy to her Ballon d’Or victory.

➤ Formula E World Championship

- ✓ Hyderabad bids to host Formula E World championship.
- ✓ It will be one of 60 cities across the world bidding to host the electric car race.
- ✓ Hyderabad officially bid as a candidate to host the Formula E World championship exclusively for electric cars, scheduled to be held between November 2022 and February 2023.

➤ AFC Women's Football Asian Cup

- ✓ The 20th edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup began on 20 January 2022.
- ✓ It holds a special significance for India as this is the second time the country will be hosting the tournament after 1979.

➤ **Padma Awards**

- ✓ Star para athlete Devendra Jhajharia was on Tuesday named for the prestigious Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian honour in the country.
- ✓ Olympic-gold winning javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was among the eight sportspersons named for the Padma Shri award.
- ✓ Neeraj was also honoured with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal.

➤ **Syed Modi International 2022**

- India's **top** badminton **player** PV Sindhu - **defeated Malvika Bansod** to win the Syed Modi International 2022 women's singles title in Lucknow on January 23.

➤ **Mega Sports City**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu government - is planning to develop a 500-acre, 700-crore Mega Sports City on the outskirts of Chennai.
- ✓ The sports city will have swanky facilities like finest athletic tracks, indoor cycling velodrome, hockey stadium, multipurpose indoor stadium for basketball, volleyball and boxing.
- ✓ The project is coming up near Thiruvaidanthai, about 30km south of Chennai on East Coast Road (ECR).

➤ **Asia Cup Hockey Tournament**

- ✓ India - defeated China 2-0 to finish with a bronze at the women's 2022 Asia Cup hockey tournament in Oman, Muscat on January 28.

➤ **Ashleigh Barty**

- ✓ On January 29, Australia's Ashleigh Barty - scripted history by becoming the first Australian woman to **win** the year's first Grand Slam in 44 years.
- ✓ World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty beat 27th-seeded American Danielle Collins to win the Australian Open title at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia.

➤ **Australian Open**

- ✓ Spanish tennis legend Rafael Nadal - created history at the Rod Laver Arena after defeating Russia's World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev in the final of the Australian Open in Melbourne on January 30.
- ✓ With the win, the 35-year old World No. 1 became the first male tennis player to win 21 Grand Slam titles, going ahead of Switzerland's Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic of Serbia.

OBITUARY

➤ **Pandit Birju Maharaj**

- ✓ Legendary Kathak dancer, Pandit Birju Maharaj has passed away at the age of 83. A recipient of the country's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan, he was fondly called Pandit-ji or Maharaj-ji by his disciples and legions of followers and was one of India's best-known artistes.

➤ **M.K. Prasad**

- ✓ Noted environmentalist M.K. Prasad passes away.
- ✓ He had played a crucial role in creating public awareness across the State for protecting the verdant forests of the Silent Valley during the early 1970s.
- ✓ He had played a leadership role in the Save Silent Valley campaign, considered the first popular campaign for protecting a forest ecosystem in the State.

➤ **R Nagaswamy**

- ✓ Renowned archaeologist, art historian and epigraphist, R Nagaswamy (91 years) – passes away due to age related ailments in Chennai on January 23.
- ✓ Nagaswamy served as a curator for art and archaeology at the Madras Museum from 1959, and later joined the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology as an assistant special officer in 1963.
- ✓ He was a recipient of various other awards, including the Tamil Nadu government's 'Kalaimamani' Award.

REPORT

➤ **World Employment and Social Outlook**

- ✓ The International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its report titled “World Employment and Social Outlook”.
- ✓ In the report, ILO has projected global unemployment of 207 million in 2022.
- ✓ It is almost 21 million more than in 2019.

➤ **Electric Vehicles in India Report**

- ✓ The NITI Aayog has suggested including electric vehicles in the priority sector of lending guidelines of RBI.
- ✓ This will give a push to retail lending of electric vehicles.
- ✓ According to the report released by NITI Aayog, the financing market size of electric vehicles is to increase to Rs 40,000 crores by 2025 and it is to increase to Rs 3.7 lakh crores by 2030.

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.

➤ **Oxfam India's 'Inequality Kills Report'**

- ✓ A total of 4.6 crore Indians - are estimated to have fallen into extreme poverty in 2020, as per the Oxfam India's new report
- ✓ On the other end, during the pandemic period, the number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 143
- ✓ The collective wealth of India's 100 richest people hit a record high of 57.3 lakh crore (\$775 billion) in 2021.

