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Current Affairs - English ***FEBRUARY' 2022***



**GUIDANCE BY EXPERIENCED JUDGES,
ADVOCATES AND ACADEMICIANS.....**

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PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY

“CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTH OF *FEBRUARY*’ 2022”

LAW AND AMENDMENT

SC on Gender Cap in Orchestra Bars

- The Government of Maharashtra had placed a restriction limiting the number of female and male performers in orchestra bars to four each, but the Supreme Court (SC) overturned it.
- The SC said the limit of performers should not exceed the number 8, but there should not be any restriction on gender composition. The bench that passed the order consists of Justice S. Ravindra Bhat and Justice K.M. Joseph.
- The SC said that this gender cap breaks the performers’ fundamental rights as well as those of the license owners under Article 19 (1) (g) and Article 15 (1) of the Indian Constitution.
- Orchestra performances are a common feature for which a license has to be procured, namely the Premises and Performance licenses under the Maharashtra Police Act, 1951’s Licensing and Performance for Public Amusement including Melas, Cabaret Performance, and Tamashas Rule, 1960.

SEDITION LAW

- Calling for abolishing the law on sedition, former Supreme Court judge Rohinton Nariman has expressed concern on booking critics of the Government for sedition.
- What are his Concerns:- While those Exercising free speech were being booked under the stringent sedition law, those giving hate Speech are not being dealt with by Authorities. He said, it is time to completely do away with sedition laws and allow free speech so long as it does not exhort somebody to Violence.
- Sedition, which falls under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, is defined as any action that brings or attempts to bring hatred or contempt towards the Government of India and has been illegal in India since 1870.
- The sedition law has been in controversy for far too long. Often the governments are criticized for using the law - Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) - against vocal critics of their policies.
- Therefore, this Section is seen as a restriction of individuals’ freedom of expression and falls short of the provisions of reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech under Article 19 of the Constitution.

‘Presidential Fleet Review’

- President Ram Nath Kovind conducted a Fleet Review of the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam.
- President Kovind is in Visakhapatnam for a three-day visit to Eastern Naval Command.
- Visakhapatnam is hosting the Fleet Review for the second time.
- First Fleet Review was hosted in 2006 by the then President of India, APJ Abdul Kalam.
- The Fleet Review is done with the aim of assuring the country of preparedness, high morale, and discipline of the Indian Navy.
- This year marked the twelfth Fleet Review.
- It is being conducted on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India’s Independence.

MARITAL RAPE

- The Delhi High Court is hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the exceptions to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, Which exempts forceful sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife

from the offence of Rape, Provided the Wife is above 15 years of age, also known as the Marital Rape Exception.”

- The petition before the Delhi High Court asking for Marital Rape to be criminalized are an outcome of the Government refusal to pay heed to the landmark report by the Justice J.S. Verma Committee, constituted in the aftermath of the Nirbhaya Gang Rape in 2012.
- The Punishment of Rape is provided under Section 376 of IPC.
- The 2013 J.S Verma Committee, formed, recommended:-
- Making Marital Rape a Crime, but this was not part of Criminal Law Amendment Act passed in 2013 and Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs found to examine the ordinance before the passage of the law said, “the entire family system will be under great stress” should Marital Rape be Criminalised.
- The exception for Marital Rape be removed and the law must specify that a marital or other relationship between the perpetrator or victim is not a valid defence against the crimes of Rape or sexual violation.

DEFAULT BAIL

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed an appeal against the Bombay High Court order, which granted statutory bail to lawyer-activist Sudha Bharadwaj.
- The high court had granted Bharadwaj default bail saying that the extension of time for investigation and detention under provisions of Section 43D(2) of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure had not been done by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- The court noted, “The hard facts which thus emerge so far as the application of Sudha Bharadwaj are:
 - (i) that the period of detention of 90 days (excluding the period of house arrest) expired on 25th January 2019;
 - (ii) no charge-sheet was lodged;
 - (iii) there was no lawful order of extension of the period of detention; and
 - (iv) an application preferred by Sudha Bharadwaj for default bail awaited adjudication.”
- This is enshrined in Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- The issue of default bail arises where it is not possible for the police to complete an investigation in 24 hours, the police produce the suspect in court and seek orders for either police or judicial custody.
- For most offences, the police have 60 days to complete the investigation and file a final report before the court.
- However, where the offence attracts death sentence or life imprisonment, or a jail term of not less than 10 years, the period available is 90 days.
- In other words, a magistrate cannot authorise a person’s judicial remand beyond the 60-or 90-day limit.
- At the end of this period, if the investigation is not complete, the court shall release the person “if he is prepared to and does furnish bail”.
- It is also known as statutory bail.

ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

- Meghalaya Speaker rejected Congress’ plea to disqualify its 12 MLAs who deserted the party and joined TMC and declared their move as ‘valid’ under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution.
- The 10th Schedule of the Constitution contains provisions relating to disqualification on the ground of defection.
- It was included under the 52nd Constitution Amendment Act, also called Anti Defection Act (1985).
- The anti-defection law penalises individual Members of Parliament (MPs)/Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) for defecting from one party to another.
- Its objective was to promote government stability by deterring legislators from switching parties.

PEGUSUS CASE

Issues address by Supreme court:

- The right to privacy of citizens
- Freedom of the press including the right of journalists to ensure protection of their sources
- Limits on the usage of national security as a shield by the government to block disclosure of facts related to citizen's rights.

Supreme Court Judgment:

- *Manohar Lal Sharma vs. UOI*
- The court rejected the government's plea to set up its own probe.
- The court asserted that the government appointment of probe would violate the settled judicial principle against bias, i.e., that 'justice must not only be done, but also be seen to be done',"
- Formation of Expert Committee:
 - ✚ On account of the government's inaction to file a detailed response to the allegations made by the petitioners, the Court has constituted a panel of experts under former SC judge Justice R V Raveendran.
 - ✚ The court has also asked the Raveendran committee to make recommendations on a legal and policy framework to protect citizens against surveillance and enhance cyber security of the country.

“Right to be forgotten” is part of the Fundamental Right to Privacy

- The Central government has told the Delhi High Court that the “right to be forgotten” is part of the fundamental right to privacy.
- **Court's stand:** The right of an individual to exercise control over his personal data and to be able to control his/her own life would also encompass his right to control his existence on the Internet.
- “Right to be forgotten” allow a person to seek deletion of private information from the Internet.
- The government said that Personal Data Protection Bill contains the provision of the “right to be forgotten”.
- In May 2019, Justice Pratibha M Singh of the Delhi High Court said that the “right to be forgotten” and “right to be left alone” are parts of the Right to Privacy.
- The right to be forgotten is also recognized in Turkey and Siberia while the right is not recognized by law in India.
- The right to be forgotten, also known as the right to erasure, is the common name for a right that was first established in the European Union in 2014 after a ruling by the Court of Justice of the European Union.
- In 2017, the Right to Privacy was declared a fundamental right by the Supreme Court in its landmark verdict.
- The court said at the time that, “the right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution”.

Karnataka HC Ban on Online Gaming Unconstitutional

- On February 14, 2022, Karnataka High Court struck down provisions of the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021, that had banned online games.
- The division bench was headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Krishna S. Dixit.
- According to the bench, ‘Karnataka Act number 28/2021 to the extent the provisions ultra vires the constitution, however not the entire Act.
- This judgment was interpreted for preventing appropriate legislation concerning subjects like betting and gambling in line with the provisions of the constitution.
- A writ of mandamus was issued to restrain the respondents from interfering with the online gaming business and allied activities of the petitioners.

NDPS (Amendment) Act 2021

- Lok Sabha passed the NDPS (Amendment) Bill that corrects a drafting error in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act retrospectively.
- NDPS (Amendment) Act 2021 replaced an ordinance promulgated on September 30 this year.
- The government said that these retrospective provisions were not “substantive” in nature.
- NDPS (Amendment) Act rectified an error that made provisions in Section 27 of the NDPS Act providing for punishment of those financing illicit trafficking- inoperable.
- NDPS (Amendment) Act 2014 enabled easy access to narcotic drugs for medical necessities but did not amend the penal provision accordingly.
- Retrospective Implementation: Changes made through the NDPS (Amendment) Act 2021 will come in force with the retrospective effect which has raised concerns as criminal laws can't be implemented retrospectively.
- Violative of the Fundamental Rights (Article 20) of the Constitution: Art 20 provides that a person can be punished for an offense retrospectively by the State.
- Setting a Dangerous Precedent: Legal Experts believe that the proposed amendment will set a dangerous precedent and shake people's confidence in the supreme legislative institution.

APPOINTMENT**G Ashok Kumar appointed as India's first national maritime security coordinator**

- Former Vice Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar has been appointed as India's first national maritime security coordinator.
- NMSC will be part of the National Security Council Secretariat, and will report directly to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.
- As an NMSC, Kumar will be the nodal point for all issues and aspects related to maritime security; coordinate between all the agencies involved in maritime security and maritime civil issues; work to improve the country's blue economy needs among other things.

Madhabi Puri Buch appointed as new chairperson of SEBI

- Government has appointed Madhabi Puri Buch as the chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for three years.
- She is the first woman chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- She replaced Ajay Tyagi whose term ended on 28 February 2022.
- She was a whole-time member (WTM) of SEBI from 5 April 2017 to 4 October 2021.
- She also headed a seven-member expert group formed to help Sebi design in-house technological systems.

Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair has been appointed as director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

- Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair has been appointed as the new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- He will replace S Somanath, who recently took over as the chairman of ISRO.
- VSSC is a space research center of the Indian Space Research Organisation.

Centre appoints Dinesh Prasad Saklani as new Director of NCERT

- Dinesh Prasad Saklani has been appointed as the new Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), for five years.
- He is currently a professor of history at the HNB Garhwal University, in Uttarakhand.
- Saklani succeeds Hrushikesh Senapaty, whose five-year term ended in November 2020.

S Kishore has been appointed as the Chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC)

- S Kishore appointed as Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission.
- Prior to this appointment, he was Special Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- SSC is an organisation under the Government of India that recruits staff for various positions in the Government of India's Ministries and Departments, as well as in Subordinate Offices.
- Its headquarters is in New Delhi. It was formed on 4 November 1975.

Emma Terho re-elected as Chair of IOC Athletes' Commission

- The International Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission (AC) has re-elected Emma Terho as the Chair of the commission.
- Emma is a double Olympic bronze medallist and former captain of the Finland women's ice hockey team.
- She took the Chair of the Commission on August 06, 2021, during the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.
- Apart from this, Seung Min Ryu (Republic of Korea, table tennis) has been re-elected as first Vice-Chair of the Commission.

