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Current Affairs - English

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

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PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY**“CURRENT AFFAIRS
MONTH OF JANUARY’ 2022”****LAW AND AMENDMENT****Supreme Court upholds constitutional validity of OBC quota**

- The Supreme Court has upheld the constitutional validity of the 27% reservation for OBC in NEET UG and PG. 10% EWS reservation will also apply for this year’s admission as per existing criteria.
- Supreme Court also said that criteria of ₹8 lakh gross annual family income limit for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) would be applicable for this year’s admission.
- On November 30, 2021, the Government had constituted Pandey Committee to review the criteria for the EWS quota.
- It recommended that the existing EWS criteria should be retained for NEET admissions in 2021-2022.
- Reservation in India: Reservation for Other Backwards Classes (OBC) was introduced based on the recommendation of the Mandal Commission Report (1991).
- Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act had introduced a 10% EWS quota on 14 January 2019.
- Article 15 (6) is added to provide reservations to economically weaker sections for admission in educational institutions.
- The government had enacted the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 to provide 27% reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in all central higher educational institutions.

Supreme Court expanded meaning of vulnerable witnesses

- Supreme Court included sexual assault victims, people with mental illness and people with speech or hearing impairment under the vulnerable witness category.
- Supreme Court said that vulnerable witnesses should not be limited to only child witnesses.
- Supreme Court instructed the High Courts to form a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre scheme within two months.
- Supreme Court also said that the High court should set up a permanent VWDC committee. It also asked the High court to ensure one VWDC in each district.
- Supreme Court urged Justice Gita Mittal to act as Chairperson of a committee formed for designing and implementing an All India VWDC training program.
- Supreme Court also requested the government to appoint a nodal officer for facilitating logistical support to the Chairperson and to implement its direction

Supreme Court has expanded the scope of rights of daughters in father's property

- Supreme Court has ruled an important verdict regarding the right of daughters on the property of the father.
- The court has said that if a person living in a joint family dies without writing a will, his daughter will also have the right on his property along with his sons.
- Supreme Court verdict came on an appeal against a Madras High Court verdict related to the property rights of Hindu women and widows under the Hindu Succession Act.
- This verdict has been pronounced by a bench of two justices- S Abdul Nazeer and Krishna Murari.
- The court has also said that such a system will also apply to the distribution of property before the enactment of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956.

- The daughters will get preference in the property over her father's brother's sons.
- Section 15 of the Hindu Succession Act propounds a definite and uniform scheme of succession to the property of a female Hindu who dies intestate.

Supreme Court formed a panel headed by Indu Malhotra to probe PM security breach

- The Supreme Court has formed an inquiry committee under the chairmanship of former judge Justice Indu Malhotra to probe the security breach during PM Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab.
- The Director-General of the National Investigation Agency, Director-General of police Chandigarh, additional Director-General of police (security) Punjab, and Registrar General of Punjab and Haryana High Court are the other members of this committee.
- The committee will look into the matter and will decide who was responsible for the security breach.
- It will also suggest necessary safeguards for the security of PM and Constitutional functionaries.
- Ministry of Home Affairs has also set up a three-member committee to enquire into security lapses during PM Modi's Punjab visit. It will be led by Sudhir Kumar Saxena.

APPOINTMENTS

S Somanath appointed as new chairman of ISRO

- S Somanath, a renowned rocket scientist, has been appointed as the next chairman and Space Secretary of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- He will succeed K Sivan, who has completed his tenure as ISRO director.
- He is an expert in the field of launch vehicle system engineering.
- He will serve as the Space Secretary and Chairman of the Space Commission for a combined three-year term.
- He will be ISRO's tenth chairman.
- He currently serves as the Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is a space agency of the Indian government.
- It was founded in 1969 by Vikram Sarabhai.
- Headquarters: Bengaluru

Ayesha Malik to be the first woman Supreme Court judge of Pakistan

- Judicial Commission of Pakistan has approved the elevation of Lahore High Court judge Ayesha Malik to the apex court.
- Her name will now be considered by a parliamentary committee.
- Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) is headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed.
- She will work as a Supreme Court judge until June 2031 before retiring at the age of 65.
- She is likely to become the Chief Justice of Pakistan in January 2030.

Anantha Nageswaran appointed as the Chief Economic Advisor

- The government of India has appointed Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran as its Chief Economic Advisor.
- He took over his new post in the finance ministry.
- He succeeded Krishnamurthy Subramanian, who served as CEA for three years.
- From 2019 to 2021, he was also a part-time member of India's Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.
- Chief Economic Adviser is the post equivalent to the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
- Chief Economic Adviser heads the economic division of the Department of Economic Affairs.

M N Bhandari takes charge as acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court

- Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari was on 22 November 2021 sworn-in as the acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

- He was appointed after incumbent Justice Sanjib Banerjee was transferred to Meghalaya.
- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi administered the oath of office to him.
- From June 26, 2021, to October 10, 2021, Justice Bhandari served as acting Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.

Vinodanand Jha appointed as new chairperson of Prevention of Money Laundering Act Adjudicating Authority

- Vinodanand Jha appointed as new chairperson of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act Adjudicating Authority.
- He will serve as chairperson till the completion of his tenure on 22 June 2022.
- He has been serving as the Member (Finance and Accounts) in the Authority since September 2018.
- The Adjudicating Authority consists of a Chairperson and two Members.
- It is an authority under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to safeguard the interests of the accused against coercive action.
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act was enacted in 2003 but it came into force on 1 July 2005.
- It was enacted to prevent and control money laundering in India.
- The act was amended in 2005, 2009 and 2012.

Vinay Kumar Tripathi appointed as new chairman of Railway Board

- The Railway Board has appointed Vinay Kumar Tripathi as its new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.
- Vinay Tripathi, who is presently the General Manager of the North Eastern Railway, has been appointed as Chairman by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- Indian railways network is fourth-largest in the world by size.
- It was founded on May 8, 1845.
- Currently, it is divided into 18 zones and 70 divisions, with South Coast Railway Zone being the newest zone.

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas appointed as the Chief Economist of IMF

- Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas has been appointed as the next chief economist of the International Monetary Fund.
- He is an economist at the University of California-Berkeley. He has replaced Indian origin Gita Gopinath.
- Gopinath has been appointed as the IMF's first Deputy Managing Director.
- Gourinchas will begin working as part-time IMF Chief Economist from January 24. He will start his full-time tenure on April 1, 2022.
- International Monetary Fund is an international organization. It is designed to promote global monetary cooperation.
- Its headquarters is located in Washington DC. It was established in 1945.
- The Managing Director of IMF is Kristalina Georgieva.

Zhang Ming appointed as Secretary-General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- Zhang Ming, a senior Chinese diplomat, has been named as Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- Zhang has taken over from Vladimir Norov, Uzbekistan's former Foreign Minister, on January 1, 2022 for a three-year term.
- He served until recently as China's ambassador to the European Union.
- China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which is headquartered in Beijing.
- The SCO was founded by the Presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan at a summit in Shanghai in 2001. It is the successor of Shanghai five.
- In 2017, India and Pakistan joined as permanent members of SCO.

Daniel Ortega sworn in as President for fourth term in Nicaragua

- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega was sworn into office for his fourth consecutive term on 10 Jan 2022.
- Alongside him was first lady Rosario Murillo, sworn in for her second term as Vice President.
- Nicaragua is the largest country in the Central American isthmus, bordered by Honduras, the Caribbean, Costa Rica, and the Pacific Ocean.
- Managua is the capital of the country.

Alikhan Smailov named as new Prime Minister of Kazakhstan

- Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev appointed Alikhan Smailov as Prime Minister of Kazakhstan.
- Alikhan Smailov is Kazakhstan's first Deputy Prime Minister.
- During his career, Alikhan Smailov was twice appointed as Deputy Minister of Finance. Between 2015 and 2018, he worked as an Assistant to the Kazakh President.
- Kazakhstan is located in Central Asia.
- Nur-Sultan is the capital and Tenge is the currency of Kazakhstan.

Alka Mittal appointed as CMD of ONGC

- Alka Mittal, ONGC Director has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of the company.
- She becomes the first woman to lead the country's largest oil and gas producer, Oil and Natural Gas Company (ONGC).
- She is the ONGC board's most senior director.
- Nishi Vasudeva was the first woman to head an oil company. She took over the reins of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) in 2014.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) was formed in 1956.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ONGC comes under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Raghuvendra Tanwar appointed as Chairman of ICHR

- Professor emeritus, Kurukshetra University Raghuvendra Tanwar has been appointed as the Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
- Tanwar was awarded the prestigious UGC National Fellowship (Research Award) 20022005.
- He is reputed for his study of India's partition, particularly Punjab.

IMPORTANT DAYS**Global Family Day observed every year on 1 January**

- Every year on 1st January, Global Family Day is commemorated.
- Global Family Day, also known as World Peace Day, is celebrated with the goal of starting the year off with a positive message of world peace and unity.
- In the United States of America, this day is also observed as a global day of peace and sharing.
- On January 1, 2000, the day was commemorated for the first.
- In 2001, Global Families Day was declared an annual event by the United Nations.

World Braille Day is observed every year on 4th January

- World Braille Day is observed every year in memory of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille script. He was born on January 4, 1809.

- World Braille Day marks the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the French educator, who invented the Braille system, after being blinded at a young age.
- World Braille Day is observed to spread awareness about the importance of Braille in communication.