- ✓ These details were released by Oxfam India, based on the 'Inequality Kills Report: The Davos India Supplement' report released on January 16
 - ✓ The report is part of the global report to be released at the World Economic Forum's virtual event 'The Davos Agenda' on January 17.
 - ✓ In the report, India was described as 'very unequal' country, as top 10 people in India holds 57% of the wealth, while the share of bottom half is 13%.
- **Henley Passport Index 2022**
- Japan and Singapore - tops the list of being the most powerful passport in the world for the year 2022, according to the Henley Passport Index 2022
 - ✓ The nationals of these two countries can visit as many as 192 destinations without the need of a prior visa.
- **Climate of India - 2021**
- ✓ Meteorological Department (IMD) published its "Climate of India during 2021" report on January 21, 2022.
 - ✓ As per report, year 2021 was the fifth warmest year in India since country-wide records started in India in 1901.
 - ✓ India reported a loss of 1,750 lives because of extreme weather events in 2021.
 - ✓ Maharashtra was the most adversely affected state, with 350 deaths.
 - ✓ Among extreme weather events, lightning & thunderstorms was responsible for highest 787 lives followed by floods, heavy rains, and landslides, causing deaths of 759 people.
 - ✓ Cyclones was responsible for 172 deaths in different states in 2021.
- **Electricity Market Report**
- Global electricity demand - increased by 6% year-on-year in 2021, based on the bi-annual Electricity Market Report released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ✓ Global energy intensity decreased by 1.9% year-on-year, which was only half as compared to the level required to lay foundation for net-zero by 2050.
 - ✓ In 2021, the electricity generation from renewable sources increased by 6% year-on-year, while the generation from coal was increased by 9%.

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.

➤ **India Among Top 10 Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Adopters**

- ✓ India is among the top 10 nations in the world in terms of technological advancements and funding in artificial intelligence (AI), according to findings from a study published by The Brookings Institution.
- ✓ It ranks sixth in terms of spending and investments on AI.
- ✓ The nations leading AI achievements ahead of India are the US, China, the UK, France, Japan and Germany.

➤ **The Most Popular Global Leader**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - ranked the most popular global leader with an approval rating of 71%, according to a survey undertaken by US consulting firm Morning Consult.
- ✓ He was followed by Mexico's Andrés Manuel López Obrador (66%), Italy's Mario Draghi (60%) and Japan's Fumio Kishida (48%)
- ✓ PM Modi had the lowest disapproval ratings among all the leaders tracked at 21%.

➤ **International Corruption Index**

- ✓ India ranks 85 in Transparency International's corruption index with a score of 40, India ranks at 85th position in the Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), 2021.
- ✓ The report cites India's case as "particularly worrying".

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
January 1	Global Family Day	It is celebrated as a day of peace and sharing
January 4	World Braille Day	Braille, which serves as a communication medium for blind and partially sighted people
January 6	World Day of War Orphans	World Day of War Orphans is marked to create awareness about the plight of children who have lost their parents due to conflict.
January 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of the country
January 10	World Hindi Day	
January 11	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day	The day aims at raising awareness of the plight of human trafficking victims, and promoting and protecting their rights
January 12	National Youth Day	In India, the National Youth Day is celebrated on 12 January annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda
January 14	Armed Forces Veterans Day	The day aims to acknowledge and honour the selfless devotion and sacrifice of our veterans in the service of the nation
January 15	Indian Army Day	The Army Day in India is celebrated 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.
January 15	Thiruvalluvar Day	
January 16	National Startup Day	On January 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that <i>January 16</i> will be celebrated as ' <i>Startup</i> ' day as they will be the backbone of a new India
January 19	<u>NDRF Raising Day 2022</u>	The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrates its Raising Day every year on January 19th
January 24	National Girl Child Day	The day aims to spread awareness among the public about inequities faced by girls in the Indian society
January 24	International Day of Education	The theme of 4th International Day of Education in 2022 is Changing Course, Transforming Education. The celebration is led by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
January 25	<u>National Voters Day 2022</u>	The National Voters Day aims to encourage the new voters to enroll themselves in the electoral process
January 25	National Tourism Day of India	The Indian government established January 25 as the National Tourism Day to raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the country's economy
January 26	73rd Republic Day	It was on this day in 1950 that the Indian Constitution came

		into effect. India thus became a sovereign state, declaring it a republic
January 28	Lala Lajpat Rai's 157th birth anniversary	
January 30	Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs Day	This day marks the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
January 30	World Leprosy Day	This year theme of World Leprosy Day 2022 is "United for Dignity"
January 31	National Commission for Women (NCW) Foundation Day	The theme for 2022 is 'She The Change Maker'

MISCELLANEOUS

➤ **Children's Word of the Year 2021**

- ✓ The Oxford University Press (OUP) has picked up 'Anxiety' as the Children's Word of the Year 2021, based on their recent research.

➤ **Jai Bhim' & Marakkar - Oscars 2022**

- ✓ Indian Movie's Jai Bhim and Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham have been officially shortlisted for the Oscars 2022.
- ✓ Jai Bhim is the fourth Indian film to get nominated for Oscars after Mother India, Salaam Bombay, and Lagaan.