Ravi Mittal as new Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

- Ravi Mittal, the former secretary, Department of Sports, has been appointed as the Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- He will serve as the Chairman of IBBI for a term of five years or till he attains 65 years of age, whichever is early.
- Navrang Saini, a whole-time member of IBBI, was serving as interim chairman on an additional charge since then.

Sonali Singh appointed as Controller General of Accounts

- The Government of India has appointed Sonali Singh to hold the additional charge of the Controller General of Accounts under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- Sonali Singh is serving as the Additional Controller General of Accounts since October 2019.
- She has been appointed in place of Dipak Dash, who superannuated on January 31, 2022.

M Jagadesh Kumar appointed as UGC Chairman

- JNU Vice-Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar has been appointed as Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- This is the second time he has been given this charge.
- He earlier served as the Chairman of UGC from 14 January to 7 February 2017.
- The post of the UGC Chairman fell vacant on December 7, 2021, after Prof D P Singh, who had taken charge in 2018.

Antonio Costa re-elected as the PM of Portugal

- Antonio Costa is serving as the current Prime Minister of Portugal.
- He is serving as the 119th and current Prime Minister of Portugal.
- He was elected on November 26, 2015.

Lt Gen GAV Reddy appointed as Defence Intelligence Agency head

- Lieutenant General GAV Reddy has been appointed as the Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency.
- General Reddy would be succeeding Lt Gen KJS Dhillon.
- He was previously serving as the ninth Commandant of the prestigious Officers Training Academy (OTA), Gaya.
- The post of the Director General is held on a rotation basis between the three Armed services.

Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari takes oath as Chief Justice of Madras HC

- Chief Justice Munishwarnath Bhandari takes oath as Chief Justice of Madras High Court.
- Tamil Nadu Governor Ravindra Narayana Ravi (R.N. Ravi) administered oath to him.
- He was appointed to the Madras High Court after the transfer of Justice Sanjib Banerjee to the Meghalaya High Court in November 2021.
- The President appoints the Chief Justice of the High Court after consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the governor of the state.
- The oath is administered by the governor of the state or Lieutenant Governor in Union Territories or a person appointed by governor.

GA Srinivasa Murthy appointed director of Defence Research and Development Laboratory

- Senior scientist GA Srinivasa Murthy has been appointed as director of Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- GA Srinivasa Murthy joined DRDL in 1987 and worked in the field of structural dynamics, ground resonance testing, electrical integration for various projects.
- He is known for his contributions in the Advanced Naval Systems Program.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Wetlands Day observe every year on 2 February

- The World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2 all over the world.
- The day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.
- World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997.
- 2022 marks 51 years of the Convention on Wetlands.
- The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2022 is 'Wetlands Action for People and Nature'.

World Cancer Day Observed every year on 04 February

- The World Cancer Day is observed every year globally on 4th February by the Union for International Cancer Control.
- World Cancer Day 2022 theme: 'Close the Care Gap'.
- The day aims to raise awareness and education about cancer, and encourage governments and individuals across the world to take action against the prevention, detection, and treatment of the disease.

International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation Observed every year on 06 February

- International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is a United Nations-sponsored annual awareness day that takes place on February 6 every year to eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM).
- Theme 2022: Accelerating Investment to End FGM
- It was first held in 2003.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science: 11 February 2022

- International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed every year on 11 February to achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.
- 2022 Theme: "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us"

World Radio Day observed every year on 13 February

- Every year on February 13, World Radio Day is commemorated.
- World Radio Day is observed to raise awareness of radio's importance and contribution to society's evolution.
- The theme of World Radio Day 2022 is "Radio and Trust". It has 3 sub-themes:
 - ✓ Trust in radio journalism: Produce independent and high-quality content
 - ✓ Trust and accessibility: Take care of your audience
 - ✓ Trust and viability of radio stations: Ensure competitiveness
- UNESCO established the day during its 36th conference in 2011.
- In 2012, the University of Pisa in Italy celebrated the first World Radio Day.

National Women's Day Observed every year on 13 February

- In India, National Women's Day is observed on 13 February each year.
- Sarojini Naidu's birth is commemorated as National Women's Day across the country.
- The 142nd birthday of Sarojini Naidu was commemorated this year.
- International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 8 March.

World Day of Social Justice Observed every year on 20 February

- Every year World Day of Social Justice is observed on 20 February.
- The theme of 2022 World Day of Social Justice is "Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment".
- It is observed to promote the Social Justice across the world to tackle issues related to gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, etc.
- The UN General Assembly adopted 20 February as World Day of Social Justice in 2007 under the leadership of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram Statehood Day celebrated on 20 February

- Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram had celebrated their 36th statehood day in 2022.
- Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram became a full-fledged state of India on 20 February, 1987.
- Mizoram became the 23rd state of India through the 53rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1986.
- Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of India through the 55th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1986.
- On this occasion, the Governor conferred the 'Arunachal Ratna', the highest State Honour to KAA Raja.
- A month-long celebration commemorating the 50 years of Arunachal Pradesh's conception and existence also ended on 20 February 2022.

International Mother Language Day observed on 21 February

- Every year on February 21, International Mother Language Day is commemorated.
- The theme for International Mother Language Day 2022 is "Using Technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and Opportunities".
- International Mother Language Day encourages multilingualism in society and attempts to preserve traditional knowledge and cultures through long-term strategies.
- In 1999, UNESCO declared 21 February as International Mother Language Day at the 30th UNESCO General Conference.
- The United Nations General Assembly had declared 2008 as the International Year of Languages.
- Since 2015, the Ministry of Education of India is celebrating 21 February as Matrihasha Diwas (Mother Language Day).

World Thinking Day celebrated on 22 February

- World Thinking Day, originally known as Thinking Day, is celebrated annually on 22 February by all Girl Guides / Girl Scouts, and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) worldwide.

- 2022-2024 Theme of World Thinking Day is: “Our World, Our Equal Future: The Environment and Gender Equality”
- The day is observed to speak out on issues that affect young women and fundraise for 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 150 countries.
- 22 February commemorates the birthday of Scouting and Guiding founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell and coincidentally also of Lady Olave Baden-Powell, his wife..

Central Excise Day celebrated on 24 February

- Central Excise Day is celebrated in India on February 24 every year
- The day aims to encourage the employees of excise department in carrying out the central excise duty in a better way.
- The Central Excise Day also commemorates the Central Excise and Salt Act, which was enacted on February 24, 1944.

World NGO Day Celebrated every year on 27 February

- The World NGO Day is celebrated on February 27 every year.
- It is an international day dedicated to recognize, celebrate and honour all non-governmental and non-profit organizations, and the people behind them that contribute to the society all year around.
- It was marked for the first time by UN, EU, Nordic Council leaders and international organizations in 2014.

National Science Day celebrated every year on 28 February

- The National Science Day is celebrated on 28 February each year in India to spread the message about the importance of science in the daily life of the people.
- Theme for 2022 – ‘Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future’
- The day also commemorates the discovery of Raman effect.
- Indian physicist Sir C V Raman discovered the Raman effect on 28 February 1928.and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 for it.

Rare Disease Day observed every year on 28 February

- The Rare Disease Day (RDD) is observed every year on the last day of February.
- This year in 2022 it falls on February 28, 2022.
- Theme 2022: “Share Your Colors.”
- The RDD is observed to raise awareness for rare diseases and improve access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases and their families.
- The day was established by the European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS) in 2008 to raise awareness for unknown or overlooked illnesses.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US-Bangladesh to conduct joint air exercise ‘Cope South 22’

- The air forces of Bangladesh and the United States will conduct a joint tactical airlift exercise ‘Cope South 22’ from February 20, 2022.
- The six days exercise has been sponsored by Pacific Air Forces (PACAF).
- The bilateral exercise will be held at Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka; and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
- The goal of the exercise is bolstering bilateral ties between the two countries through tactical airlift sorties and subject-matter expert exchanges.

NDB first multilateral agency to open office in Gift City

- New Development Bank (NDB) will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the Gujarat International Finance Tech City (Gift).
- New Development Bank (NDB) has received the approval for the same and will open the office in May 2022 in GIFT City.
- NDB was set up by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). Headquarters- Shanghai, China.

The Conflict of Ukraine-Russia 2022

- The attack on Ukraine by Russia is potentially the onset of war in Europe on top of Russia's behest for an end to NATO's eastward expansion.
- Russia signed an order to officially recognise the independence of two separatist regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine.
- Russia launched an all-out attack on Ukraine through land, air and sea.
- The attacks by Russia are considered as the biggest attack by one state against another in Europe since the Second World War.
- Russia's reason for the invasion is that the Russia's President Mr. Putin declared that he has ordered "a special military operation" to protect people, including Russian citizens who had been subjected to "genocide" in Ukraine, "for this we will strive for the demilitarisation and denazification of Ukraine".
- India's Response:-
 - India abstained from the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution sponsored by the U.S. against Russia.
 - India, as it did in the UNSC meeting, abstained from voting against Russia in the United Nations General Assembly
 - India said that the safe exit of Indian citizens from the region is India's highest priority.
 - India launched "Operation Ganga", to evacuate stranded Indians in Ukraine.
 - The Indian Prime Minister appealed for an immediate ceasefire and a return to dialogue in a telephonic conversation with the Russian President.
 - Though India has not yet spoken against Russia directly, the usage of statements like "sovereignty and territorial integrity of states" suggests that India is growing tougher on Russia.

Canada approved world's 1st plant-derived COVID-19 vaccine

- Canada became the first country in the world that has authorized the use of a plant-based COVID-19 vaccine.
- The two-dose vaccine of Medicigo Inc. (a biopharma company owned by Mitsubishi Chemical and Philip Morris), can be given to adults who are aged between 18 to 64.
- Covifenz is the name given to this vaccine.
- The decision to authorize the vaccine was based on a study conducted on 24,000 adults that showed the efficacy rate of the vaccine is 71% at preventing COVID-19 – although the tests were conducted before the omicron variant emerged.

China welcomes 'Year of Tiger'

- China is celebrating the Spring Festival to welcome the new Year of the Tiger. Last year was celebrated as the Lunar Year of the Ox.
- According to the Chinese Zodiac calendar, the Year of the Ox has ended and the Year of the Tiger has begun from February 1, 2022, and will end on January 21, 2023.
- The tiger is a symbol of bravery, vigor, and strength in Chinese culture. The tiger is the third of the 12 Chinese Zodiac animals.
- Each year is named after one of 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac in a repeating cycle.
- This year, Spring Festival celebrations coincide with the Beijing Winter Olympics.