World Day of War Orphans observed every year on 6 January

- World Day for War Orphans is observed every year on 6 January
- It is celebrated to raise awareness about the children who have become orphaned due to wars.
- The main objective of the day is to highlight the emotional, social, and physical challenges of orphaned children.
- World Day of War Orphans reminds people about their responsibility of helping children in crisis-hit areas.
- According to UNICEF, the total number of orphans increased between 1990-2001. After 2001, the number of total orphans has declined consistently.
- According to UNICEF, a child under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents is considered an orphan.
- According to an estimate, orphans are relatively less in developed countries.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrated every year on 9 January

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year on 9 January by the Indian diaspora around the world.
- It is observed to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India.
- It is also observed to mark the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa in 1915.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated to increase the engagement of the Government of India with the overseas Indian community.
- This year, it has been celebrated as the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas around the world.
- Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Conference was also organized by the government of India on 9th January for youths.
- This year the topic for discussion in the Conference was “Role of Diaspora Youth in AKAM – Innovation and New Technologies”.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji's 355th birthday observed on 9 January

- Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th and last Sikh guru was born on January 9, 355 years ago.
- This auspicious occasion is also known as Prakash Parv.
- Gobind Singh Ji was born in January (Paush) 1666 in Patna Sahib, Bihar, to the ninth Sikh Guru Teg Bahadur and Mata Gujri.
- In 1699, Guru Gobind Singh Ji founded the Khalsa, a Sikh military community, and established the Five Ks, which are extremely important to Sikhism.
- The Five Ks of Khalsa Sikhs:
 - Kesh (uncut hair)
 - Kangha (wooden comb)
 - Kara (an iron or steel bracelet)
 - Kirpan (a sword or dagger)
 - Kacchera (short breeches)

World Hindi Day celebrated every year on 10 January

- World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 10 January to mark the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference.
- The first World Hindi Conference took place in Nagpur on 10 January 1975. It was inaugurated by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- It is celebrated to spread awareness about Hindi as an international language.
- In 2006, the Government of India had decided to celebrate 10 January as World Hindi Day.

- Hindi is the third most spoken language after English and Mandarin.
- In India, Hindi Diwas is observed every year on 14th September.
- According to Article 343 of the Indian constitution, Hindi in the Devanagari script is the official language of India.

Lal Bahadur Shastri's 56th death anniversary: 11 Jan 2022

- 11 Jan 2022 marked the 56th death anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- He served as India's second Prime Minister from 1964 to 1966.
- He was famous for his slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day observed every year on 11 January

- On January 11, 2022, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day has been observed.
- The aim of the day is to raise awareness about the condition of human trafficking victims, as well as to promote and protect their rights.
- President Barack Obama had declared the entire month of January "National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month" in 2010 by Presidential proclamation, and each president since has followed this tradition.
- The first National Human Trafficking Awareness Day was observed in 2011.
- United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a body of the United Nations.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland

National Youth Day observed every year on 12 January

- National Youth Day is observed on 12 January every year in India.
- The theme for National Youth Day 2022 is "It's all in the mind".
- In 1985, the Government of India declared Swami Vivekananda's birthday – January 12 – as this day to honour him.

Festivals Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Bihu, Vishu celebrated on 14 Jan

- Festivals Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Bihu, and Vishu are celebrated on 14 Jan 2022.
- The day is devoted to Sun God
- Makar Sankranti marks the annual transit of the Sun from Dhanu (Sagittarius) to Makar (Capricorn) in the Hindu month of Pausha.
- The festival is celebrated as Bihu in Assam, Pongal in Tamil Nadu, and Vishu in Kerala.

Armed Forces Veterans Day observed every year on 14 January

- Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed on January 14 every year, since 2017.
- It is celebrated to honour the sacrifice of veterans serving the nation.
- Year 2022 marks the 6th Armed Forces Veterans Day.
- Armed Forces Veterans Day recognises the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces.

'National Start-up Day' to be celebrated on January 16

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared that January 16 will be celebrated as 'National Start-up Day'.
- He has termed startups as the "backbone" of new India and the engine that will power the nation's economic growth in the run-up to the 100th year of Independence.
- He also informed that the current decade is being referred to as the "techade" of India.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrated its 17th raising day

- NDRF celebrates its raising day every year on 19 January.
- In 2022, it is celebrating its 17th raising day.

- NDRF was raised on 19th January 2006. It is the world's first dedicated stand-alone Disaster Response Force.
- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was established in the year 2006 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- It works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Its main objective is to provide immediate assistance in natural and man-made disasters.
- Its motto is 'Apda Seva Sadav Sarvatra'.
- Atul Karwal is the current Director-General of NDRF.

National Disaster Response Force Raising Day observed every year on 19 January

- The National Disaster Response Force Raising Day is annually marked on Jan 19.
- The NDRF was formed in 2006.
- It is a specialised, multi-skilled, humanitarian force in India, which has been playing a crucial role in the country's disaster management and community awareness for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- The National Disaster Management Authority is the parent body of NDRF.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims observed on 21 November

- The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is observed on the 3rd Sunday in Nov each year.
- The day was started by Road Peace in 1993.
- The theme for 2021 is Remember. Support. Act.
- For 2021, it was observed on 21 Nov.
- In 2005, the United Nations endorsed it as a global day to be observed as the "appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic injuries and their families".

World Television Day celebrated every year on 21 November

- World Television Day is celebrated on 21 November all across the globe every year to mark the significance of the spectacular invention of television.
- On 21 and 22 November 1996, the UN held the first World Television Forum.
- That is why it decided to proclaim 21 Nov as World Television Day.
- In 1927, a 21-year-old designer, Philo Taylor Farnsworth, concocted the world's first electronic TV.

50th statehood day of Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya: 21st January 2022

- 21st January 2022 is 50th statehood day of Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya.
- North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act of 1971 became effective from January 21, 1972.
- This act conferred statehood to two Union Territories of Manipur and Tripura.

National Girl Child Day celebrated on 24 January

- National Girl Child Day is celebrated every year on 24 January in India.
- It was started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008.
- It is observed to spread awareness about child sex ratios, girls' education, empowerment of girls, etc.
- Its main objective is to raise awareness about the rights of a girl child and their education, health, and nutrition.
- It also celebrated to mark the anniversary of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme.
- International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated every year on 11 October.

National Voter's Day celebrated every year on 25 January

- On January 25, India celebrates its National Voters' Day to mark the founding day of the Election Commission (EC) of India.
- The theme for 2022 is 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.
- The day is dedicated to raise awareness among the citizens of India on voter rights and duties.
- The EC was formed in 1950 but the first ever National Voters' Day was celebrated in 2011.

National Tourism Day celebrated on 25 January

- National Tourism Day is celebrated on 25 Jan every year.
- The theme for 2022 is "Rural and Community Centric Tourism".
- It is observed to cultivate awareness among the global community on the importance of tourism and its social, financial, and cultural worth.
- A department specifically pertaining to tourism was established in 1958 under the Ministry of Tourism and Communication.

International Customs Day celebrated on 26 January

- The International Customs Day is celebrated on 26 January.
- To commemorate the inaugural session of the World Customs Organisation, which was held on this day in 1953.
- The World Customs Organisation was formed in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council.
- The theme for 2022 is 'Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem'.

73rd Republic Day celebrated on 26 January 2022

- 73rd Republic Day of India is being celebrated on 26 January 2022.
- It was on this day in 1950 that the Indian Constitution came into effect.
- India thus became a sovereign state, declaring it a republic.
- Dr BR Ambedkar headed the Drafting Committee of the Constitution.
- The main attraction of the celebrations is the annual parade which begins at Rajpath, Delhi, and ends at the India Gate.

Lala Lajpat Rai's 157th birth anniversary: 28 January

- He was a veteran leader of the independence movement led by the Indian National Congress, Hindu Mahasabha, Hindu reform movements, and Arya Samaj.
- He was born in 1865 in the Ludhiana district of Punjab.
- He was one of the three 'Lal Bal Pal' triumvirate, the others being Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal.
- He was given the title of 'Punjab Kesari' and 'Lion of Punjab'.

Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs Day observed on 30 January

- This day marks the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Mahatma Gandhi was shot and killed by Nathuram Godse during his evening prayers in the Birla House on January 30, 1948.
- A two-minute silence is held across the country at 11 a.m. in honor of Indian martyrs.
- Martyr's Day is also observed on 23rd March, the date on which Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar were hanged.

World Leprosy Day celebrated on 30 January

- The last Sunday of January is celebrated as World Leprosy Day.
- 'United for Dignity' is the chosen theme for World Leprosy Day 2022.
- Leprosy is also one of the neglected tropical diseases.
- The day was first initiated in 1954 by French Philanthropist Raoul Follereau.
- 30 January is also observed as World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day.
- 30 Jan is also observed as Anti-Leprosy Day in India.

National Commission for Women Foundation Day celebrated on 31 January

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually address the National Commission for Women (NCW) Foundation Day programme on January 31, 2022.
- The theme for 2022 is 'She The Change Maker'.

