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# 1. Polity

## 1.1 News: Home Ministry extends validity of FCRA registration of NGOs by 3 months till March 31

### Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020:

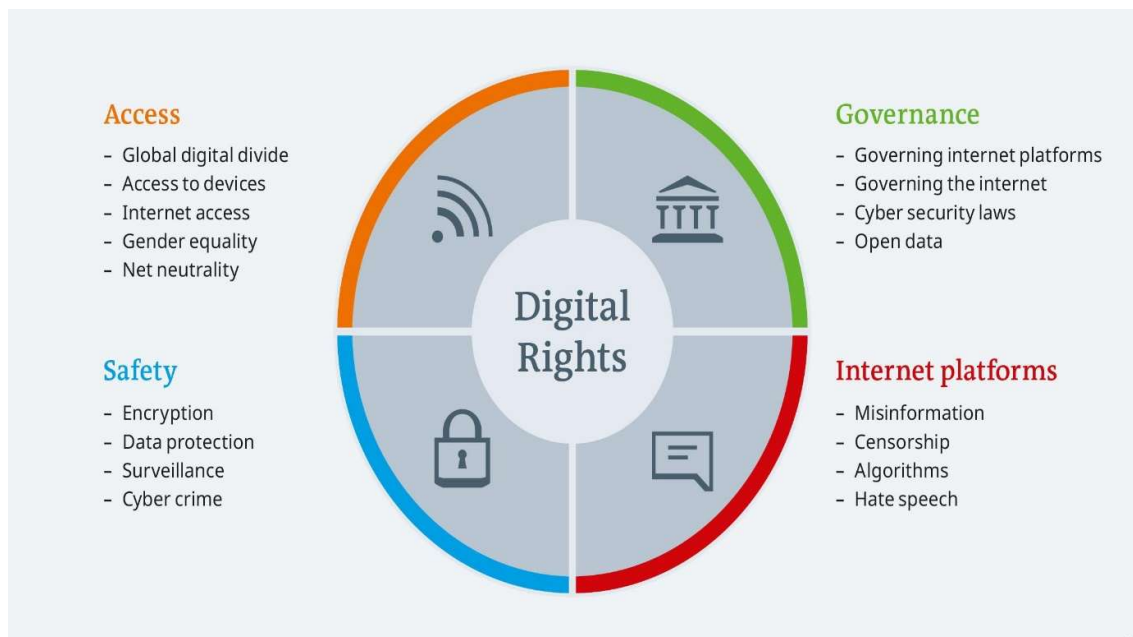
- ✓ A provision was made for the cancellation of registrations of NGOs if the Home Ministry believes that the organisation is political and not neutral.
- ✓ Prohibition to accept foreign contribution: The Act bars public servants from receiving foreign contributions.
- ✓ The registration certificate granted to the NGOs under the 2010 act came with five-year validity.
- ✓ Transfer of foreign contribution: The Act prohibits the transfer of foreign contribution to any other person not registered to accept foreign contributions.
- ✓ Aadhaar for registration: The Act makes Aadhaar number mandatory for all office bearers, directors or key functionaries of a person receiving foreign contribution, as an identification document.
- ✓ FCRA account: The Act states that foreign contributions must be received only in an account designated by the bank as FCRA account in such branches of the State Bank of India, New Delhi.
- ✓ Reduction in use of foreign contribution for administrative purposes: The Act proposes that not more than 20% of the total foreign funds received

could be defrayed for administrative expenses. In FCRA 2010 the limit was 50%.

- ✓ Surrender of certificate: The Act allows the central government to permit a person to surrender their registration certificate.

## 1.2 News:European Commission, in a global first, proposed a set of digital rights and principles recently.

### Digital Rights



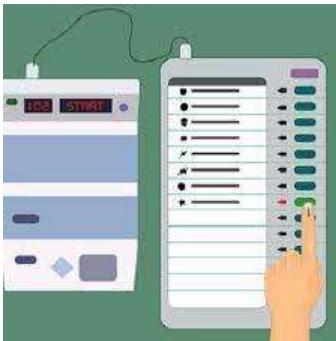
- ✓ Digital Rights imply the right to privacy and data protection. It also addresses issues of equal distribution of Internet access regardless of economic background.
- ✓ Although the free flow of information has been key to the internet's revolutionary effect on modern society, data-intensive technologies may

risk creating a digital environment where businesses and firms can track, analyse, predict, and even manipulate human behaviour.