Israel became first country to allow drones in civilian airspace

- Israel becomes the first-ever country to allow drone flights in civilian airspace.
- The certification was issued to the Hermes Starliner unmanned system by the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority and was manufactured and developed by Elbit Systems, an Israeli defence electronics company.
- The UAVs will be used for the benefit of agriculture, the environment, public welfare, economic activity and against crime.
- For safety reasons, international aviation regulations prohibit uncertified aircraft from flying in civilian airspace, limiting the operation of UAVs to unsegregated airspace.

Nepal will become 1st country to deploy India's UPI platform

- Nepal will be the first country to adopt India's UPI system, which will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) & Manam Infotech to provide the services.
- GPS is the authorized payment system operator in Nepal. Manam Infotech will deploy Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Nepal.

North Korea's New Ballistic Missile

- North Korea fired a suspected ballistic missile.
- It was the first test since nuclear-armed country conducted a record number of launches in January 2022.
- During the firing, missile flew to an altitude of about 390 miles and a range of 190 miles.
- According to Japan, this launch was part of "frequent launches" since the beginning of 2022.
- It is of the view that, North Korea was threatening the security of Japan and international community.
- North Korea conducted its last test on January 30, by firing a Hwasong-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile. This missile was capable of reaching the US territory of Guam.

GoI launches mission named Operation Ganga

- The ministry of external affairs set up 24x7 control centres in order to assist the evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine.
- India also launched a multi-prong evacuation plan titled 'Operation Ganga'.
- Indian nationals will be evacuated through border crossing points with Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Slovak Republic.
- Ministry has activated a dedicated Twitter handle, 'OpGanga'.

NATIONAL NEWS

The Indian Coast Guard is celebrating its 46th Raising Day on 01 February

- The ICG was formally established on February 1, 1977, under the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India.
- ICG operates under the Ministry of Defence.
- India has the fourth-largest Coast Guard in the World.

Union Budget for financial year 2022-2023 presented

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 1 February 2022 presented the Union budget 2022-2023.

- According to Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, the annual financial statement of a year is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the government for that particular year.
- The term 'Union Budget' is nowhere mentioned in the Indian Constitution.
- Union Budget for 2022-23 was her second successive paperless budget.
- India's economic growth is estimated at 9.2% to be the highest among all large economies.
- India's gross domestic product (GDP) in dollar terms has already crossed \$3 trillion.
- Fiscal deficit is projected to be higher at 6.9 per cent this fiscal as against 6.8 per cent estimated earlier. The fiscal deficit of the government for 2022-23 is estimated to be Rs 16,61,196 crore.
- Amrit Kaal, the 25 year long lead up to India @100, the budget provides impetus for growth along four priorities:
 - PM GatiShakti
 - Inclusive Development
 - Productivity Enhancement & Investment, Sunrise opportunities, Energy Transition, and Climate Action.
 - Financing of investments

On World Wetlands Day, two new Ramsar sites were added

- On the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2022 on 2nd February, Government of India added two new Ramsar sites.
- These are:
 - ✓ Khijadiya wildlife sanctuary in Gujarat and
 - ✓ Bakhira wildlife sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh
- With this, the total network of Ramsar sites in India has increased to 49, covering an area of 10,93,636 hectares, the highest in South Asia.
- Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance as per UNESCO's 1971 Convention on Wetlands held in Ramsar, Iran.

Centre nominates Hoysala Temples in Karnataka for World Heritage List in 2022-2023

- The Ministry of Culture has nominated the 'Sacred Ensembles of Hoysala' located in Karnataka for UNESCO's World Heritage List for 2022-2023.
- The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' are UNESCO's Tentative list since April 15, 2014.
- The Hoysala Temples was formally submitted for the nomination by the Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO Vishal V Sharma on January 31, 2022.
- The Hoysalas temples nominated are represented by
 - Chennakesava Temple at Belur (dedicated to Lord Vishnu)
 - Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebidu (dedicated to Lord Shiva)
 - Kesava Temple at Somanathapura (dedicated to Lord Vishnu)

Government forms G20 Secretariat in view India's G20 Presidency in 2022-23

- India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023 and the G20 Summit will be held in India in 2023 (18th edition)
- For its preparation, the government has approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures. The G20 Secretariat will be guided by an Apex Committee headed by Prime Minister and it will have the following members:
 - ✓ Finance Minister- Nirmala Sitharaman,
 - ✓ Home Minister- Amit Shah,
 - ✓ External Affairs Minister- S. Jaishankar, and
 - ✓ G20 Sherpa- Piyush Goyal
- The G20 secretariat will be responsible for implementation of overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering India's forthcoming G20 Presidency.
- In 2021, the G20 Summits was held in Rome, Italy. In 2022 the G20 summit will be held in Bali, Indonesia while in 2023 it will be held in New Delhi, India.

Atal Tunnel Recognised as World's Longest Highway Tunnel by World Book of Records

- The World Book of Records has officially certified the Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet'.
- The award for the achievement was received by Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry, Director General of Border Roads Organisation on February 09, 2022.
- The 9.02 km long highway tunnel has been constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under the Rohtang Pass on the Leh-Manali Highway in Himachal Pradesh.
- It was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020.

India becomes first country to administer 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 On February 05, 2022.
- It is a Painless and Needleless vaccine given at intervals of 28 days and 56 days.
- It is the second India-made vaccine to get emergency authorization in India after Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

FAITH releases India tourism vision document envisaging goals and benchmarks for tourism till 2035

- Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) has released the FAITH 2035 vision document containing 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.
- FAITH is the policy federation of all the national associations representing the complete tourism, travel and hospitality industry of India. Nakul Anand is the chairman of FAITH.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs allocates Rs. 2.26 Crores for Telangana's Medaram Jatara Festival 2022

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, has sanctioned Rs. 2.26 Crores for Medaram Jatara 2022 Festival in Telangana.
- In 2022, the festival is being held from February 16 to 19, 2022.
- Medaram Jatara is the second-largest fair in India, after the Kumbh Mela.
- The four day tribal festival is celebrated once in two years in the month of "Magha" (February) on the full moon day, in Medaram Village of Mulugu district in Telangana.
- The festival is organised by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana, the Koya tribe, in collaboration with the Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Telangana.
- Medaram Jatara is conducted in honour of the Goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma. It was declared a State Festival in 1998.

PM Narendra Modi dedicates to nation 'Statue Of Equality' in Hyderabad

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad to the nation on February 05, 2022 dedicated to 11th-century Bhakti saint Sri Ramanujacharya.
- It is the second tallest metallic statues in sitting position in the world. (Great Buddha of Thailand is the tallest statue, at 302-feet.)
- The 'Statue of Equality' has been built to commemorate the 1000th birth anniversary of Sri Ramanujacharya, who promoted the idea of equality in all aspects of living, including faith, caste, and creed.

STATE NEWS**48th Khajuraho Dance Festival Commences in Madhya Pradesh**

- The 48th edition of the world famous Khajuraho Dance Festival began in Madhya Pradesh on February 20, 2021.
- The week-long festival is organized annually since 1975, by the state Culture Department, MP Tourism and the Archaeological Survey of India.
- The festival will culminate on February 26, 2022.
- The Khajuraho Dance Festival is an internationally acclaimed cultural event, hosted at the magnificent city of Khajuraho located in the Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh.
- The festival highlights the richness of the Indian classical dance forms like Kathak, Odissi, Manipuri, Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, and Mohiniattam, to promote and encourage dance, artists, culture and heritage of India.

Government approved a proposal to rename three places in Madhya Pradesh.

- The Central government has recently approved the proposal to rename three places in Madhya Pradesh.
- Government changed the name of Hoshangabad Nagar as "Narmadapuram", Shivpuri as "Kundeshwar Dham" and Babai as "Makhan Nagar".
- Hoshangabad was named after Hoshang Shah and it is located on the bank of the Narmada River.
- Babai has been renamed after the Makhanlal Chaturvedi. He was a freedom fighter and a renowned Hindi poet. Babai is the birthplace of Makhanlal.
- The change in the name of a state can be done through the amendment in Constitution with a simple majority in Parliament.

Haryana Cabinet approved draft of anti-conversion Bill

- The Haryana Cabinet has approved the draft of the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Bill, 2022.
- Its main objective is to prohibit religious conversion through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurements, by marriage.
- The bill has the provision of stricter punishment for conversion of minors, women, Scheduled Castes, and the Scheduled Tribes.
- It puts the onus on the accused to prove that conversion was not done through misrepresentation, use of coercion, and false marriage.
- Every individual converting from one religion to another has to submit a declaration to the prescribed authority.
- Apart from this, it has provisions to declare void and illegal marriages which are performed by hiding religion.
- According to Indian Constitution, "State has no religion, all religions are equal, and no religion shall be given preference over the other"

Goa is celebrating a four-day long 'Viva Carnival' from 26 February

- Carnival Festival is one of the most popular festivals of Goa.
- This year, it will be celebrated from 26 February to 1 March.
- It is celebrated by Catholics before the month of Lent. The Lent season is about six weeks ahead of Easter.
- It is also observed to mark the end of winter and the beginning of spring.
- Panaji is the center of attraction of this festival. This year, Emilio Dias has been crowned as King Momo.
- On this occasion, Float parades are also organized in the various parts of the state.

India's first geopark to be set up in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh

- India's first geological park is being set up at Lamheta village of Jabalpur district in Madhya Pradesh.
- The approval to set up the geopark has been granted by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- The estimated cost of setting the project is Rs 35 crore.
- Geoparks are unified area where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. These parks also promotes the economic well-being of the people living there.
- GSI is the scientific agency of India under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

Rajasthan government presented budget for financial year 2022-23

- Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot has presented the budget of Rajasthan for the Financial Year 2022-23.
- A separate agriculture budget has been presented by the government in the assembly.
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan announced the formation of the Rajasthan Industrial Security Force.
- Under Indira Gandhi Shahri Rozgar Guarantee Yojna, 100 days of employment will be given in urban areas.
- Rajasthan government will increase the employment days from 100 to 125 under MGNREGA.
- Electricity up to 50 units per month will be provided for free.
- The government has increased health cover from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh per family in a year.
- The government has allocated Rs 5,000 crore for CM Krishak Saathi Yojna.
- The government has allocated Rs 2,700 crore for the Rajasthan Micro Irrigation Mission. It will benefit more than 5 lakh farmers.