- NCW was set up as a statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women, recommend remedial legislative measures, etc.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Antigua and Barbuda joined International Solar Alliance

- Antigua and Barbuda has become the 102nd country to join International Solar Alliance.
- Antigua and Barbuda has signed the framework agreement of ISA in the presence of Indian High Commissioner Dr. K J Srinivasa.
- International Solar Alliance aims to create a global market system to use the benefits of solar power by encouraging clean energy applications.
- International Solar Alliance is working for creating a multi-stakeholder ecosystem by including sovereign nations, multilateral organizations, industries, and innovators.
- Recently, the US has become the 101st member to join the International Solar Alliance.
- In October 2021, Israel has signed the agreement to join the International Solar Alliance.
- International Solar Alliance was established in 2015.
- Its main objective is to reduce the use of conventional energy by using solar energy efficiently.
- Ajay Mathur is the current Director-General of International Solar Alliance

India becomes fifth largest trading partner of Brazil

- In 2021, India became the fifth largest trading partner of Brazil.
- Bilateral trade between both countries has exceeded US \$11 billion, a 63 percent increase over 2020.
- Pharmaceutical products contribute around 30% to Indian export. Brazil mainly exports vegetable oil, crude oil, gold, sugar, and Ores to India.
- In 2018-19, bilateral trade between India and Brazil was at US\$ 8.2 billion.
- In 2019, India was Brazil's 7th largest import source country and 18th largest export destination.
- In 2003, Brazil and India have signed a bilateral 'Defence Cooperation Agreement'. It enhanced the cooperation between both countries in the field of Defence.
- India-Brazil became strategic partners in 2006. Diplomatic relations between both countries were established in 1948.

Mrs America Shaylyn Ford crowned Mrs World 2022

- Mrs America Shaylyn Ford has been crowned the winner of Mrs World 2022.
- She hails from Granville, Ohio.
- The Mrs World 2022 pageant took place in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, in January 2022.
- Mrs Jordan and Mrs UAE were the runner ups, respectively.
- Mrs India Navdeep Kaur won the round for Best National Costume at the Mrs World 2022 pageant in Las Vegas, USA.

Netherlands has unveiled the world's largest canal lock.

- The world's largest canal lock has been unveiled in IJmuiden, a small port town in the Amsterdam port of Netherlands.
- The Dutch King Willem-Alexander inaugurated the world's largest canal lock.
- IJmuiden sea lock is a 500-meter (1,640-foot) long and 70-meter-wide. It connects the North Sea Canal with the port of Amsterdam.
- The major infrastructure project began in 2016 and was supposed to be completed by 2019.
- The older structure, known as the Noordersluis (northern lock), was constructed in 1929 and is now being replaced.

Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates formally join Security Council as non-permanent members

- Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, and the United Arab Emirates have become new non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.
- Albania has become a new non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the first time.
- India has begun its term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the eighth time on 1 January 2021.
- Non-Permanent members of the Security Council are elected by the 193-member General Assembly for a two-year term.
- More than 50 of the UN's 193 member countries have never been elected to the council since it was formed.
- Main function of United Nations Security Council is to ensure international peace and security.
- It was established on 24 October 1945.
- The 15-member Security Council is the most powerful body of the United Nations. China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States are the five permanent members of the Security Council.
- The headquarters of the United Nations Security Council is located in New York, United States.

US, Russia, Britain, France, and China adopted a joint statement to restrain spread of nuclear weapons

- The United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China have adopted a joint statement to further restrict the spread of nuclear weapons.
- According to this joint statement, permanent members of the United Nations Security Council should consider it their primary responsibility to avoid war between the nuclear countries.
- According to the Joint statement, all five Countries should take the responsibility to create an atmosphere of security.
- This joint statement has been released after the bilateral relations between the United States and Moscow have fallen to their lowest point since the cold war.
- France has also released the statement and said that all five countries are committed to nuclear arms control and disarmament.
- The United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) was set up in 1952 under the UN Security Council for the regulation and reduction of armed forces.

Bilateral trade between India, China crossed \$125 billion in 2021

- Bilateral trade between India and China crossed \$125 billion in 2021, according to Chinese customs data released on 14 Jan 2022.
- It stood at 125.66 billion USD, up 43.3% from 2020 when bilateral trade was worth 87.6 billion USD
- In 2021, China imported 28.14 billion USD worth of goods from India, up 34.2%, according to statistics released by the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

NATIONAL NEWS**PM Modi inaugurates 25th National Youth Festival on January 12**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 25th National Youth Festival on 12th January 2022 in Puducherry.
- As part of the festival, a National Youth Summit will be organized on January 13, 2022.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated a Technology Centre of the MSME Ministry, established at Puducherry with an investment of about 122 crore rupees.

UNESCO to publish Hindi descriptions of India's heritage sites

- UNESCO's World Heritage Centre has agreed to publish Hindi descriptions of India's world heritage sites on its website.
- The decision was taken on the occasion of World Hindi Day on January 10, 2022.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is headquartered in Paris and aims at promoting world peace and security.

NCW's 30th Foundation Day Programme to be addressed by PM Modi

- National Commission for Women's 30th Foundation Day Programme will be addressed by PM Modi on 31st January 2022.
- The theme of the programme is 'She The Change Maker'. It is aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields.
- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani will be present on the occasion.
- National Commission for Women is the statutory body responsible for advising the government on all policy matters affecting women.

Government set up first coal-to-methanol plant in India

- India's first 'coal to methanol' pilot plant has been dedicated to the country by Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey.
- The plant has been built by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.
- Pandey has also dedicated an exhibition on Products Developed Under Aatmanirbhar Bharat at the BHEL Hyderabad facility.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is an Indian public sector company and India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer.
- Its CEO is Nalin Singhal.
- Its headquarters is in New Delhi.
- It was founded in 1964.

PM Modi topped the list of the most popular world leaders

- According to the Morning Consult Political Intelligence data, with 71 percent approval rating, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has topped the global rating among world leaders.
- US President Joe Biden is ranked sixth on the list of 13 world leaders, with a 43 percent approval rating.
- Biden is followed by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.
- The most recent approval ratings are based on data collected from January 13 to 19, 2022.
- Prime Minister Modi topped the list of the most popular world leaders even in November 2021

Union MSME Minister inaugurated MSME Pavilion in World Expo 2020 Dubai

- Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane has virtually inaugurated MSME Pavilion in World Expo 2020 Dubai.
- The World Expo 2020 has been organized by the Bureau International des Expositions under the "Connecting Minds, Creating Future" theme.
- The Union Minister also launched the Khadi India Film produced by KVIC.
- MSME contributes around 30% to the GDP and 48% to the overall exports from India.
- The Government has started various initiatives to boost finance facilitation, capacity building & skill training, facilitating market linkages, technology up-gradation, etc. for the development of MSMEs.

Jahnvi Dangeti becomes "First Indian" to complete the prestigious NASA program

- Jahnvi Dangeti has completed NASA's International Air and Space Program (IASP NASA) at the Kennedy Space Center in Alabama, United States.

- Jahnvi Dangeti, a young girl from Andhra Pradesh, has become the first Indian to accomplish this feat.
- Only 20 young people from around the world were chosen for this programme by IASP.
- Jahnvi is currently pursuing her second year of engineering from a private university in Punjab.
- The International Air and Space Program is a 5-day educational program. It involves teamwork, problem-solving and communication, among students and expert NASA engineers to solve any unexpected problems.

STATE NEWS

Jammu and Kashmir will become first Union territory to have district level Good Governance Index

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said that Jammu and Kashmir will soon become the first Union Territory to have a district-level good governance index.
- The framework of the Index has been finalized with technical support from the Centre for Good Governance (CGG) of Hyderabad.
- The framework of the Index is based on 58 indicators of different aspects of district administration.
- The index will provide ranking to districts on their performance based on the 58 indicators.
- The index will be created by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in association with the Union Territory Government.

Jallikattu held in Tamil Nadu as part of Pongal celebrations

- Tamil Nadu's bull-taming sport Jallikattu was held in Avaniapuram, Madurai district, on 14 Jan 2022 on the occasion of Pongal.
- It is conducted as part of Mattu Pongal, the third day of the four-day-long harvest festival.
- A person is announced as a winner if he hangs on to the bull's hump for a specified time.
- The bull owners are also given prizes if their animal is not tamed by anyone.

TRIFED and Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram signed an MoU for establishment of TRIFOOD Parks in Madhya

- TRIFED, under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has decided to collaborate with Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra for establishing TRIFOOD Parks in Madhya Pradesh.
- Since 1952, the Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra has been working for the benefit of tribal people in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand.
- On January 3, 2021, the two organizations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the establishment of TRIFOOD Parks in five Madhya Pradesh districts.
- Both organisations will collaborate on several programs for improving tribal people's livelihoods.
- They will also implement the Van Dhan Yojana through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVKs), VPCs, and TRIFOOD Parks.
- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) was established in 1987.
- It works under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Its objective is the socio-economic development of tribal people in the country by way of marketing development of tribal products.

Ganjam becomes first child marriage free district of Odisha

- Ganjam district, severely affected by child marriages, has become the first child marriage-free district of Odisha.
- District administration declared it as a child marriage-free district after collecting detailed information of all weddings that took place in 2020 and 2021.

- District administration started many initiatives to end the menace of child marriages. It has increased the reward from 5000 to 50,000 for informing about the occurrence of child marriage.
- In 2019, the district administration had launched an innovative awareness campaign named 'Nirbhaya Kadhi' to discourage child marriage.
- Anganwadi workers and accredited social health activists (ASHA) organize meeting with adolescent girls every month to create awareness about the ill impact of child marriage.
- In India, the legal age of women to get married is 18 while it is 21 years for men.
- Recently, the government has proposed legislation to raise the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years.