### **EU Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles: Key points**

- ✓ There rights and principles also cover digital devices, and ensures that the products support the bloc's sustainability and green transition goals, with details provided on their environmental impact and energy consumption.
- ✓ The declaration establishes that what is illegal offline should be illegal online.
- ✓ This declaration aims to provide a guide for policymakers and companies when dealing with new technologies.
- ✓ The draft declaration on digital rights and principles aims to give everyone a clear reference point about the kind of digital transformation Europe promotes and defends.

### **1.3 News: Citizens' Commission on Elections' Report on EVMs and VVPAT was released recently.**



- ✓ EVMs are electronic voting machines which enable the voter with a button for each choice of candidate.
- ✓ It comprises two units – control unit and balloting unit. They are connected by a 5-metre cable.

- ✓ The EVM runs on a 6-volt single alkaline battery fixed in the control unit.
- ✓ It can even be used in areas that have no electricity.

#### 1.4 News:Govt approves 19th tranche of electoral bonds; sale opens on Jan 1

##### Electoral bonds



- ✓ State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds
- ✓ These bonds are only redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party.
- ✓ These bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs.10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.

- ✓ The bonds are available for purchase by any citizen of India for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government.
- ✓ The donor's name is not mentioned on the bond.

#### 1.5 News:Centre sticks to Rs. 8 lakh annual income criteria for reservation to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) candidates

##### Economically Weaker Section (EWS)

- ✓ Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) is being implemented in respect of recruitment for Civil posts and services in government and admission in educational institutions.
- ✓ Quantum of reservation: The persons belonging to EWSs who, are not covered under the scheme of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs shall get 10% reservation in direct recruitment in civil posts and services in the Government and admission in educational institutions.
- ✓ **Eligibility**
  1. Persons who are not covered under the scheme of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs and whose family has gross annual income below Rs 8 (Rupees eight lakh only) are to be identified as EWSs for benefit of reservation. Income shall also include income from all sources i.e. salary, agriculture, business, profession, etc. for the financial year prior to the year of application.
  2. Also persons whose family owns or possesses any of the following assets shall be excluded from being identified as EWS, irrespective of the family income:
    - ➔ 5 acres of agricultural land and above;
    - ➔ Residential area of 1000 sq ft. and above;
    - ➔ Residential plot of 100 sq. yards and above in notified municipalities;
    - ➔ Residential, plot of 200 sq. yards and above in areas other than the notified municipalities.



- ✓ The term "Family" for this purpose will include the person who seeks benefit of reservation, his/her parents and siblings below the age of 18 years as also his/her spouse and children below the age of 18 years.

#### 1.6 News: Punjab Lok Congress party of Ex-CM Captain Amarinder Singh allotted hockey stick, ball as election symbol

- ✓ Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the EC to recognise political parties and allot symbols.
- ✓ Under Paragraph 15 of the Order, it can decide disputes among rival groups or sections of a recognised political party staking claim to its name and symbol.
- ✓ The EC is also the only authority to decide issues on a dispute or a merger. The Supreme Court upheld its validity in Sadiq Ali and another vs. ECI in 1971.
- ✓ As per the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) (Amendment) Order, 2017, party symbols are either:
  - ✓ Reserved: Eight national parties and 64 state parties across the country have "reserved" symbols.

- ✓ Free: The Election Commission also has a pool of nearly 200 “free” symbols that are allotted to the thousands of unrecognised regional parties that pop up before elections.

### 1.7 News: District Good Governance Index

- ✓ District Good Governance Index (DGGI) was launched in Jammu and Kashmir, virtually in January 2022. It has been launched for 20 districts of J&K. This is India’s very first District Good Governance Index.
- ✓ District Good Governance Index Launched by – Union Home Ministry
- ✓ The District Good Governance Index (DGGI) represents Next Generation Administrative Reform in Benchmarking Governance at the District level, prepared after extensive stakeholder consultation.
- ✓ It comprises measuring performance under 10 governance sectors having 58 indicators with 116 data points.
- ✓ It has been prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in partnership with the Union Territory’s administration.

### 1.8 News:National Human Trafficking Awareness Day 2022: 11th January

- ✓ National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11th brings attention to a crime that leaves a lasting toll on human life, families, and communities around the world.