PM Modi to virtually launch Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant at Indore in MP

- PM Modi will virtually launch Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant at Indore in Madhya Pradesh.
- This Bio CNG plant will be run from 100% wet waste. The plant is built in PPP mode.
- It has been established on 15 acres land of Indore Municipal Corporation in Devguradia area with an investment of Rs 150 crore.
- 400 buses can be run daily with the gas generated from the Bio-CNG plant.
- Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest state in India in terms of area.

Kerala's first caravan park to be set up at Wagamon

- The first caravan park of Kerala will be set up at Wagamon in the Idukki district.
- Caravan parks includes less-crowded places with natural beauty. People can experience beautiful locations of the state while traveling in the caravan.
- It has been launched under the Keravan Kerala project to boost tourism in the state. It will be implemented by the Tourism department with private partners.
- The Keravan Kerala project was launched to bring new technology and facilities to the tourism sector. Artists, artisans, and Kudumbasree Mission would also be part of this project.

SPORTS

2022 Winter Olympics held in Beijing

- The closing ceremony of 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games was held on February 20, 2022, at National Stadium (known as the Bird's Nest) in Beijing.
- The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, was held from 4 to 20 February 2022.
- Norway topped medal table for the second successive Winter Olympics, winning a total of 37 medals, including 16 golds. This is a new record for the most amount of gold medals won at a single Winter Olympics.

- The venues of the Games were distributed across three zones- Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou.
- The Indian team at the game was represented by one male alpine skier, Arif Khan.
- India could not win any medal at the games.

Singapore Weightlifting International 2022

- India concluded its campaign at the Singapore Weightlifting international 2022 with eight medals including six golds and a silver and bronze each.
- Each of the eight Indian lifters who registered for Singapore international won medals and secured their spot at the Birmingham 2022 commonwealth Games.
- India now has a total of 12 weightlifters qualified for the commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.
- **Mirabai Chanu** has won the **gold medal** in the 55kg weight category.
- Vikas Thakur and Venkat Rahul Ragala has also won Gold.
- Indian weightlifters qualified for Commonwealth Games 2022:-
 - Mirabai Chanu
 - Bindyarani Devi
 - Popy Hazarika
 - Usha Kumara
 - Purnima Pandey
 - Sanket Mahadev
 - Chanambam Rishikanta Singh
 - Jeremy Lalrinnunga
 - Achinta Sheuli
 - Ajay Singh
 - Vikas Thakur
 - Ragala Venkat Rahul

Sadia Tariq won gold medal in Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022.

- She recently won a Gold medal in the 20th Junior National Wushu Championship at Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar.
- She had also won gold medals in the 19th and 20th Junior National Championship held in Haryana and Jalandhar respectively.
- She was encouraged and supported by Mr. Kuldeep Handoo, a former Wushu player and current national chief coach of Wushu team in India.
- Wushu or Kungfu is a martial art as well as a sport.
- She is from Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022 is being organized in Moscow from February 22 to 28.

India becomes No.1 team in ICC T20I rankings for the first time in the last six years

- India has overtaken England, which had 269 rating points.
- Previously, India held the top spot in ICC T20I rankings during Mahendra Singh Dhoni's leadership.
- Recently, the Indian team has won the T20 series against West Indies by 3-0.
- India's last defeat in T20 came in the 2021 T20 World Cup group stage against New Zealand.

India defeats England to win ICC Under 19 World Cup Finals 2022

- Indian Cricket team has defeated England by 4 wickets to win the 2022 ICC Under-19 World Cup Championship.
- This is the 5th time that India has won this title.
- The tournament was held in West Indies. The Final match was played at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, North Sound, Antigua
- Yash Dhull is the winning captain from the Indian side.
- Player of the tournament: Dewald Brevis (South Africa)

- Player of the Match in the Finals: Raj Bawa (India)

Chelsea beat Palmeiras to win 2021 FIFA Club World Cup Champions

- English club Chelsea defeated Brazilian club Palmeiras, 2-1, to win the 2021 FIFA Club World Cup final, held on February 12, 2022.
- Chelsea has won the FIFA Club World Cup for the first time. The decisive goal was scored by Kai Havertz with 3 minute of extra time to go.
- The final was held at Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi.

China wins AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022

- China has won AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 Football Tournament.
- China defeated the Korea Republic by 3-2 in the final of the AFC Women's Asian Cup at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.
- The head coach of the Chinese team Shui Qingxia has become the first former player to win this title as a coach.
- China won the AFC Women's Asian Cup title for the ninth time.
- AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 was the 20th edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup.
- India hosted the tournament from 20 January to 6 February.
- 12 teams have participated in the tournament

IOC approves proposal to include new sports at 2028 Olympics

- The International Olympic Committee has approved a propo-sal to include the Surfing, Skateboarding and Sport Climbing for the 2028 summer Olympic Games that will be organised in the Los Ange-les.
- The 2028 Summer Olympic officially known as the Games of the XXXIV Olympiad or Los Angeles 2028.
- The 2024 Summer Olympic Games will be organised in Paris France.
- With this Paris become only the second city to host 3 Summer Olympic Games.

Rafael Nadal Wins Mexican Open 2022

- Rafael Nadal won the singles title of Mexican Open 2022 (also known as Acapulco title). This is the 91st ATP title of his career and the third title of the season.
- This is the fourth time that Rafael Nadal has won the Mexican Open title, after winning the previous ones in 2005, 2013 and 2020.
- Men's double title winners are Feliciano Lopez (Spain) and Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece).

AWARDS

Winners of Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022

- The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 was held in Mumbai on February 20, 2022 to honour and appreciate the creativity & talent of Indian Film and Television Industry.
- Some of the winners are given below:
 - Film of the Year – Pushpa: The Rise
 - Best Film – Shershaah
 - Best Actor – Ranveer Singh for 83
 - Best Actress – Kriti Sanon for Mimi
 - Best Director – Ken Ghosh

Sandeep Bakhshi named Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21

- Sandeep Bakhshi has been named the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21.
- He is the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank.
- The winner was chosen by a jury of 5 members chaired by former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor S S Mundra.
- For 2020-21, ICICI Bank reported a net profit of Rs 16,193 crore against Rs 7,931 crore during the previous financial year

Nitin Gadkari received 18th Late Madhavrao Limaye Award

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari will be facilitated for the first time with the 18th late Madhavrao Limaye award in the category of Karyakram Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) for the year 2020-21.
- This award will be facilitated by Nashik Public Library, Sarvajanik Vachanalay.
- Earlier, the award was given to Karyaksham Aamdaar, an efficient Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Maharashtra.

Coal India gets 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award

- Maharatna Company of the Government of India, Coal India Limited has been awarded the 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award.
- Coal India received this honour at the "Energy Meet and Excellence Award" function organized by Industry Chamber "ASSOCHAM" in Kolkata.
- The company has got this honour at a time when Coal India has not allowed the situation of power crisis in the country by significantly increasing coal production and supply in the last few months to meet the increased demand for coal for the power sector.

Prof Deepak Dhar became the first Indian selected for Boltzmann Medal

- Deepak Dhar has become the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal.
- The Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) presents this medal once in three years for contributions in the field of statistical physics.
- The medal presentation ceremony will be held during the StatPhys28 conference scheduled to be held in Tokyo in August this year.
- He shares the medal with John J Hoefield of Princeton University.

17th IBA's Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021 announced by Indian Banks' Association

- Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has announced the IBA's 17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021.
- In total South Indian Bank has won 6 awards in the event.
- This year's IBA Awards celebrating "Next Gen Banking" has recognized technologies and practices in the banking industry that have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over the past year.

REPORT AND INDEX**India ranks 43 in 2022 International IP Index**

- India has been ranked at 43rd place in the 2022 International Intellectual property (IP) Index released by the Global Innovation Policy Center of U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- US has topped the ranking in which 55 countries have been ranked.
- The top five countries in the ranking are:
 - Rank 1- United States
 - Rank 2- United Kingdom

- Rank 3- Germany
- Rank 4- Sweden
- Rank 5- France

Jammu and Kashmir tops India Press Freedom Report 2021

- Jammu and Kashmir has topped the list of States and Union Territories where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021 as per the India Press Freedom Report 2021.
- The report was released by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) which is a New Delhi-based rights group.
- The highest number of journalists or media organizations targeted was in J&K (25), followed by Uttar Pradesh (23), Madhya Pradesh (16), Tripura (15), Delhi (8), Bihar (6), Assam (5), Haryana and Maharashtra (4 each), Goa and Manipur (3 each), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (2 each), and Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Kerala (1 each).

India is ranked at 46th place in EIU's Democracy Index for 2021

- India is ranked at 46th place in Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index for 2021.
- India's score is 6.91. Its score is lowest (5) on the parameter of political culture and highest (8.67) on the parameter of electoral process and pluralism.
- Norway occupies first place in the democracy index followed by New Zealand, Finland and Iceland.
- Afghanistan is ranked at the last place in the index followed by Myanmar (2nd position from bottom) and North Korea (3rd position from bottom).
- Indonesia (ranked at 52nd) has shown second biggest improvement globally (after Zambia) in its total index score.
- Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) is part of the Economist Group. It brings out Democracy Index and Government Broadband Index.
- EIU Democracy Index is based on 60 indicators grouped into five parameters:-
 - ✓ These parameters are electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture.

India topped Salesforce 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.
- It is based on a survey of more than 23,500 workers from 19 countries.
- 72% of respondents in India say that they are learning new digital skills.
- 66% of respondents in India also said that they feel very equipped with resources to learn digital skills.
- Digital marketing has been ranked as the top workplace skill in India.
- According to this Index, India will create 1.3 million jobs and new business revenues of \$66.4 billion by 2026.

India's millionaire households have increased by 11% in 2021 Hurun India Wealth Report

- According to the Hurun India Wealth Report 2021, India's millionaire (USD) households have increased by 11% but the happiness Index has fallen as compared to the previous year.
- At present, there are 4.58 lakh households that are millionaires in India. These households have a net worth of at least ₹7 crores.
- As per this report, the number of millionaire households will increase by 30% over the next five years and it will reach to 6 lakh households by 2026.
- The happiness Index of this report is based on the survey of 350 dollars millionaire's households.

- It indicates that the number of millionaires who classify themselves as happy has decreased from 72 percent to 66 percent in 2021.
- Mumbai topped the list of cities with the most number of millionaires, followed by Delhi and Kolkata.
- This report also throws light on the brand preferences, consumption habits, and lifestyle trends of Indian millionaire.

TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021: Mumbai 5th most-congested city in the world

- As per the Tom-Tom Traffic Index Ranking 2021, Mumbai has been ranked at 5th, Bengaluru at 10th in terms of the most congested cities in the world in 2021.
- Delhi and Pune ranked 11th and 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 lists.
- Istanbul, Turkey has been declared as the most congested city in the world as per the ranking. while Moscow came in second.
- The ranking covers 404 cities across 58 countries.

Niti Aayog developing National Gender Index

- NITI Aayog is in the process to develop a National Gender Index.
- The objective of the National Gender Index is to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions.
- It will serve as a tool to map the progress of India's States and UTs on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change.
- The information was released in the Annual Report 2021-22 of NITI Aayog.

Bloomberg Billionaires Index: Gautam Adani overtook Mukesh Ambani

- In accordance with the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Gautam Adani net worth reached \$88.5 billion overtaking Mukesh Ambani's \$87.9 billion becoming Asia's richest person as on 8th February 2022.
- With a nearly \$12 billion jump in his personal wealth, he has become the 10th richest person in the world.
- Globally Elon Musk was named as the world's richest person with a total net worth of \$235 Billion. He was followed by Jeff Bezos with a total net worth of \$183 Billion & Bernard Arnault with a total net worth of \$168 Billion.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Rabindranath Tagore's biography 'History of Sriniketan' authored by historian Uma Das Gupta

- The biography of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore titled "A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore's Pioneering Work in Rural Construction", written by historian and Tagore biographer Uma Das Gupta has been released.
- It has been published under Niyogi Book's 'Paper Missile' imprint.
- The book throws light on Tagore's lesser known work for rural reconstruction by setting up 'Sriniketan', (a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan), in 1922.

Union Health Minister released a book titled 'A Nation To Protect'

- A book titled 'A Nation To Protect: Leading India Through The COVID Crisis' has been unveiled by Mansukh Mandaviya.
- It is the third book of Priyam Gandhi Mody and it mentions about Prime Minister's role and motivation during the Covid crisis.

- It also mentioned the role of Mansukh Mandaviya as Fertilisers Minister during the second wave of COVID-19.

Kiran Bedi's new book 'Fearless Governance' released

- Based on the ground realities of nearly five years of service as the 24th Lt Governor of Puducherry, Kiran Bedi has penned down her journey of governance in the book 'Fearless Governance'.
- It was launched by Indra Nooyi (former Chairperson and CEO of PepsiCo) and Prof Debashis Chatterjee (director, IIM Kozhikode).
- It has been published by Diamond Books.

Book titled 'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic' by Bill Gates to be launched in May 2022

- A book titled 'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic' 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.
- Bill Gates' last book 'How to Avoid a Climate Disaster' was published in 2021.

M S Dhoni's first look from graphic novel 'Atharva: The Origin' released

- Virzu Studios in association with MIDAS Deals Pvt Ltd has released the motion poster of its upcoming graphic novel, Atharva – The Origin.
- Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been portrayed as the superhero Atharva in this graphic novel.
- The graphic novel is authored by Ramesh Thamilmani.

India's first-ever season style book 'The Class of 2006' released

- India's first-ever season style book 'The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life', has been released.
- It has been written by management professional Akash Kansal.
- It consists of 18 different episodes, each with a Learning Box.
- The book aims to cover the different real-time life experiences and stages of college life.

A book titled 'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra' By Navdeep Gill released

- A short biography 'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra' penned by sports author Navdeep Singh Gill was released.
- It is the seventh book written by Navdeep and the sixth placing focus on the sports as well as the sportspersons.
- The book brought out by Lokgeet Prakashan is from the genre of children's literature.
- The book has 72 pages and covers the life history and achievements of Neeraj

SCHEMES

Central government to launch 'Meri Policy, Mere Haath' drive

- 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 PMFBY.
- (PMFBY): Its aim is to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage due to natural calamities.

- PM Modi had launched operational guidelines of PMFBY on February 18, 2016 at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.
- Its implementation started from Kharif season 2016. PMFBY has entered in 7th year of implementation from 2022 Kharif season.
- Under the scheme, farmers can report crop loss within 72 hours of the occurrence of any event through Crop Insurance App, CSC Centre or the nearest agriculture officer.
- The scheme allows farmer to resolve grievances through IEC activities such as Crop Insurance Week.

Government announced 'PM-DevINE' scheme for North East

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East (PM-DevINE) scheme while presenting the Union Budget 2022-23.
- The PM-DevINE scheme will be implemented through the North-Eastern Council.
- The government has allocated Rs 1,500 crores for this new scheme.
- The PM-DevINE scheme will fund infrastructure and social development projects in the North East.
- The main objective of this scheme is to enable livelihood activities for youth and women and to fill the gaps in various sectors.
- NECTAR Livelihood Improvement Project (Multi-State), Construction of Aizawl By-pas, Pilot Project for Construction of Bamboo Link Road, etc. will receive the funds under this scheme.

Government has decided to continue Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram scheme

- The Government has decided to continue the "Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram" Scheme in order to achieve the goals of developing the youth's personality and leadership qualities.
- Over the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26), the scheme has been extended for another five years at a cost of Rs 2,710.65 crore.
- This Scheme is the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' flagship Central Sector Scheme.
- The beneficiaries of the Scheme are young people between the ages of 15 and 29, as defined by the National Youth Policy of 2014.
- The RYSK Scheme programme includes Skilling and Handholding-Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, Combating COVID-19, Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Teams.

Ministry of Power notifies Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia Policy

- Government had launched the National Hydrogen Mission on India's 75th Independence Day (i.e. 15th August, 2021).
- Now the Ministry of Power has notified the Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia Policy.
- Target of Government: This is in line with Government's target of production of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030.

Bhasha Certificate Selfie Campaign has been launched by Ministry of Education

- The campaign has been launched to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- It aims to promote Bhasha Sangam mobile app, which is an initiative of the Ministry of Education and MyGov India.
- The app is developed by a startup named Multibhashi.

New India Literacy Programme approved by Centre for FY 2022-2027

- A new scheme, New India Literacy Programme, has been approved by the government for the period of FY 2022 to 2027.
- The scheme will include all aspects of adult education and will be in line with the National Education Policy 2020 and the Budget Announcements for 2021-22.
- Government has now replaced the term "Adult Education (प्रौढ़ शिक्षा)" as 'Education for All' in the country.

- Adult Education and Lifelong Learning are recommended in the National Education Policy 2020.
- The objective of the scheme is to impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21st century.
- The entire cost of the 'New India Literacy Programme' is estimated to be over 1037 crore rupees.
- Performance Grading Index (PGI) for State/UT and district level will show the performance of States and UTs in implementing the scheme.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launches Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)

- The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar launched a central sector scheme named the Scheme for Economic Empowerment for DNTs, (SEED) on February 16, 2022.
- The objective of SEED is the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic tribal Communities, which are the most neglected, marginalized and economically and socially deprived communities.
- Total financial outlay for SEED Scheme is approximately Rs 200 crore to be spent over a period of 5 years starting Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The scheme will have following four components:-
 - ✓ To provide coaching of good quality for DNT/NT/SNT candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations.
 - ✓ To provide health insurance to DNT/NT/SNT Communities.
 - ✓ To facilitate livelihoods initiative at community level to build and strengthen small clusters of DNT/NT/SNT Communities institutions.
 - ✓ To provide financial assistance for construction of houses to members of the DNT/NT/SNT Communities.

Rahul Gandhi launches welfare scheme for farm labourers in Chhattisgarh

- Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a financial assistance scheme of the Chhattisgarh government for landless labourers of rural areas.
- The scheme is called 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana'.
- 'Rajiv Yuva Mitan Club' scheme' was also launched.
- He also laid the foundation stone of a memorial to be built at the 4th battalion of Chhattisgarh Armed Force.

Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022 announced by the Government

- 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.

'Heal in India' initiative has been launched to boost medical facilities and infrastructure

- The plan of this initiative is to standardize processes and treatment packages for foreign nationals.
- The goal of the initiative is to reframe the "medical tourism" industry.
- This step could also include price checks to ensure that patients who are visiting on a medical visa are not overcharged.
- The government also plans to set up a certified grievance redressal procedure for international patients.
- The government is also planning a parallel campaign named 'Heal by India'.
- It will consider providing manpower from India in the health care sector based on the needs in other countries

BANKING, ECONOMY AND FINANCE

Government set fiscal deficit target of 6.4% for FY 2022-23

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the Fiscal deficit is estimated to be 6.4% of GDP in 2022-23.
- The government has set a target to reach a fiscal deficit level below 4.5% by 2025-26.
- The Revised Fiscal Deficit in the current year is estimated at 6.9 % of GDP.
- The Fiscal Deficit of the Government for 2022-23 is estimated to be Rs. 16, 61,196 crores.
- The capital expenditure will increase by 35.4% from Rs 5.54 lakh crore in the current year to Rs 7.50 lakh crore in 2022-23. It will be around 2.9% of GDP.
- The 'Effective Capital Expenditure' of the Government will remain Rs. 10.68 lakh crore while total expenditure is estimated to be Rs 39.45 lakh crore.
- The government borrowing for 2022-23 is estimated to be Rs 11,58,719 crores.

NABARD launched 'JIVA' programme to promote natural farming

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched the 'JIVA' programme to promote natural farming under watershed and wadi programmes.
- 'JIVA' programme aims to transform the pre-existing social and natural capital and to promote natural farming as commercial farming.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was founded in 1982.
- It is an apex bank for the regulation of regional rural banks and cooperative banks in India.
- It works under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.
- G.R. Chintala is the Chairman of NABARD.

Moody's forecasts India's growth rate to be 8.4 percent in FY23

- Moody's Investors Service raised its growth rate prediction for the Indian economy for the financial year 2022-2023 (FY23) to 8.4% from 7.9% previously.
- According to the latest Moody's Global Macro Outlook report, higher oil prices and supply distortions will continue to "drag on growth".
- On the other hand, Fitch Ratings maintained its earlier forecast of 10.3 percent growth in FY23.
- According to Moody's, the Indian economy is expected to grow at a rate of 9.5 percent in FY22.
- The 5.5 percent GDP growth estimate for 2023 has been maintained.
- While the Economic Survey predicts that India's GDP will increase by 8% to 8.5% in 2022-23, and the Budget predicted a real-term growth of 7.6% to 8.1%.
- Moody's forecasts that the G-20 economies will collectively expand by 4.3% in 2022, down from 5.9% in 2021.