Telangana topped in highest number of ODF villages

- Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme, Telangana has the highest number of open defecation free (ODF Plus) villages.
- Telangana is followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,432 villages (35.39%) and Karnataka with 1,511 villages (5.59%).
- Telangana's 13,737 villages out of 14,200 villages have been declared as open defecation free villages.
- Telangana government has enacted a new Telangana Panchayat Raj Act for the holistic development of villages.
- The state government has appointed Multi-purpose workers to maintain sanitation in villages.
- Telangana government has also created 12,769 dedicated compost sheds in all gram panchayats.
- Under the Palle Pragathi programme, sanitation drives have been carried out on regular basis in villages.
- Swachh Bharat Mission: It was launched in 2014.
- It is an initiative by the Government of India to eliminate open defecation and improve solid waste management.
- Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin is being implemented by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Exhibition on Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle inaugurated in Bhopal

- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Bhopal, under the aegis of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) is celebrating "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" from 10-16 January 2022.
- As a part of it, an exhibition on "Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle" was inaugurated virtually on 13 January 2022.
- A presentation on the "Idea Generation Challenge" on Sanrachna Portal was also organized.

Andhra Pradesh government clears formation of 13 new districts

- The Andhra Pradesh government has given a green signal for the creation of 13 new districts in the state.
- With this, Andhra Pradesh's district count has increased to 26.
- A total of 24 Lok Sabha constituencies are being converted into districts in Andhra Pradesh, including the Araku Lok Sabha constituency in Visakhapatnam which will be divided into two districts.

Jerri hamlet declared as first 'Milk Village' of Jammu and Kashmir

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration has declared Jerri hamlet as the first 'Milk Village' of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The government has sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme for the hamlet.
- Under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), dairy units with five animals will get a subsidy of 50%.

- The scheme also has a provision for providing milking machines, bulk milk cooling units at 50% subsidy.
- The animal husbandry department will also provide a refrigerated van to farmers on a 50% subsidy.
- A cooperative of 11 women has been also formed in hamlet for collection and transportation of milk.

Kumbalangi becomes India's First Sanitary Napkin-free Village

- Kumbalangi village of Ernakulum district has been declared as the First Sanitary Napkin-free Village of India.
- Under the Avalkayi (for her) initiative, around 5,000 menstrual cups have been distributed to women aged 18 and above.
- 'Avalkayi' (for her) scheme was implemented with the help of HLL Management Academy and Indian Oil Corporation.
- The menstrual cups will help reduce pollution caused by synthetic napkins and ensure personal hygiene for working women and students.
- The Menstrual cup is a safe and affordable alternative to pads and tampons.
- Earlier, Kumbalangi was also declared as India's first model tourism village.

Himachal Pradesh became first 'smoke-free state'

- Himachal Pradesh has become the first 'smoke-free state' in India.
- It has achieved this feat with the help of many welfare schemes like Ujjwala Yojana, Himachal Grihini Suvidha scheme, etc.
- Himachal Pradesh has also become the first 100% LPG-enabled state in the country.
- Himachal Pradesh government had started the Grihini Suvidha Yojana to provide free gas LPG cylinders in the state.
- Cooking food on traditional chulha has adverse effects on health as well as on the environment.
- Traditional chulha produces a lot of smoke due to the incomplete combustion of wood. It is one of the largest sources of pollutants in rural India.
- According to a report by the Lancet, about one million deaths occur annually in India due to household air pollution.

SPORTS**India wins U-19 Asia Cup**

- India clinched the U-19 Asia Cup title by defeating Sri Lanka by nine wickets at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.
- It is the eighth U-19 Asia Cup title for India.
- Harnoor Singh won the Player of the series award.
- Shaik Rasheed was the highest scorer of the series.
- Eight teams have participated in the 2021 Under-19 Asia Cup. It was the 9th edition of the tournament.
- Under-19 Asia Cup is a cricket tournament organized by the Asian Cricket Council for Under-19 teams. It was first organized in Bangladesh in 1989.

Rafael Nadal becomes first player to win 21 Grand Slams

- Rafael Nadal has become first player in the world to win 21 Grand Slams.
- He has also become only player to win the most grand slam titles.
- He defeated World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev in Australian Open men's singles final.
- It was his first Grand Slam title after winning the 2020 French Open.
- Nadal now has one more Grand Slam title to his name than Roger Federer and Djokovic.
- World Number one Ashleigh Barty has won her first Australian Open title. She defeated Danielle Collins of United States in the Women's Singles final.

- In Australian Men's doubles final, Nick Kyrgios and Thanasi Kokkinakis claimed their first major title.

Smriti Mandhana named in ICC T20I Women's Team of the Year

- Smriti Mandhana has been named in the ICC T20 Women's Team of the Year.
- There was no Indian representation in ICC Men's T20I Team.
- The Indian team's vice-captain was the country's highest scorer in the format in 2021 with 255 runs at an average of 31.87.

Bharath Subramaniam becomes 73rd Grandmaster of India in chess

- After completing his third and final GM norm at the Vergani Cup Open in Italy, 14-year-old Bharath Subramaniam has become India's 73rd chess Grandmaster.
- Subramaniam scored 6.5 points along with four others in nine rounds to finish seventh overall in the event.
- He earned his third GM norm and the requisite score of 2,500 (Elo).
- A player has to obtain three GM norms and a live rating of 2,500 Elo points in order to become a GM.
- Sankalp Gupta was the 71st Grandmaster, and Mitrabha Guha had become the country's 72nd Grandmaster in November 2021.

PV Sindhu wins Syed Modi International badminton tournament

- Indian shuttler PV Sindhu has won the women's singles title at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament in Lucknow.
- She defeated Malvika Bansod.
- It is the second Syed Modi title for two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu. She had won her first Syed Modi title in 2017.
- Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto clinched the mixed doubles title by defeating T Hema Nagendra Babu and Srivedya Gurazada.
- Syed Modi International Badminton Championships is an international badminton tournament being annually held in Lucknow.
- It was started by Uttar Pradesh Badminton Association (UPBA) in 1991.
- It was upgraded as the BWF Grand Prix Gold tournament in 2011.

AISCD to hold first World Deaf T20 Cricket championship in 2023

- The All India Sports Council of the Deaf has got approval from the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) to host the first World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship in Kerala.
- It will be held from January 10 to 20, 2023.
- A minimum of eight countries are expected to take part in the championship.
- AISCD is the only Centre-recognised national sports federation for the deaf.

Tasnim Mir becomes world no 1 in badminton U-19 girls singles

- Tasnim Mir has become the first Indian to grab the world no 1 ranking in the under-19 girls singles in the latest BWF junior rankings.
- She was rewarded after she had secured titles in three junior international tournaments in 2021 to jump three places to grab the top position in the junior world rankings.
- She also won the President Cup Nepal Junior International Series 2020 in Kathmandu.

Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 will be played in India

- BCCI secretary Jay Shah has announced that the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 will be played in India.
- The 2020 IPL along with the second leg of the 2021 IPL were held in the UAE because of the COVID-19 situation in India.

- He announced this at the title celebrations of Chennai Super Kings in Chennai.
- Two new teams will be entering a mega auction this time.

Indian contingent win 47 medals at Uganda Para Badminton

- The Indian contingent bagged 47 medals at the Uganda Para-Badminton International event on 21 Nov'21.
- This medal tally includes 16 gold, 14 silver, and 17 bronze medals.
- Palak Kohli, Abu Hubaida, and Ammu Mohan clinched two gold and one silver each.
- Manasi Joshi won a gold medal in the women's singles SL3 event.
- Pramod Bhagat finished with a silver medal in the men's singles SL3 event.

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton wins inaugural Qatar F1 Grand Prix

- Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton claimed victory from pole at the inaugural Qatar Formula One Grand Prix.
- Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished second.
- Hamilton claimed his seventh season win and 102nd overall.
- Double world champion Fernando Alonso was third for Renault-owned Alpine.
- Sergio Perez finished fourth.

Mohammad Rizwan named as ICC men's T20I cricketer of year for 2021

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) named Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan as the ICC men's T20I cricketer of the year for 2021.
- Tammy Beaumont of England has been named as the ICC T20I Women's Cricketer of the Year for 2021.
- Pakistan captain Babar Azam has been named as ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year for 2021.
- Joe Root has been declared as ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year.
- South African umpire Marais Erasmus has been announced as the Umpire of the Year for 2021.

AWARDS**Anukruti Upadhyay's Kintsugi wins the Sushila Devi Award 2021**

- Anukruti Upadhyay has won the Sushila Devi Award 2021 for the Best Book of Fiction for her critically acclaimed novel Kintsugi, in December 2021.
- This prize has been instituted by the Shri Ratanlal Foundation.
- Previous winners have been Namita Gokhale
- (Things To Leave Behind), Shubhangi Swarup (Latitudes of Longing) and Avni Doshi (Girl in White Cotton).

Zishaan A Latif won Ramnath Goenka Award in photo journalism category

- Zishaan A Latif has won the Ramnath Goenka Award in the photo journalism category for documenting NRC struggles.
- He won this award for his photo essay which includes the plight of the people, who were not included in the National Register of Citizens (NRC). It was published in the Caravan in October 2019.
- According to the data released by NRC, about 19 lakh of Assam's residents are not citizens of India.
- Zishaan A Latif met many people who did not understand the NRC process and have been excluded from the first two drafts of the list.
- Ramnath Goenka Award: It is given in the field of Journalism since 2006.
- It is given in memory of Ramnath Goenka.