### 1.9 News:Statehood Day of Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura celebrated on Jan 21; were formed in 1972 with the enactment of North–Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971

The North–Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 was a major reform of the boundaries of India's North–East region into States and union territories.

1. Establishment of the states of Manipur and Tripura. They were Union Territories before.
2. Establishment of the state of Meghalaya. It was an autonomous part of Assam before.
3. Establishment of the Union Territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.
4. Reduction of the area of the state of Assam due to the above changes.
5. Allocation of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha seats for the newly created territories.

6. Allocation of seats to the Legislative Assemblies of the newly created territories.
7. Creation of separate High Courts for Meghalya, Manipur and Tripura.
8. Creation of a new, common High Court for the rest of the modified territories

**1.10 News:12th National Voters' Day celebrated on Jan 25; theme. 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'**



- ✓ Every Year since 2011, 25th January has been celebrated as National Voters' Day.
- ✓ It marks the Foundation day of the Election Commission of India, which was established on this day in the year 1950.
- ✓ Since the beginning, National Voter Day has been institutionalized as an annual feature to celebrate democracy and electoral participation in the country.

### 1.11 News:Himachal Pradesh celebrates Statehood Day on January 25

#### State Reorganisation Commission

- ✓ The Fazl Ali Commission (1953) was set up and its recommendation for reorganization of state based on linguistic criteria (other criteria were also included) was accepted.
- ✓ After recommendation of the State Reorganisation Commission, Himachal Pradesh became Union Territory on 1st November, 1956.
- ✓ On 18th December, 1970 the State of Himachal Pradesh Act was passed by Parliament and the new state came into being on 25th January, 1971. Thus H.P. emerged as the eighteenth state of the Indian Union.

### 1.12 News:Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) grants regular market approval for Covishield, Covaxin for use in adult population

#### Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)

- ✓ It is the head of department of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of the Government of India responsible for approval of licences of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, IV fluids, vaccines, and sera in India.

- ✓ Drugs Controller General of India, comes under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- ✓ DCGI also sets standards for manufacturing, sales, import, and distribution of drugs in India.

### **1.13 News:Dr Venkatraman Anantha Nageswaran appointed as Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Government of India**

- ✓ **The Chief Economic Adviser (CEA)** is a post in Government of India and is equivalent to rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
- ✓ The CEA is the ex-officio cadre controlling authority of the Indian Economic Service.
- ✓ The CEA is head of Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

### **1.14 News:Data Privacy Day observed on 28 January**

- ✓ Data Privacy Day is celebrated on January 28, every year across the world. The objective of the day is to sensitize individuals and disseminate privacy practices and principles.

- ✓ It encourages everyone to own their privacy responsibilities to create a culture of privacy.

## 2.Indian Economy

2.1 News:SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme for rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging to be launched soon. Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry

### SMILE:

- ✓ The umbrella scheme is set to provide welfare and rehabilitation to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- ✓ The two sub-schemes of SMILE - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons' and 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of engaged in the act of Begging' – provide comprehensive welfare and rehabilitation measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- ✓ It provides Scholarships for Transgender Students studying in IX and till post-graduation to enable them to complete their education.
- ✓ It has provisions for Skill Development and Livelihood under PM-DAKSH scheme.

- ✓ Through Composite Medical Health it provides a comprehensive package in convergence with PM-JAY supporting Gender-Reaffirmation surgeries through selected hospitals.
- ✓ The Housing facility in the form of 'Garima Greh' ensures food, clothing, recreational facilities, skill development opportunities, recreational activities and medical support etc. to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- ✓ The Provision of Transgender Protection Cell in each state will monitor cases of offences and to ensure timely registration, investigation and prosecution of offences.
- ✓ The National Portal & Helpline will provide necessary information and solutions to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging when needed.
- ✓ The sub-scheme - 'Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging' - will focus on Survey and identification, Mobilisation, Rescue/ Shelter Home and Comprehensive resettlement.

**2.2 News: Central Electricity Regulatory Commission issued draft Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System Regulations, 2021.**

**General Network Access(GNA)**





- ✓ General Network Access means open access to the Inter-State transmission system.
- ✓ GNA refers to non-discriminatory access (open access) to the inter-State transmission system for an estimated maximum injection and for a consumer to draw for a specified period.
- ✓ This is in keeping with the concept of “One Nation, One Grid”.