Global trade rises 25% in 2021 to hit record high of \$28.5 trillion: UNCTAD

- The UN Conference on Trade and Development released its annual Global Trade Update 2022 on 17 February 2022, which shows that the value of global trade, both in goods and services, reached a record level of \$28.5 trillion in 2021.
- This is an increase of 25% compared to 2020 and 13% higher compared to 2019.
- The main factors behind the positive trend for trade in 2021 was increase in commodity prices, subsiding pandemic restrictions and a strong recovery in demand due to economic stimulus packages
- However, the UNCTAD report indicates that trade growth will slow during the first quarter of 2022.
- The factors responsible for slowdown may include slower than expected economic growth, continued supply chain disruptions, rising concerns about debt sustainability, transition towards a greener global economy, trade agreements and trade regionalisation.

ADB committed record US\$4.6-bn loans to India in 2021

- As per the data released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) it provided a record USD 4.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2021.
- This included USD 1.8 billion towards coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response.
- The USD 4.6 billion was committed by ADB for 17 loans.
- The USD 1.8 billion COVID-19-related assistance included USD 1.5 billion for vaccine procurement and USD 300 million to strengthen primary health care in urban areas and the country's future pandemic preparedness.

India's unemployment rate drops to 6.57% in January 2022

- 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.
- Telangana reported the lowest unemployment rate at 0.7 percent in January, followed by Gujarat (1.2%).

RBI became second largest buyer of gold in 2021

- RBI has become second largest buyer of gold among the world's Central Banks in 2021.
- Central Bank of Thailand was the largest buyer of gold in 2021. It bought 90 metric tonnes of gold.
- RBI bought 77.5 metric tonnes of gold in 2021. This is second highest ever buying after 2009. In 2009, RBI had bought 200 metric tonnes from the International Monetary Fund.
- RBI's total gold reserves reached to 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021. This amounts to 6.22% of India's forex reserves.
- As per RBI data, India's total reserve stood at \$633.61 billion at the end of December 31, 2021.

US regains top spot as India's trade partner in 2021

- The US 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.
- In 2020, China was India's top trading partner and the US was in the second rank. In 2019 USA was India's top trading partner and China was on second.
- India's list of top ten trading partners also includes the UAE, Saudi Arab, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Iraq, Indonesia and South Korea.

The NITI Aayog has commenced Fintech open month

- NITI Aayog has started the Fintech Open Month from February 07, 2022 in coordination with PhonePe.
- It is a first-of-its-kind initiative where fintech professionals can collaborate, exchange ideas, and innovate. It will continue till Feb 28, 2022.
- The overarching theme of Fintech Month of NITI Aayog is 'OPEN'. It aims to achieve three key objectives –
 - ✓ encourage an OPEN ecosystem across the FinTech industry;
 - ✓ Foster co-innovation and growth;
 - ✓ Ensure financial inclusion and leverage new models like Account Aggregator to unleash the next wave of fintech innovation.
- It will bring together regulators, Fintech professionals and enthusiasts, industry leaders, the start-up community, and developers on a common platform to exchange ideas for fintech.

Dabur becomes first Indian plastic waste neutral FMCG Company in India

- Dabur India has become the first Indian consumer goods company to become completely plastic waste neutral.

- It has done this by collecting, processing and recycling around 27,000 metric tonnes of post-consumer plastic waste during FY21-22.
- Dabur has achieved the landmark of surpassing its plastic packaging usage with recycling.
- Dabur has also announced the launch of a new 'Save the Environment' campaign in Himachal Pradesh to create awareness within communities on managing plastic waste within their households.

DEFENCE

Indian Navy's multilateral exercise Milan-2022 begins in Visakhapatnam

- Indian Navy's multilateral exercise MILAN 2022 kicked off on February 25, 2022 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The theme of the MILAN 2022 exercise is 'Camaraderie – Cohesion – Collaboration'
- MILAN 22 will be conducted in two phases over a duration of 9 days. These include:
 - ✓ Harbour phase – from 25 to 28 February
 - ✓ Sea Phase – from 01 to 04 March
- More than 40 countries are participating in the exercise, which is larger in 'scope and complexity' than all previous editions.
- The exercise will enhance operational skills, imbibe best practices and procedures, and enable doctrinal learning in the maritime domain, through professional interaction between friendly navies.
- MILAN is a biennial multilateral naval exercise launched by Indian Navy in 1995 at Andaman and Nicobar Command.

Third India-Japan joint exercise 'EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022' to be held at Belagavi

- The third edition of the joint military exercise "EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022" between India and Japan will be conducted from 27 February to 10 March 2022, at Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka.
- The 15th Battalion the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army and 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) are participating in this 12 days long joint exercise.
- The military exercise will focus on operations in Jungle & Semi-Urban/Urban terrains.
- The exercise aims at enhancing the inter-operability and foster mutual understanding between the two Armies.
- Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual military training event, being conducted in India since 2018.

Indian Navy's fifth Scorpène 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).
- All of the submarine's systems, including propulsion, weapons, and sensors, will now be tested extensively at sea.
- This submarine is expected to be delivered to the Indian Navy in 2022.
- Kalvari-class submarines are designed by French company DCNS. It can help in anti-submarine warfare missions, intelligence gathering, mine laying, etc.
- INS Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj, and Vela are four of the six submarines under the project that have been commissioned into the Indian Navy.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO successfully launches PSLV-C52 with three satellites

- ISRO has successfully launched Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C52 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- PSLV-C52 has placed three satellites into orbit. It placed EOS-04 radar imaging satellite weighing 1710 kgs into orbit. This was PSLV-C52 launch vehicle's 54th launch in the series.
- EOS-04 will provide high-quality images under all weather conditions. It will be positioned into a Sun synchronous polar orbit gradually.
- PSLV-C52 also placed a co-passenger INS-2TD technology demonstrator satellite into orbit.
- It also placed INSPIRE sat-1 student satellite into orbit. INS-2TD is a precursor to India-Bhutan Joint Satellite INS-2B.

SpaceX launches 49 Starlink satellites into orbit

- SpaceX has added another 49 satellites to its growing Starlink internet megaconstellation.
- A Falcon 9 rocket launched 49 new Starlink satellites to orbit on 3 February, lifting off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.
- This new set of Starlinks, known as Group 4-7, will join more than 1,800 functional satellites in the constellation.
- This was the third Starlink launch of 2022.

Chandrayaan-3 to be launched in August 2022

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Chandrayaan-3 is scheduled for launch in August 2022.
- The Minister informed that 19 missions are planned during January to December 2022.
- They include 08 Launch Vehicle Missions, 07 Spacecraft Missions and 04 Technology Demonstrator Missions.

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCE

PM Narendra Modi delivers inaugural address at TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit 2022

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at World Sustainable Development Summit via video conferencing on February 16, 2022.
- The World Sustainable Development Summit is the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- The three day Summit will culminate on February 18, 2022.
- The theme for World Sustainable Development Summit 2022 is 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'.
- Some key issues to be discussed at the Summit includes climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, global commons and resource security.

ASEAN-India High-Level Conference on Renewable Energy commenced on 7 February.

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Ministry of External Affairs organised the ASEAN-India High-Level Conference on Renewable Energy on 7 and 8 February.
- The High-Level Conference is focused on the theme of "Experience and Innovations for the Integrated Renewables Market."

- The ASEAN-India High-Level Conference will have five technical sessions that will facilitate specialists from India and ASEAN to explore topics of mutual interest.
- Policymakers, professionals, academia and students from around the world will participate in this conference.

4th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting concluded in Melbourne, Australia

- 4th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting concluded in Melbourne, Australia.
- This was the third in-person meeting of Quad foreign ministers after their second meeting in Tokyo in October 2020 and inaugural meeting in New York in September 2019.
- The ministers last held talks virtually in February 2021. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Australia's Marise Payn participated in the meeting.
- At the meeting, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar has called for a free and open Indo-pacific and rule-based international order.
- QUAD was established in 2007. Australia, India, Japan, and the United States are members of this forum.

PM Modi took part in the high-level segment of One Ocean Summit

- The One Ocean Summit was held from February 9 to 11, 2022, in Brest, France, in Hybrid format, under the chairmanship of French President Emmanuel Macron.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also addressed the One Ocean Summit through a video message on February 11, 2022.
- The One Ocean Summit was organised by France in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.
- The main objective of the Summit was to bring together the international community to take concrete action towards preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.
- It must be remembered that the United Nations has declared the decade between 2021 and 2030 as the 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development' to raise awareness and restore declining marine life.

Archaeological Survey of India is organizing international conference on the theme 'Devayatanam - An odyssey of Indian temple architecture'

- The two-day conference is being organized at Hampi, Karnataka. The conference has started from 25 February 2022.
- Union Minister for Culture G Kishan Reddy inaugurated the conference. The inaugural session has been organized at Pattabhirama Temple, Hampi.
- During the conference, eminent scholars will discuss various facets of the great temples of India.
- Scholars will also discuss the various faces and styles of temple architecture such as the Nagara, Vesara, Dravida, Kaling.
- Pattabhirama Temple:
- It is notable for its size and completeness. A hall is located in front of the main sanctum of the temple. This hall is an example of Vijayanagara style composite pillar architecture.
- Pattabhirama temple complex is also known as Varadevi Ammana Pattana. It was built in the early 16th century. It is dedicated to Rama (Vishnu avatar).

International Conference on "MSMEs: Legislative and Regulatory Challenges" organized by IBBI

- International Conference on "MSMEs: Legislative and Regulatory Challenges" was organized by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- The conference was organized in association with UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCAP), Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) and Tamil Nadu National Law University (TNNLU).
- Four technical sessions and an international roundtable were included in the Conference.

- Mr. Ritesh Kavdia, Executive Director, IBBI chaired the international roundtable.
- United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL): is a subsidiary body of UN General Assembly.

Ministry of Culture will organize a global summit on "Reimagining Museums in India."