- It is given for print journalism as well as broadcast journalism

Forensic Science Laboratory Delhi wins SKOCH award

- The Forensic Science Laboratory Delhi won SKOCH Award in the Silver category for its work towards combating crime and violence against children.
- It was given at the 78th SKOCH Summit organized with the theme “State of Governance”.
- FSL is a multi-disciplinary scientific organization that develops and disseminates new information to investigators of Law Administration Agency.

Padma Awards 2021

- General Bipin Rawat, Kalyan Singh, Radheshyam Khemka has been honoured with India’s second-highest civilian award posthumously.
- General Bipin Rawat was first Chief of Defence Staff. Kalyan Singh was Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister during Babri Masjid demolition. Radheshyam Khemka was President of Gita Press.
- Classical Vocalist Prabha Atre has also been conferred second-highest civilian award.
- 17 persons have been awarded Padma Bhushan 2022 and 107 persons have been awarded Padma Shri 2022.
- Padma Shri winners includes:-
 - Tokyo Olympics Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra, Tokyo Paralympics gold Medalist Pramod Bhagat, Sumit Antil and Avani Lekhara, Singer Sonu Nigam, and Lavni Singer Sulochana Chavan.
- Padma Bhushan 2022 winners
 - Krishna and Suchitra Ella of Bharat Biotech who brought Covaxin
 - Cyrus Poonawala of Serum Institute who brought Covishield
 - Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad
 - Former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya
 - Former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi
 - Paralympic Medalist Devendra Jhajharia
 - Odia Author Pratibha Ray
 - Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella
 - Google CEO Sundar Pichai

Balasore awarded ‘Best Performing Marine District’ in India

- Balasore was awarded as the best marine district in the country.
- For the first time, a district from Odisha got this award.
- Andhra Pradesh was awarded the Best Marine State, while Telangana got Best Inland State Award.
- Balaghat in MP received the Best Inland distNov’21
- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala gave away the awards on 21 Nov’21.

Minister of State for Education launches Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021 – 2022

- Minister of State for Education, Subhas Sarkar, has virtually launched Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021 – 2022 on 12 January 2022.
- Total 40 schools will be chosen for Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar this year at the national level.
- Government for the first time has introduced 6 sub-category wise awards, with award money of Rs 20,000 per school.
- SVP 2021-22 is open to all categories of schools in both rural and urban areas. The schools will be assessed in 6 sub-categories.
- These categories are Water, Sanitation, hand washing with soap, Operation and Maintenance, Behaviour Change and Capacity Building and COVID-19 Preparedness and Response.
- Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) was first started by the Department of School Education and Literacy in 2016-17.

Pfizer chief Albert Bourla wins Genesis Prize for developing COVID-19 vaccine

- Chief executive of Pfizer Albert Bourla has won the prestigious Genesis Prize for his efforts in the COVID-19 vaccine development.
- Albert Bourla received the highest number of votes in an online campaign in which more than 2 lakh people participated from 71 countries.
- Pfizer's vaccine was the first vaccine to get approval for emergency use in the United States and Europe.
- Albert Bourla donated his prize to projects dedicated to preserving the memory of Holocaust victims.
- It is given by the Genesis Prize Foundation and the chairman's office of the Jewish Agency.

'Kerala Arts and Crafts Village Sangathan' wins Int Craft Award

- The Kerala Arts and Crafts Village (KACV) near Kovalam has won the 2021 International Craft Award for the best craft village of 2021.
- KACV is an institution established by the Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society for the state tourism department.
- The Kraf Komuniti Ku craft village in Malaysia was selected as the best village for the previous year, i.e. 2020.

Former PM of Japan Shinzo Abe honoured with Netaji Award 2022

- Former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe was on 23 Jan 2022 conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by the Netaji Research Bureau.
- Consul general of Japan in Kolkata, Nakamura Yutaka, received the honour on behalf of Abe.
- Shinzo Abe served as the PM of Japan from 2006 to 2007 and again from 2012- 2020.
- He is the longest-serving PM in the history of Japan.

Indian film Koozhangal gets the best film award at DIFF

- 'Koozhangal' from India won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition section at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival which concluded on 23 Jan 2022 in Dhaka.
- It has been directed by P S Vinothraj.
- The best actor award was given to Jayasurya for the film Sunny.
- The Best Script Writer Award went to Indranil Roychowdhury and Sugata Sinha for IndiaBangladesh film Mayar Jonjal.

PM Modi confers Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on 24 January

- PM Modi conferred digital certificates using 'blockchain technology to the winners of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP), on 24 Jan'22.
- The awards are conferred on children between age of 5 to 18 yrs.
- It has 2 categories - Bal Shakti Puraskar and Bal Kalyan Puraskar.
- 29 children have been awarded for 2022.
- Each awardee was given a medal and a cash prize of one lakh rupees.

SCHEMES**"Padhe Bharat", a 100-day reading campaign, was launched**

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the "Padhe Bharat" 100-day reading campaign on January 1, 2022.
- Padhe Bharat aims to participate of all stakeholders at national and state level, including children, teachers, parents, community and educational administrators.

- The campaign is a significant step in improving students' learning levels because it develops creativity, critical thinking, vocabulary, and the ability to communicate verbally and in writing.

Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ke Ore

- Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav means Festival of Independence. Swarnim Bharat ke Ore means towards Golden India.
- The programme is "Azadi ke Amrit to Golden India". The programme began on January 20, 2022. It was started by PM Modi.
- The Prime Minister launched the following seven initiatives during the programme:
 - Green initiatives under Mera Bharat Swasth Bharat
 - Self-reliant farmer initiatives under Atma Nirbhar Bharat
 - Women: Flag bearers of India
 - A cycle rally on "Undiscovered India"
 - Motor bike campaign on "Unite India"
 - Initiatives under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Padhe Bharat' Campaign

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a 100-day Reading Campaign called 'Padhe Bharat'.
- Padhe Bharat Campaign was launched to improve learning levels of students.
- It marks a significant step to improve learning levels because it develops creativity, critical thinking, vocabulary as well as ability to express in writing & verbal forms.
- It will help children in relating to their surroundings and real-life situation.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Subhash Garg comes up with new book titled "The \$10 Trillion Dream"

- Former Finance Minister Subhash Chandra Garg is making his debut as an author with his latest book, The \$10 Trillion Dream.
- It aims to explore the most pressing political challenges that India faces today and proposes steps toward becoming a USD 10 trillion economy by the mid-2030s.
- Penguin Random House India (PRHI) will publish the book, which is expected to be released in Feb 2022.

Author Ruskin Bond comes up with new book 'A Little Book of India'

- Author Ruskin Bond has come up with his book, "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence".
- It pays homage to the country that has been his home for 84 years.
- It has been published by Penguin Random House India
- Ruskin is the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Padma Shri, and Padma Bhushan, among other prestigious awards.

HarperCollins will publish biography of Ratan Tata in November 2022

- The book titled "Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography" will be released in November 2022.
- It will be an authoritative biography with copious details about Ratan Tata from his childhood to college years, and his early influences.
- It will be written by Dr. Thomas Mathew, a former senior bureaucrat and retired IAS officer.
- Dr. Thomas Mathew has authored two other books - Abode Under the Dome and The Winged Wonders of Rashtrapati Bhavan

Arundhati Bhattacharya wrote her autobiography

- Arundhati Bhattacharya, former State Bank of India (SBI) Chairperson, has written her autobiography.
- 'Indomitable - A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership' is the title of her autobiography.
- Arundhati Bhattacharya is the first woman chairperson of the State Bank of India.
- In this book, she has written about her journey from probationary officer to chairperson of State Bank of India.

The book 'Legend of Birsa Munda' has been released

- Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has released the book "Legend of Birsa Munda".
- BJP leader and author Tuhin A. Sinha has written the book about the life of Birsa Munda, a tribal hero. Ankita Verma is the co-author of the book.
- The book 'Legend of Birsa Munda' lauds the tribal revolution and Birsa Munda's role in India's independence struggle.

RANKINGS AND REPORTS**India at 83rd position in Henley Passport Index, improving by 7 places**

- India's passport ranks at 83rd position in the Henley Passport Index, climbing seven places from 90th rank in 2021.
- However, in 2020, its rank stood at 84 while in 2016, India was ranked 85th along with Mali and Uzbekistan.
 - Japan and Singapore top the index.
 - Germany and South Korea hold onto joint 2nd spot.
 - Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Spain share 3rd place

Cybercrime with Ransomware Attack rose 151% in 2021: WEF

- According to the World Economic Forum's 'Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022', Cybercrime with ransomware attacks has increased by 151% in 2021.
- World Economic Forum's 'Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022' report has been released during the online Davos Agenda summit.
- It is the first Global Cybersecurity Outlook flagship report.
- It throws light on the state of cyber security and perceptions about cyber resilience.
- As per this report, an organization faced an average of 270 cyberattacks. The company suffered an average loss of Rs 27 crores for even a single success of cyberattacks.
- World Economic Forum said that cybercrime has increased sharply after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Global unemployment to reach 207 million in 2022 According to International Labour Organisation.

- International Labour Organisation has released a report titled 'World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022'.
- According to the World Employment and Social Outlook report, Global unemployment will reach 207 million in 2022. It will be almost 21 million more than in 2019.
- The global unemployment rate is projected to reach 5.9% in 2022.
- The total Global working hours in 2022 will be 2% below than pre-pandemic level - that is equivalent to the loss of 52 million full-time jobs.
- According to this report, around 40 million people will not participate in the global labour force in 2022.