### 2.3 News: GST Council decides to retain status quo on GST rate on textile to 5%

#### GST Council



- ✓ The Council is a joint forum of the centre and the states and consists of the following members:
  1. The Union Finance Minister as the Chairperson
  2. The Union Minister of State in-charge of Revenue or Finance

3. The Minister in-charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each state government.

- ✓ The members of the Council from the states have to choose one amongst themselves to be the Vice-Chairperson of the Council. They can also decide his term.

**Functions:** It must give Recommendations to the centre and the states on the following matters:

1. The taxes, cesses and surcharges levied by the centre, the states and the local bodies that would be merged in GST.
2. The goods and services that may be subjected to GST or exempted from GST.
3. The threshold limit of turnover below which goods and services may be exempted from GST.
4. Any special rate or rates for a specified period to raise additional resources during any natural calamity or disaster.
5. Any other matter relating to GST, as the Council may decide.

**2.4 News: India's current account slips into deficit in Q2, CAD now at 1.3% of GDP**

**current account Deficit.**

- ✓ A current account deficit occurs when the total value of goods and services a country imports exceeds the total value of goods and services it exports.
- ✓ The balance of exports and imports of goods is referred to as the trade balance. Trade Balance is a part of 'Current Account Balance'.

## 2.5 News: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches 'Padhe Bharat', a 100-days reading campaign

### Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat



✓ 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' is planned in a twin track approach.

(i) To improve language development by creating an enduring interest in reading and writing with comprehension;

ii. To create a natural and positive interest in mathematics related to the physical and social world. The two tracks of Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat are:

→ Early Reading and Writing with Comprehension.

→ Early mathematics.

- ✓ It is a sub-programme of erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which is continued under the new integrated scheme Samagra Shiksha to ensure quality at the foundational years of schooling.

## 2.6 News:PM releases 10th instalment of financial benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme

### PM-KISAN



- ✓ PM Kisan is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.
  - ✓ Under the scheme an income support of 6,000/- per year in three equal installments will be provided to all land holding farmer families.
  - ✓ Definition of family for the scheme is husband, wife and minor children.
  - ✓ State Government and UT administration will identify the farmer families which are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines.
  - ✓ The fund will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.
  - ✓ There are various Exclusion Categories for the scheme.
- The following categories of beneficiaries of higher economic status shall not be eligible for benefit under the scheme.

1.All Institutional Land holders.

2.Farmer families which belong to one or more of the following categories..

i) Former and present holders of constitutional posts

ii) Former and present Ministers/ State Ministers and former/present Members of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha/ State Legislative Assemblies/ State Legislative Councils,former and present Mayors of Municipal Corporations, former and present Chairpersons of District Panchayats.

iii) All serving or retired officers and employees of Central/ State Government Ministries /Offices/Departments and its field units Central or State PSEs and Attached offices /Autonomous Institutions under Government as well as regular employees of the Local Bodies(Excluding Multi Tasking Staff /Class IV/Group D employees)

vi)All superannuated/retired pensioners whose monthly pension is Rs.10,000/-or more(Excluding Multi Tasking Staff / Class IV/Group D employees) of above category

v)All Persons who paid Income Tax in last assessment year

vi) Professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants, and Architects registered with Professional bodies and carrying out profession by undertaking practices.

**2.7 News: Education Minister and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches NEAT 3.0 (National Educational Alliance for Technology 3.0)**

**NEAT**

- ✓ NEAT – (National Educational Alliance for Technology) is a comprehensive platform for online education that provides access to a wide range of products from the industry.
- ✓ Like BYJU's, Coursera and many more .
- ✓ The Ministry of Human Resource development ensures that students from rural areas or students having financial condition problem get access to some free coupons during their participation in the neat cell.
- ✓ This establishes a standard education procedure which is in alignment with the national education policy.

**2.8 News: RBI notifies market making scheme to promote retail participation in G-Secs**

**Market making scheme**

- ✓ The RBI had launched Retail Direct Scheme on November 12, 2021, for providing one-stop access to facilitate investment in Government Securities by retail investors.