- The Ministry of Culture will organise a first-of-its-kind two-day Global Summit on "Reimagining Museums in India."
- The summit is being organized to celebrate the glorious history, culture, and achievements of its people.
- The Global Summit will bring together the museum's leading luminaries, domain experts, and practitioners around the world to discuss best practices and strategies.
- The Summit is being held in collaboration with Bloomberg.
- Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of Culture will inaugurate the summit.
- The online summit will cover four major themes:
 - ✓ Architecture and Functional Needs
 - ✓ Management
 - ✓ Collections (including Curation & Conservation practices)
 - ✓ Education and Audience Engagement

MISCELLANEOUS

India becomes third country in world to record 5 lakh deaths

- India crossed the milestone of 5 lakh COVID19 deaths on 3 February 2022, becoming the third country in the world to do so after the US and Brazil.
- The country took 217 days to reach 5 lakh deaths from 4 lakh recorded on July 1, 2021, the longest time taken to record 1 lakh fatalities.
- The country's death toll had crossed three lakh-mark on May 23 and two lakh-mark on April 27, 2021.

Legendary Singer Lata Mangeshkar passes away At 92

- Indian Singer Lata Mangeshkar has died in Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital due to multiple organ failures.
- She was 92 years old. She started her singing career at the age of 13 and recorded her first song in 1942.
- Lata Mangeshkar is lovingly referred to as the 'Nightingale of India'. Queen of Melody was another nick name for her.

Aravalli Biodiversity Park declared as India's first OECM site

- On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, the Aravalli Biodiversity Park situated in Gurugram has been declared as India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site.
- The OECM status is given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity.
- National Biodiversity Authority had sent the proposal to declare Aravalli Biodiversity Park an OECM site to the IUCN in 2020.
- The Aravalli mountain range is one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world and is considered as the green lungs of Delhi-NCR

Queen Elizabeth II becomes first British monarch to rule for 70 years

- 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.

- She became the longest-lived British monarch on 21 December 2007. In 2017, she became the first British monarch to commemorate a Sapphire Jubilee.
- 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.

‘World's largest Igloo Café’ opened in Gulmarg

- The world’s largest Igloo Café has been opened in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir. It’s called Snowglu.
- It has become a center of attraction for tourists. It has a height of 37.5 feet and a diameter of 44.5 feet.
- According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the biggest igloo café is in Switzerland. Its height is 33.8 feet and its diameter is 42.4 feet.
- Gulmarg is a famous hill station in the Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is situated in Pir Panjal Range in the Western Himalayas.

J&K government signs pact with New Zealand for transforming sheep farming sector

- The Jammu and Kashmir government has signed a pact with New Zealand for the transformation of the sheep farming sector in the Union territory of J&K.
- The year 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of the commencement of bilateral relations between India and New Zealand.
- Objective is to improve farmers’ remuneration, transfer of technology in research and development, marketing and value addition of sheep products of Jammu and Kashmir.

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated which edition of its Raising Day ceremony on February 01, 2022?
 - (a) 46th
 - (b) 42nd
 - (c) 44th
 - (d) 49th
2. Name the winner of the 2022 Mexican Open tennis tournament?
 - (a) Stefanos Tsitsipas
 - (b) Daniil Medvedev
 - (c) Rafael Nadal
 - (d) Novak Djokovic
3. Union Ministry of Culture has nominated the 'Sacred Ensembles of Hoysala' or UNESCO's World Heritage List for 2022-2023. The Hoysala temples are located in which state of the country?
 - (a) Kerala
 - (b) Andhra Pradesh
 - (c) Tamil Nadu
 - (d) Karnataka
4. Operation Ganga is a special evacuation mission launched by the Government of India to bring back Indian nationals from which country?
 - (a) Afghanistan
 - (b) Belarus
 - (c) Russia
 - (d) Ukraine
5. The World Wetlands Day is observed every year on which day?
 - (a) First Wednesday of February
 - (b) February 02
 - (c) First Tuesday of February
 - (d) February 01
6. Who is the author of the book 'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic'?
 - (a) Tim Cook
 - (b) Elon Musk
 - (c) Bill Gates
 - (d) Steve Jobs
7. ISRO successfully launched which earth observation satellite, in its first launch of the year 2022?
 - (a) EOS-2
 - (b) EOS-5
 - (c) EOS-3
 - (d) EOS-4
8. Every year 4th of February is observed as which day globally?
 - (a) World Hypertension Day
 - (b) World Cancer Day
 - (c) World Science Day
 - (d) World Girl Child Day

9. The 2022 Winter Olympics is being held in Beijing. What is the official slogan of the event?
 - (a) United by Emotion
 - (b) Faster, Higher, Stronger
 - (c) Together for a Shared Future
 - (d) Passion. Connected
10. Jens Stoltenberg is the head of which of the following organization?
 - (a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
 - (b) North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)
 - (c) World Trade Organization (WTO)
 - (d) Association of South East Nations (ASEAN)
11. How many gold medals have been won by India at the Singapore Weightlifting International 2022?
 - (a) 3
 - (b) 8
 - (c) 5
 - (d) 6
12. India has pulled out from which of these multilateral exercise in 2022, amid growing crises in Ukraine?
 - (a) Sea Breeze
 - (b) Cobra Warrior
 - (c) Desert Knight
 - (d) Shared Destiny
13. What is the rank of India in the 2022 International Intellectual property (IP) Index released by the Global Innovation Policy Center of U.S. Chamber of Commerce?
 - (a) 47
 - (b) 45
 - (c) 49
 - (d) 43
14. Sadia Tariq was in news recently for winning a gold medal for India in which event?
 - (a) Wushu
 - (b) Fencing
 - (c) Boxing
 - (d) Weightlifting
15. What is the projected GDP growth forecast for India in the Calendar Year 2022, according to the Moody's?
 - (a) 8.5%
 - (b) 7%
 - (c) 9.5%
 - (d) 9%
16. The National Women's Day is commemorated in India every year on February 13, to mark the birth anniversary of whom?
 - (a) Indira Gandhi
 - (b) Mother Teresa
 - (c) Sarojini Naidu
 - (d) Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
17. The World Radio day is celebrated annually on which day?
 - (a) 11 February
 - (b) 13 February

- (c) 10 February
(d) 12 February
18. Name the scheme launched by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the welfare of the Transgender community and the beggars?
(a) SMILE
(b) WINNER
(c) PROUD
(d) VALUE
19. The Indian Air Force will be participating with which of its aircraft to showcase in the 'Singapore Air Show-2022'?
(a) Dornier
(b) Tejas
(c) Sukhoi
(d) Dhruv
20. The 'Kisan Drone Yatra' which was inaugurated virtually by PM Modi, was organised at which place?
(a) Denradun
(b) Manesar
(c) Shimla
(d) Gurgaon
21. What is the estimated GDP growth rate of India in the FY22, as per India Ratings?
(a) 7.3 percent
(b) 9.1 percent
(c) 8.6 percent
(d) 10.2 percent
22. Which Indian state is known for the annual Khajuraho Dance Festival and in 2022 which edition of the festival was celebrated?
(a) Jammu & Kashmir; 47th
(b) Rajasthan; 48th
(c) Tamil Nadu; 47th
(d) Madhya Pradesh; 48th
23. Name the programme launched by NABARD to promote natural farming?
(a) PRAAN
(b) URJA
(c) AYUSH
(d) JIVA
24. The Chairman of the High Powered Committee (HPC) formed by the Supreme Court for the Char Dham road widening project, has announced his resignation. Name the Chairperson?
(a) Chandi Prasad Bhatt
(b) Mike Pandey
(c) Jadav Payeng
(d) Ravi Chopra
25. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC)?
(a) H.L Prasad
(b) S Kishore
(c) B.B Singh
(d) Deepti Umashanker

26. What was the rank of the Reserve Bank of India in terms of buying Gold among the world's Central Banks in 2021?
- 1st
 - 3rd
 - 2nd
 - 5th
27. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has been qualified directly for 2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG) in which weight category, after winning gold in Singapore Weightlifting International 2022 qualifier?
- 45kg
 - 55kg
 - 65kg
 - 75kg
28. 'Heal by India' is an initiative by the Government of India to improve India's educational institutions with focus on which sector?
- Infrastructure
 - Tourism
 - Agriculture
 - Health
29. Name the winner of Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians in 2021?
- Ramdorai Sujatha
 - Neena Gupta
 - Amalendu Krishna
 - Ritabrata Munshi
30. Which of the following countries are not among the top five nations, listed in the 2022 International Intellectual property (IP) Index?
- Singapore
 - France
 - Germany
 - United States
31. The EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022 has been organised in which place?
- Jhansi
 - Pithoragarh
 - Belagavi
 - Umroi
32. The International Olympic Committee session will be held at which place in 2023?
- Mumbai
 - Beijing
 - New York
 - Paris
33. Who will be the head of the Apex Committee on G20 Secretariat, formed to oversee the preparations for G20 India Summit 2023?
- Home Minister
 - External Affairs Minister
 - G20 Sherpa
 - Prime Minister
34. Which team has won the 2021 FIFA Club World Cup Championship?
- Chelsea
 - Manchester City

- (c) Liverpool
(d) Palmeiras
35. In February 2022, two new sites from India has been added to the Ramsar list. Name the two newly added sites.
I. Khijadiya Wildlife sanctuary, Gujarat
II. Udaypur Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar
III. Bakhira Wildlife sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh
IV. Bhairamgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Chhattisgarh
(a) I & III
(b) II & IV
(c) I & II
(d) III & IV
36. In 2017, SEBI had formed a “Committee on Corporate Governance” which recommended separating the roles of Chairperson and MD/CEO of listed entities. Who was the head of this committee?
(a) Anand Mahindra
(b) Cyrus Poonawalla
(c) Dilip Shanghvi
(d) Uday Kotak
37. The National Dam Safety Authority has come into force on February 18, 2022. The Authority has been set up under which Act?
(a) Dam Safety Act 2019
(b) Dam Safety Act 2017
(c) Dam Safety Act 2021
(d) Dam Safety Act 2011
38. India defeated which team to win the 2022 ICC Under-19 World Cup Championship?
(a) Pakistan
(b) Australia
(c) New Zealand
(d) England
39. The World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on which day?
(a) February 19
(b) Third Sunday of February
(c) February 20
(d) Third Saturday of February
40. Name the bank which has recently acquired the highest stake in India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL)?
(a) Canara Bank
(b) State Bank of India (SBI)
(c) Punjab National Bank (PNB)
(d) Union Bank of India (UBI)
41. Veteran Indian singer and composer, Bappi Lahiri has passed away. On the political end, he was associated with which party?
(a) Communist Party of India (Marxist)
(b) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
(c) Indian National Congress
(d) All India Trinamool Congress