- The pandemic has pushed millions of children into poverty. In 2020, 30 million adults fell into extreme poverty. The number of extreme poor has increased by 8 million.

Environment Minister released India State of Forest Report 2021

- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, released the 'India State of Forest Report 2021' on 13 Jan 2022.
- It has been prepared by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) which has been mandated to assess the forest and tree resources of the country.
- Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover.
- The total forest and tree cover of the country is 80.9 mn hectare.

India improved its rank in corruption perception index

- Transparency International has released the corruption perception index 2021.
- India's rank has been kept on 85th position with 40 points in the corruption perception index of 2021 among 180 countries.
- This index uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- India's rank has improved by one place to 85 in 2021 from 86th in 2020.
- Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and Norway topped the list with the highest score.
- South Sudan is the most corrupt country in the world, followed by Syria and Somalia.
- As per this report, high-performing countries have also shown signs of decline in their score.
- The report highlighted the risk of journalists and activists from attacks by the police, political militants, criminal gangs, and corrupt local officials

Digital inequality is one of the top five threats to India

- According to World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2022, digital inequality is one of the top five threats to India in the next two years.
- The report includes widespread youth disillusionment, fracture of interstate relations, debt crises in large economies, and failure of technology governance in the category of top five threats to India in the next two years.
- The report contains a survey, which looks into five risks that could pose a critical threat to a country in the next two years.
- World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2022 has been released ahead of its online Davos Agenda meeting scheduled from 17-21 January.
- As per the report, Climate action failure, extreme weather events and loss of biodiversity are the top three global risks.
- Global Risks Report is published annually by World Economic Forum ahead of its Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland.
- Global Risks Report 2022 is the 17th edition of Global Risks Report. It presents the results of the latest Global Risks Perception Survey.

Oxfam International releases 'Inequality Kills' report

- Oxfam International has released a report titled Inequality Kills.
- It talks about how the wealth is accumulated among a few persons and the rest of the people live in distress and poverty.
- Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the world's ten richest men have doubled their fortunes while the incomes of 99% of humanity fell.
- Inequality contributes to the death of at least 21,000 people each day.

BANKING ECONOMY AND FINANCE

Apple becomes first US company to hit \$3 trillion market value

- Apple Inc on January 3 became the first US company to hit \$3 trillion in market capitalization.
- On the first day of trading in 2022, the company's shares hit a record of \$182.88 in mid-day trading.
- The world's most valuable company is the first to reach the milestone.
- Tim Cook is the current CEO of Apple company.
- Apple shared the \$2 trillion market value club with Microsoft Corp.

World Bank retains India's GDP growth at 8.3% in FY22

- The World Bank has retained its forecast for India's GDP growth for FY22 at 8.3%, according to its global economic prospectus report.
- Further, the Washington-based agency has upgraded its forecast for FY23 and FY24 at 8.7% and 6.8% respectively.
- Global growth is expected to decelerate "markedly" to 4.1% in 2022 from 5.5% in 2021, and drop further to 3.2% in 2023.

India to become second largest economy of Asia by 2030: I Markit Report

- According to the I Markit Ltd report, India will become the second-largest economy in Asia by 2030.
- India is likely to overtake Japan by 2030 and it will also become the third- largest economy in the world by surpassing Germany and United Kingdom.
- India's nominal GDP will rise from 2.7 trillion USD to USD 8.4 trillion by 2030.
- India will be one of the world's fastest-growing economies in the next decade.
- At present, India is the sixth-largest economy in the world behind the US, China, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom.
- The fast-growing middle class will increase the consumption expenditure from USD 1.5 trillion to USD 3 trillion by 2030.
- FDI inflows to India have continuously increased over the past five years.
- India will have 1.1 billion internet users by 2030, which is attracting global multinationals companies to the Indian market.
- According to I Markit, India's real GDP growth rate will remain 8.2 percent in the fiscal year 2021-22.

India emerged as the world's largest exporter of cucumbers and gherkins

- During the months of April to October 2021, India has exported 1,23,846 metric tonnes of cucumber and gherkins worth USD 114 million, making it the largest exporter.
- India has crossed the USD 200 million mark in the last financial year for exports of agro-processed product- pickling cucumbers. These are globally known as gherkins or cornichons.
- Currently, gherkins are exported to over 20 countries, including the USA, France, Germany, Australia, Spain, South Korea, Canada, Japan, Belgium, Russia, and China.
- The APEDA is also focussing on gherkin value addition in order to improve the product's export worth

Foreign investment flow into India dropped by 26% in 2021: UNCTAD

- Foreign Direct Investment flows to India has dropped by 26 percent in 2021 as compared to the previous year.
- According to UNCTAD's Investment Trends Monitor, the FDI inflows in India come down due to fewer mergers and acquisitions (M&A) recorded in 2021.
- In 2021, Global foreign direct investment flows showed a strong rebound. It has grown by 77% from \$929 billion in 2020.

- FDI flows in developing economies increased by 30%. Latin America reached near the pre-pandemic level.
- FDI flows to South Asia have decreased by 24% to \$54 billion in 2021 from \$71 billion.
- FDI flow to East and South-East Asia has also increased by 20%. China recorded an increase of 20% in FDI inflows.
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment made by a firm or individual in one country into business interests located in another country.

IMF cut India's economic growth forecast to 9% for FY 2022

- The IMF lowered India's economic growth forecast from 9.5% to 9% for FY 2022.
- In latest World Economic Outlook report, the forecast for the next FY 2023 has been kept at 7.1 percent.
- The Indian economy had shrunk by 7.3 per cent in the 2020-21 fiscal year.
- According to the IMF, the main factors for economic growth in 2023 will be the improvement in the credit growth, investment and consumption.
- IMF forecasted that global growth will remain 4.4 percent in 2022. The global growth rate is expected to remain at 3.8 percent in 2023.
- The rapid increase of the Omicron variant has increased labour shortages, inflation, and the demand supply gap in many countries.
- For FY 2022, Central Statistics Office has forecasted 9.2% growth rate for India and the world bank has predicted 8.3% growth rate.
- French economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas has become the new chief economist of IMF.

India's current account fell into deficit of 1.3% in second quarter

- According to the Reserve Bank of India, India's current account slipped into a deficit of USD 9.6 billion, or 1.3 percent of GDP, in the September quarter.
- Both the quarter-ago and year-ago periods had a surplus in the current account, which recorded the value of exports and imports of both goods and services, as well as international capital transfers.
- In the April-June 2021 quarter, India's current account surplus was USD 6.6 billion, or 0.9 percent of GDP, compared to USD 15.3 billion, or 2.4 percent of GDP, in the year-ago period (Q2FY22), according to the data.
- RBI said that for the first half of the financial year, India recorded a current account deficit of 0.2 percent of GDP, as against a surplus of 3 percent in the year-ago period, due to a sharp increase in the trade deficit.
- In the quarter under review, the deficit widened mainly to US\$44.4 billion from US\$30.7 billion in the previous quarter and increased net expenditure from investment income.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Covid-19 new variant 'IHU' discovered in France

- Scientists and experts in France have reportedly identified a new variant of COVID-19 termed 'IHU'.
- The new variant is said to be a more mutated strain than Omicron.
- The B.1.640.2 or IHU variant was first identified by the academics at institute IHU Mediterranee Infection and contains 46 mutations, which is more than Omicron.
- Nearly 12 cases of this new variant have been reported near Marseilles and has been linked to the African country Cameroon. But, the Omicron strain is still dominating in most parts of the world.

ISRO Successfully Tests Vikas engine in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully test- fired the Vikas engine that would power India's first human-carry rocket (Gaganyaan human space mission).**

- This qualification test of the Vikas Engine for the Gaganyaan human space mission was conducted by ISRO at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

DEFENCE

India successfully test-fires new version of Brahmos missile

- India successfully test-fired a new version of supersonic cruise missile Brahmos off the Odisha coast on 20 January 2022.
- The missile hit the designated target precisely.
- BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.
- DRDO had successfully test-fired a naval variant of the BrahMos from a stealth guided missile destroyer of the Indian Navy, recently.

India's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot part of IAF tableau

- India's 1st woman Rafale fighter jet pilot Shivangi Singh was part of the Indian Air Force tableau at the Republic Day parade 2022.
- She is only the 2nd woman fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableau.
- In 2021, Flight Lieutenant Bhawna Kanth became the first female fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableau.
- The IAF tableau's theme- 'Indian Air Force transforming for the future'.

Indian Navy and Russian Navy conducts PASSEX Exercise in Arabian Sea

- Indian Navy and Russian Navy undertook PASSEX exercises at the port of Cochin, in the Arabian Sea.
- The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer, INS Kochi, took part in the exercise.
- Russian Federation Navy was represented by RFS Admiral Tributs.

Exercise Milan 2022: India to host 46 nations mega naval wargames

- India has invited a total of 46 friendly foreign countries to participate in the multinational naval exercise Milan in Visakhapatnam, scheduled from February 25, 2022.
- The theme of this 11th edition of exercise Milan is camaraderie, cohesion and collaboration.
- This exercise was initiated in 1995 and held biennially and conducted with friendly navies.

Sea Dragon 2022 Exercise: India joins 'Sea Dragon' exercise

- India and its partners in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad along with Canada and South Korea are participating in the multinational exercise Sea Dragon 2022 at Guam in the Western Pacific.
- The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the United States, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and South Korea.

Philippines to purchase BrahMos cruise missiles from India

- Philippines has become the first foreign country to place an order for the purchase of the BrahMos Shore-Based cruise Missile System for its navy.
- This agreement will give a big boost to India's defence manufacturing system.
- The estimated deal cost is worth \$374.9 million.
- The BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd will supply the missile, under the Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile System Acquisition Project, for Philippine Navy.

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCE

PM Modi addresses World Economic Forum Davos Agenda summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Agenda virtual event on 17 Jan'22.
- The WEF is hosting the event on its website and social media channels from 17-21 January.
- The event is being convened on the theme of 'The State of the World'.
- The Davos Agenda 2022 will also mark the launch of several WEF initiatives to accelerate the race to net-zero emissions.

First BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 held under Chinese chairship

- The first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 under the Chinese chairship was held on 18-19 January.
- Sanjay Bhattacharyya is the current BRICS Sherpa from India.
- BRICS is a grouping of five major emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- On January 1, China officially took over the BRICS chairmanship and it will host the 14th BRICS Summit in June 2022

Germany takes over G7 presidency, to host this year summit

- Germany takes over the G7 Presidency.
- The 2022 G7 Summit is due to take place from 26 to 28 June 2022 in the Bavarian Alps.
- The G7, or "Group of Seven," consists of the US, Canada, Japan, France, the UK, Italy and Germany.
- In June 2021 Summit, the G7 leaders agreed to distribute 2.3 billion vaccine doses.
- Germany is the second-largest donor in the COVAX vaccination alliance.

WEF's online Davos summit began on 17 January

- The World Economic Forum's five-day online Davos Agenda summit has begun on 17 January 2022.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered their special addresses on 'state of the world' on the first day.
- The two virtual sessions are expected to be organized - the first on COVID-19 and the second on technology cooperation in the fourth industrial revolution.
- The special sessions will be organized on the global economy, building future preparedness and accelerating a nature-positive economy.
- 'Davos Agenda 2022' will be the first global platform for world leaders to share their vision for 2022. It has been convened on the theme of 'The State of the World'.
- World Economic Forum (WEF):
- It is an international non-government organization.
- It was founded on 24 January 1971 by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab.
- Its headquarters is located in Cologny, Switzerland.

MISCELLANEOUS**Harpreet Chandi becomes first Indian-origin woman to trek solo to South Pole.**

- Indian-Origin British Sikh army officer Harpreet Chandi has become the first Indian woman to reach solo at South Pole.
- He is also known as 'Polar Preet'.
- She became the third-fastest female to complete the expedition of the South Pole after Davidsson and Hannah McKeand.
- She also became first person to reach the South Pole on foot in two years. She covered an average distance of about 17 miles per day.
- She completed her expedition of 700 miles (1127 kilometers) in 40 days. She travelled solo in the temperature of 50 degrees Celsius and wind speeds of around 60mph.
- He is Clinical Training Officer in Medical regiment.

Prajakta Koli becomes UNDP India's First Youth Climate Champion

- Actress Prajakta Koli has become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion.
- As UNDP India Youth Climate Champion, she will create awareness on the adverse impacts of climate change, global warming and biodiversity loss.
- She has been honored with this title for her work towards mental health, women's rights and girl child education.
- UNDP said that it has a long-term vision to reinforce maximum youth participation in climate action.
- UNDP is the UN's global development network that was founded in 1965.
- It works to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality in more than 170 countries.
- Its headquarters is located in New York.

PM Modi to unveil 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad

- Prime Minister Modi will unveil a 216-foot 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad on 5 February.
- 'Statue of Equality' is a statue of Ramanujacharya, a 11th century saint and a social reformer. It is located in a 45-acre complex at Shamshabad.
- The inner sanctum deity of Ramanujacharya is made of 120 kg of gold to commemorate the 120 years the saint lived on this earth.
- The statue is made of 'panchaloha', a mix of five metals - gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc.
- Statue of Equality will be the world's second tallest statue in a sitting posture. The foundation stone of this statue was laid in 2014.
- This year 1000th birth anniversary of Ramanujacharya will be celebrated across the country.
- The 54-ft high base of the statue is called 'Bhadra Vedi'.

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. What is the interest rate applicable on the Public Provident Fund Account (PPF)?
 - (a) 7.7%
 - (b) 7.5%
 - (c) 7.1%
 - (d) 7.3%

2. Which country has taken over the chairmanship of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee in 2022?
 - (a) France
 - (b) India
 - (c) Vietnam
 - (d) South Korea

3. Who has been appointed as the new chief economic advisor (CEA) to the Government of India, in place of KV Subramanian?
 - (a) VK Ramaswamy
 - (b) V Anantha Nageswaran
 - (c) Kaushik Basu
 - (d) Shankar Acharya

4. Name the winner of the Sahitya Academy Awards 2021 in English language
 - (a) Sanjiv Verenkar
 - (b) Anuradha Sarma
 - (c) Namita Gokhale
 - (d) Niranjana Hansda

5. Who has been appointed as the new Director General for the National Mission for Clean Ganga?
 - (a) D.P. Mathuria
 - (b) Pravin kumar
 - (c) G Asok Kumar
 - (d) Manoj Sethi

6. Who among these has been awarded with the 12th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022?
 - (a) Sara Ali Khan
 - (b) Harshaali Malhotra
 - (c) Janhvi Kapoor
 - (d) Nora Fatehi

7. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board?
 - (a) Sanjeev Mittal
 - (b) Vinay Kumar Tripathi
 - (c) Naresh Salecha
 - (d) Ravinder Gupta

8. When is the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-Resident Indian Day) celebrated in India?
 - (a) 08 January
 - (b) Second Sunday of January
 - (c) 10 January
 - (d) 09 January

9. Losar festival is celebrated in which region of India?
(a) Ladakh
(b) Goa
(c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Uttarakhand
10. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), to replace K. Sivan?
(a) S. Somanath
(b) G. Madhavan Nair
(c) Udupi Ramachandra Rao
(d) Ajit Kumar Mohanty
11. Which country has taken over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union for six months beginning January 2022?
(a) Germany
(b) Italy
(c) Netherlands
(d) France
12. Name the world's first company which has recently hit \$3 trillion market cap?
(a) Apple
(b) Samsung
(c) Microsoft
(d) Amazon
13. Which word has been chosen as the Oxford University Press Children's Word of the Year 2021?
(a) Anxiety
(b) Coronavirus
(c) Sanitizer
(d) Isolation
14. When is the National Youth Day observed in India?
(a) Second Monday of January
(b) 11 January
(c) 12 January
(d) Second Wednesday of January
15. Who is the author of the book "The \$10 Trillion Dream"?
(a) Ajay Bhushan Pandey
(b) Subhash Chandra Garg
(c) Hasmukh Adhia
(d) Shaktikanta Das
16. Which film has won the Golden Globe 2022 Best film in the Motion pictures (drama) category?
(a) The Power of the Dog
(b) King Richard
(c) West Side Story
(d) Being the Ricardos
17. Which state has been named as the host for the National Youth Festival 2022?
(a) Jammu & Kashmir
(b) Puducherry
(c) Kerala
(d) Chhattisgarh

18. Who is the author of the book 'Mamata Beyond 2021'?
- (a) Jayanta Ghosal
 - (b) Abhijit Banerjee
 - (c) Rajni Bakshi
 - (d) Jagdish Bhagwati
19. The first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 was held under the chairmanship of which country?
- (a) China
 - (b) India
 - (c) Russia
 - (d) Brazil
20. India has collaborated with which country to create 150 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 States of India?
- (a) Japan
 - (b) Germany
 - (c) Israel
 - (d) France
21. Name the winner of the RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year' 2020
- (a) Danish Siddiqui
 - (b) Rohit Sardana
 - (c) Arfa Khanum Sherwani
 - (d) Rana Ayyub
22. The 2022 Women's Hockey Asia Cup will be held in which country?
- (a) Myanmar
 - (b) India
 - (c) Oman
 - (d) Thailand
23. Which city is the host for the 2024 Summer Paralympics?
- (a) Paris
 - (b) Rome
 - (c) Athens
 - (d) Beijing
24. The World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) Trends 2022 report has been released by which organisation?
- (a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - (b) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - (c) World Health Organization (WHO)
 - (d) International Labour Organisation (ILO)
25. What is the rank of India in Henley Passport Index, released for Q1 of 2022?
- (a) 90
 - (b) 83
 - (c) 72
 - (d) 89
26. Name the winner of women's single title at the Syed Modi International badminton Tournament 2022?
- (a) Saina Nehwal
 - (b) PV Sindhu

- (c) Anupama Upadhyaya
(d) Malvika Bansod
27. Tsirkon (Zircon) is a hypersonic cruise missiles being developed by which country?
(a) Japan
(b) France
(c) Israel
(d) Russia
28. Who has been appointed as the 'officer on special duty' in Punjab National Bank recently?
(a) A.S. Rajeev
(b) Mallikarjuna Rao
(c) Shanti Lal Jain
(d) Atul Kumar Goel
29. Abdalla Hamdok has recently resigned as the Prime Minister of which country?
(a) Rwanda
(b) Turkey
(c) Sudan
(d) Somalia
30. Prime Minister Modi has inaugurated the New Integrated Terminal Building of Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport. In which state is this airport located?
(a) Tripura
(b) Sikkim
(c) Arunachal Pradesh
(d) Manipur
31. Which player has won the India Open (Badminton) 2022?
(a) Prannoy HS
(b) Chirag Shetty
(c) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy
(d) Lakshya Sen
32. Which player has won the 2021 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship?
(a) Ian Nepomniachtchi
(b) Magnus Carlsen
(c) Nodirbek Abdusattorov
(d) Garry Kasparov
33. Which insurance company has launched the awareness campaign #BahaneChhodoTaxBachao?
(a) HDFC ERGO General Insurance
(b) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
(c) ICICI Lombard General Insurance
(d) SBI General Insurance
34. The Ramnath Goenka Awards are presented annually in India for excellence in which field?
(a) Science & Technology
(b) Literature
(c) Sports
(d) Journalism