42. What is the most recent revised GDP growth rate of India for FY22 as per SBI's Research Report, Ecowrap?
- (a) 9.3 percent
 - (b) 8.8 percent
 - (c) 8.3 percent
 - (d) 9.5 percent
43. Antonio Costa is re-elected as the Prime Minister of which country?
- (a) Finland
 - (b) Estonia
 - (c) Portugal
 - (d) Germany
44. 'Cope South 22' is a joint airlift exercise between which countries?
- (a) Bangladesh and the United States
 - (b) India and Nepal
 - (c) United States and Japan
 - (d) Japan and Bangladesh
45. Which base year is used to calculate the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on constant prices?
- (a) 2011-12
 - (b) 2010-11
 - (c) 2014-15
 - (d) 2008-09
46. The legendary Nightingale of India, Lata Mangeshkar passed away at the age of 92 recently. In which year was the singer honored with the prestigious Bharat Ratna award?
- (a) 2010
 - (b) 2005
 - (c) 2001
 - (d) 1999
47. Which team has won the Senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-22 in men's category?
- (a) Indian Army
 - (b) Indian Railways
 - (c) Kerala
 - (d) Haryana
48. What is the theme of 2022 International Mother Language Day (IMLD)?
- (a) Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education
 - (b) Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society
 - (c) Indigenous languages matter for development, peace building, and reconciliation
 - (d) Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities
49. In India, when is the Central Excise Day observed?
- (a) February 23
 - (b) February 22
 - (c) February 20
 - (d) February 24
50. World NGO Day is commemorated annually on which day globally?
- (a) Last Saturday of February
 - (b) February 28
 - (c) Last Sunday of February
 - (d) February 27

51. Who has been appointed as the Chair of International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission (AC)?
- Emma Terho
 - Anne Helin
 - Heidi Pelttari
 - Nina Tikkinen
52. Who has been honoured with the Outstanding Contribution to Film Industry award at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022?
- Mumtaz
 - Waheeda Rehman
 - Asha Parekh
 - Hema Malini
53. What is the rank of India in the EIU's 2021 Democracy Index?
- 39
 - 54
 - 46
 - 58
54. How many sites in India are listed in UNESCO's Tentative List of Heritage Sites?
- 41
 - 46
 - 52
 - 61
55. Which tunnel in India has been recognised as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet' by World Book of Records?
- Zoji-la Tunnel
 - Atal Tunnel
 - Banihal Qazigund Road Tunnel
 - Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Road Tunnel
56. Name the President of Germany, who has been re-elected to the post in 2022 election?
- Angela Merkel
 - Olaf Scholz
 - Christian Lindner
 - Frank-Walter Steinmeier
57. Which country hosted the One Ocean Summit, organised in February 2022 in collaboration with World Bank and UN?
- Sweden
 - Germany
 - France
 - Israel
58. Which Indian PSU has bagged the honour of 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award at the Energy Meet 2022 & Excellence Awards of ASSOCHAM?
- Coal India Limited
 - NTPC Limited
 - Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
 - Indian Oil Corporation

59. Centre has notified a new campaign titled Meri Policy Mere Hath. This campaign has been launched under which scheme?
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)
 - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
 - Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
 - Atal Pension Yojana (APY)
60. International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is marked annually on which day?
- February 21
 - Third Monday of February
 - Third Sunday of February
 - February 20
61. With the conclusion of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, which country has been handed over the Presidency to host the 2026 Winter Olympics?
- Italy
 - UAE
 - Russia
 - Germany
62. Which country bagged the maximum number of medals at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games?
- China
 - Germany
 - Norway
 - South Korea
63. Government has launched Purple Revolution in Jammu & Kashmir. It is associated with the cultivation of which crop?
- Rose
 - Cedarwood
 - Lavender
 - Almond
64. The National Science Day is commemorated every year in India on which day?
- Last Monday of February
 - 28 February
 - 27 February
 - Last Sunday of February
65. What is the theme of National Science Day 2022?
- The Future of STI
 - Future of STI: Impact on Education Skills and Work
 - Women in Science
 - Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future
66. Heather Knight has won the ICC Women's Players of the Month Award for January 2022. She plays for which country?
- Netherlands
 - South Africa
 - New Zealand
 - England
67. Which country will host the G20 Summit in 2022?
- Indonesia
 - Italy

- (c) Japan
(d) South Korea
68. Name the Union Minister for Power in the Government of India, who co-chaired the 4th India-Australia Energy Dialogue recently with his Australian counterpart?
(a) Hardeep Singh Puri
(b) Raj Kumar Singh
(c) Pralhad Joshi
(d) Ashwini Vaishnaw
69. Who has been appointed as the Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency recently to replace Lieutenant General KJS Dhillon?
(a) Lt. Gen GAV Reddy
(b) Lt. Gen S. C. Malhan
(c) Lt. Gen Kamal Davar
(d) Lt. Gen Rahul M. Kharge
70. Since when is Reserve Bank of India celebration the Financial Literacy week?
(a) 2010
(b) 2015
(c) 2016
(d) 2013
71. What is the old name for PMKSY?
(a) SAMADHAN
(b) SAMPADA
(c) SIDDHI
(d) SAUBHAGYA
72. Who has been named as Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21?
(a) Sandeep Bakhshi
(b) Amitabh Chaudhry
(c) Aditya Puri
(d) Shyam Srinivasan
73. Which state/UT has topped the India Press Freedom Report 2021 released by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG)?
(a) Uttar Pradesh
(b) Tripura
(c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Jammu and Kashmir
74. Sainya Ranakshetram was a first ever Hackathon organised by which organisation recently?
(a) DRDO
(b) NABARD
(c) NITI Aayog
(d) Indian Army
75. Which country has become the first in the world to allow Drones to operate in civilian airspace?
(a) United States
(b) Germany
(c) Israel
(d) France

76. Who is the author of the book “Atal Bihari Vajpayee”?
- Sagarika Ghose
 - Karan Thapar
 - Rajdeep Sardesai
 - Swati Chaturvedi
77. Which cricket player has been selected for the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award 2021?
- Daryl Mitchell
 - Martin Guptill
 - James Neesham
 - Henry Nicholls
78. The final match of 2022 ICC Under-19 World Cup Championship was held at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. In which country is this stadium based?
- West Indies
 - Antigua and Barbuda
 - Barbados
 - England
79. Which country recently test fired its intermediate-range ballistic missile Hwasong-12?
- China
 - Japan
 - North Korea
 - South Korea
80. As per CRISIL rating agency, what is the estimated GDP growth rate projection of India for the fiscal 2021-22?
- 8.2%
 - 9.2%
 - 7.2%
 - 10.2%
81. India has become the first country to administer a DNA vaccine against COVID-19. Which company has produced this plasmid DNA vaccine?
- Ranbaxy Laboratories
 - Serum Institute of India
 - Bharat Biotech
 - Zydus Cadila
82. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has approved to set up the first ever geological park in the country in which city?
- Dehradun
 - Gorakhpur
 - Jabalpur
 - Amravati
83. Ping an Insurance is the top most valuable insurance company globally as per the latest Brand Finance report of 2022. The company is from which country?
- France
 - China
 - Germany
 - Singapore
84. Who is the author of the biography on Neeraj Chopra titled ‘Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra’?
- Manorama Jafa
 - Navdeep Singh Gill

- (c) B. N. Goswamy
(d) Jagreet Kaur
85. In popular choice category award, which state has won first position for Best Tableau among 12 states/UTs category for 2022?
(a) Punjab
(b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Maharashtra
86. Arif Khan, who is the lone Indian athlete to attend the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics is qualified for which Olympic sports?
(a) Fencing
(b) Skiing
(c) Hockey
(d) Skating
87. Centre as sworn in whom as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) recently in place of Dipak Dash?
(a) Anil Yadav
(b) Dinesh Kumar Gupta
(c) Sonali Singh
(d) Ashok Kumar Pal
88. Who has been appointed as the new full-time Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in 2022?
(a) Dinesh Prasad Saklani
(b) Hrushikesh Senapaty
(c) Sridhar Srivastava
(d) Anita Karwal
89. Which team has won the AFC Women`s Asian Cup India 2022?
(a) India
(b) China PR
(c) Japan
(d) South Korea
90. For the first time, a female Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has been appointed by the Government of India. Name the new VC of JNU.
(a) Basanti Dulal Nagchaudhuri
(b) Sangita Srivastava
(c) Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit
(d) Mamta Brahma Bhatt
91. Christos Sartzetakis, who passed away recently was the former President of which country?
(a) Italy
(b) Sweden
(c) Norway
(d) Greece
92. What was the total corpus under the PM CARES Funds in 2020-21?
(a) Rs 10,980.17 crore
(b) Rs 10,890.17 crore
(c) Rs 10,990.17 crore
(d) Rs 10,880.17 crore

93. Which is the first Union Territory to be integrated with the National Single Window System (NSWS)?
- (a) Delhi
 - (b) Ladakh
 - (c) Chandigarh
 - (d) Jammu & Kashmir
94. Which country has scored the highest on digital readiness among the 19 countries that were surveyed as part of the Sales force Global Index?
- (a) India
 - (b) China
 - (c) Japan
 - (d) USA
95. Which of the following space agency is not responsible for managing International Space Station?
- (a) CNES
 - (b) Roscosmos
 - (c) JAXA
 - (d) CSA
96. India is committed to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by which year?
- (a) 2050
 - (b) 2030
 - (c) 2070
 - (d) 2040
97. Which player has been awarded with the World Games Athlete of the Year award for 2021?
- (a) Sunil Chhetri
 - (b) PR Sreejesh
 - (c) Taylor Cummings
 - (d) Savita Punia

ANSWER - KEY									
1	A	21	C	41	B	61	A	81	D
2	C	22	D	42	B	62	C	82	C
3	D	23	D	43	C	63	C	83	B
4	D	24	D	44	A	64	B	84	B
5	B	25	B	45	A	65	D	85	D
6	C	26	C	46	C	66	D	86	B
7	D	27	B	47	D	67	A	87	C
8	B	28	D	48	D	68	B	88	A
9	C	29	B	49	D	69	A	89	B
10	B	30	A	50	D	70	C	90	C
11	D	31	C	51	A	71	B	91	D
12	B	32	A	52	C	72	A	92	C
13	D	33	D	53	C	73	D	93	D
14	A	34	A	54	B	74	D	94	A
15	C	35	A	55	B	75	C	95	A
16	C	36	D	56	D	76	A	96	C
17	B	37	C	57	C	77	A	97	B
18	A	38	D	58	A	78	B		
19	B	39	C	59	B	79	C		
20	B	40	A	60	A	80	B		

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