35. Who is the author of Ratan Tata's authorized biography titled 'Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography'?
- (a) Ashwini Vaishnaw
 - (b) Thomas Matthew
 - (c) Yogendra Narain
 - (d) Pramod Wilson
36. US scientists have recently discovered an underground ocean buried beneath the surface of a moon named Mimas. This moon Mimas belong to which planet?
- (a) Mars
 - (b) Mercury
 - (c) Jupiter
 - (d) Saturn
37. As per World Bank, what is the projected growth rate of Indian economy in current fiscal, FY22?
- (a) 9.7%
 - (b) 8.0%
 - (c) 9.1%
 - (d) 8.3%
38. Which player has won the Best FIFA Men's Player of the year 2021?
- (a) Robert Lewandowski
 - (b) Lionel Messi
 - (c) Cristiano Ronaldo
 - (d) Karim Benzema
39. Who has been appointed as the new President of European Parliament in January 2022?
- (a) Roberta Metsola
 - (b) Sira Rego
 - (c) Miriam Dalli
 - (d) Maite Pagazaurtundúa
40. Which inter-governmental alliance is holding a maritime exercise named "Neptune Strike '22" in the Mediterranean Sea?
- (a) SAARC
 - (b) G20
 - (c) NATO
 - (d) BRICS
41. Which state has bagged the best state award in the 3rd National Water Awards for the year 2020 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti?
- (a) Uttar Pradesh
 - (b) Tamil Nadu
 - (c) Rajasthan
 - (d) Madhya Pradesh
42. Who is the author of the book Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India?
- (a) Ravish Kumar
 - (b) Shakuntala Rao
 - (c) Rajdeep Sardesai
 - (d) Dharendra K. Jha

43. Alikhan Smailov has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country?
(a) Georgia
(b) Kazakhstan
(c) Tajikistan
(d) Armenia
44. Which of these leaders has been conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by the Netaji Research Bureau?
(a) Xi Jinping
(b) Shinzo Abe
(c) Vladimir Putin
(d) Joe Biden
45. Who has been appointed as the new Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?
(a) Michael Furlani
(b) Essya Hanachi
(c) Javier Evans
(d) Zhang Ming
46. Who among these has been appointed as the Vice President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?
(a) Raghuram Rajan
(b) Urjit Patel
(c) Viral Acharya
(d) Bimal Jalan
47. The 24th National Conference on e-Governance was organised in which city?
(a) Hyderabad
(b) Mumbai
(c) New Delhi
(d) Gandhinagar
48. Who is the author of the biography 'Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist'?
(a) Punya Prasun Bajpai
(b) Prem Parkash
(c) Chandrachur Ghose
(d) Ramachandra Guha
49. Indonesia has decided to change its capital from Jakarta to a new capital city. What is the name of the new capital city?
(a) Mancanegara
(b) Negara Agung
(c) Nusantara
(d) Maphilindo
50. The Indian Railways has renamed Kevadiya railway station as _____
(a) Biswas Nagar railway station
(b) Patel Nagar railway station
(c) Ekta Nagar railway station
(d) Gandhi Nagar railway station
51. Which tennis player has won the 2022 Melbourne Summer Set 1 men's single title?
(a) Maxime Cressy
(b) Andy Murray

- (c) Novak Djokovic
(d) Rafael Nadal
52. In Chess, who has achieved the feat of becoming the 73rd Grandmaster of India recently?
(a) Bharath Subramaniyam
(b) Pravin Thipsay
(c) Parimarjan Negi
(d) Vaishali Rameshbabu
53. What is the projected GDP growth rate of global economy in 2022, as per World Bank?
(a) 4.1%
(b) 3.2%
(c) 5.5%
(d) 2.2%
54. Who is the winner of the Mrs World 2022 beauty pageant?
(a) Navdeep Kaur (Mrs India)
(b) Shaylyn Ford (Mrs America)
(c) Jaclyn Stapp (Mrs Jordan)
(d) Debanjali Kamstra (Mrs UAE)
55. ISRO recently tested an engine that will be used to power India's first human-carry rocket under Gaganyaan human space mission. What is the name of this engine?
(a) Gaurav engine
(b) Vikas engine
(c) Ekta engine
(d) Kirti engine
56. How many startups have been declared the winners of National Startup Awards 2021?
(a) 46
(b) 52
(c) 75
(d) 61
57. Which of these has been chosen as the title sponsor for Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 and 2023 seasons by BCCI?
(a) Amazon
(b) Paytm
(c) Vivo
(d) Tata Group
58. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is celebrating which edition of its Raising Day on January 19, 2022?
(a) 21st
(b) 17th
(c) 14th
(d) 19th
59. What is the theme of the International Day of Education in 2022?
(a) Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation
(b) Changing Course, Transforming Education
(c) Education: A Key Driver for Inclusion and Empowerment
(d) Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers

60. Which country has topped the Henley Passport Index for Q1 of 2022?
- (a) Denmark and Japan
 - (b) Japan and Singapore
 - (c) Singapore and Denmark
 - (d) Sweden and Japan
61. In the Calendar year 2022, what is the estimated growth rate of Indian economy as per United Nations' report?
- (a) 7.5%
 - (b) 6.7%
 - (c) 5.4%
 - (d) 8%
62. The National Voters' Day is observed every year on January 25 in India to mark the foundation of the Election Commission of India (ECI). In 2022 which edition of National Voters' Day is being celebrated?
- (a) 17th
 - (b) 10th
 - (c) 15th
 - (d) 12th
63. India will be its first ever World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship in 2023 in which state?
- (a) Jammu & Kashmir
 - (b) Haryana
 - (c) Kerala
 - (d) Gujarat
64. Indian player Tasnim Mir was in news recently for becoming first Indian world number one in which sports?
- (a) Shooting
 - (b) Tennis
 - (c) Badminton
 - (d) Hockey
65. Which player has been named as the captain of the Indian women's team participating in the 2022 Women's Hockey Asia Cup?
- (a) Savita Punia
 - (b) Navjot Kaur
 - (c) Rani Rampal
 - (d) Lalremsiami
66. The Best FIFA Women's Player of the year 2021 has been won by _____
- (a) Jennifer Hermoso
 - (b) Sandra Panos
 - (c) Alexia Putellas
 - (d) Irene Paredes
67. Which day is celebrated as the International Day of Education globally?
- (a) 24 January
 - (b) 22 January
 - (c) 21 January
 - (d) 20 January

68. Which state has won the maximum number of awards at the national startup awards 2021?
- (a) Gujarat
 - (b) Uttar Pradesh
 - (c) Maharashtra
 - (d) Karnataka
69. Which player has won the women's single Indian Open (Badminton) 2022?
- (a) Busanan Ongbamrunphan
 - (b) Ratchanok Intanon
 - (c) Akane Yamaguchi
 - (d) Nozomi Okuhara
70. Who is the current BRICS Sherpa of India?
- (a) Piyush Goyal
 - (b) Devyani Khobragade
 - (c) Dilip Sinha
 - (d) Sanjay Bhattacharyya
71. India's First "District Good Governance Index" has been unveiled recently for districts of which states/UTs?
- (a) Jammu and Kashmir
 - (b) Uttarakhand
 - (c) Himachal Pradesh
 - (d) Ladakh
72. India observed Parakram Diwas on January 23 to mark the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. In 2022, which anniversary is being celebrated of the great freedom fighter?
- (a) 127
 - (b) 121
 - (c) 125
 - (d) 120
73. Which Indian film has won the Best Film Award at the Dhaka International Film Festival 2022?
- (a) Dikkiloona
 - (b) Koozhangal
 - (c) Thalaivi
 - (d) Jai Bhim
74. The Indian military has inked contract deal with which country to purchase AT4 anti-armour weapon?
- (a) Sweden
 - (b) Israel
 - (c) France
 - (d) Russia
75. Who has been conferred with the Assam's highest civilian honour 'Assam Baibhav' for the year 2021?
- (a) Cyrus Mistry
 - (b) Narendra Modi
 - (c) Ratan Tata
 - (d) Azim Premji
76. What is the theme for the National Voters' Day in 2022?
- (a) No Voter to be Left Behind
 - (b) Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed.

- (c) Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy
- (d) Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative

77. What is the rank of India in Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021?

- (a) 81
- (b) 88
- (c) 85
- (d) 89

78. The world's largest canal lock has recently been unveiled in which country?

- (a) The Netherlands
- (b) Switzerland
- (c) Germany
- (d) New Zealand

79. Which player has won the Australian Open 2022 women's singles title?

- (a) Danielle Collins
- (b) Naomi Osaka
- (c) Karolína Pliskova
- (d) Ashleigh Barty

80. Three countries have jointly topped the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021 released by the Transparency International. Which of these country is not among them?

- (a) New Zealand
- (b) Finland
- (c) Denmark
- (d) Norway

ANSWER KEY

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

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