- ✓ In this connection, RBI has notified a market-making arrangement to provide liquidity in the secondary market wherein the Primary Dealers shall be present on the NDS-OM platform (odd-lot and Request for Quotes segments) throughout market hours and respond to buy/sell requests from Retail Direct Gilt Account Holders (RDGAHs).
- ✓ Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account” means a gilt account maintained in the books of RBI under the Retail Direct Scheme
- ✓ “NDS-OM” or Negotiated Dealing Segment – Order Matching means RBI’s screen-based, anonymous electronic order matching system for trading in Government Securities in the secondary market.
- ✓ Primary Dealers” means entities authorized by RBI to undertake primary dealership activities in Government Securities;

## **2.9 News:SBI, ICICI, HDFC Bank continue to remain Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs): RBI**

### **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs):**

- ✓ The banks that are ‘Too Big To Fail (TBTF).
- ✓ Some banks, due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity, lack of substitutability and interconnectedness, become systemically important.

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks

## 2.10 News: UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) scheme completes 7 years; Over 36 crore 70 lakh LEDs distributed across the country so far



- ✓ The **Ujala Scheme** was established by replacing the Bachat Lamp Yojana is a joint initiative of Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of India, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Union Ministry of Power and the Electricity Distribution Company.

### Objectives of UJALA Scheme

- ✓ The UJALA scheme also known as the LED-based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) aims to promote the efficient usage of energy for all i.e., its consumption, savings and lighting. This scheme is considered the world's largest program.
- ✓ Aims to promote efficient use of energy at the residential level.
- ✓ Enhance the awareness of consumers



- ✓ According to the UJALA scheme, LED bulbs would be distributed by the Electricity Distribution Company at subsidized rates to every grid-connected customer with a metered connection.

### 2.11 News: Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Pashupati Kumar Paras launches 6 brands under One District–One Product (ODOP)

#### One District–One Product (ODOP)

- ✓ The One District One Product (ODOP) is an initiative to boost economic growth at the district level.
- ✓ It was launched in January 2018, by the Uttar Pradesh Government, and due to its success, was later adopted by the Central Government.
- ✓ The idea is to select, brand, and promote One Product from each District of the country
  1. For enabling holistic socioeconomic growth across all regions
  2. To attract investment in the District to boost manufacturing and exports
  3. To generate employment in the District
  4. To provide an ecosystem for Innovation/ use of Technology at the District level to make them competitive with domestic as well as international market

## 2.12 News:Smart Cities Mission launches “Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)” program

### Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)”

- ✓ It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs , National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.
- ✓ Under the program, 15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by the Smart Cities Mission.
- ✓ The documents will capture the learnings from best practices, provide opportunities for engagement on urban development projects to students, and enable real-time information flow between urban practitioners and academia.

## 2.13 News:NCLAT sets aside NCLT order approving Twin Star’s bid for Videocon Group

- ✓ The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) is a tribunal which was formed by the Central Government of India under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.

- ✓ The NCLAT was formed as a body with an appellate jurisdiction at the same time when NCLT was established as a major reform as per powers granted to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in India.
- ✓ The tribunal is responsible for hearing appeals from the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), starting on 1 June 2016.
- ✓ The tribunal also hears appeals from orders issued by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- ✓ It also hears appeals from any direction issued, decision made, or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

#### 2.14 News:Govt approves Green Energy Corridor Phase-II with ₹12,000-crore outlay



- ✓ The Green Energy Corridor Project aims at synchronizing electricity produced from renewable sources, such as solar and wind, with conventional power stations in the grid.
- ✓ For evacuation of large-scale renewable energy, Intra State Transmission System (InSTS) project was sanctioned by the Ministry in 2015-16.

- ✓ It is being implemented by eight renewable-rich states of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. The project is being implemented in these states by the respective State Transmission Utilities (STUs).

**2.15 News: Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy virtually inaugurates PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive) projects at Govardhan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh**

**PRASHAD Project**

- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Tourism inaugurated various components of the "Development of Govardhan, Mathura " project under PRASHAD Scheme.
- ✓ objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations.
- ✓ After the discontinuation of the HRIDAY scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the development of Heritage destinations was included in the PRASAD Scheme, changing it to PRASHAD.
- ✓ Under the PRASHAD Scheme, several religious cities/sites in have been identified for development such as Amaravati and Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh), Kamakhya (Assam), Parasuram Kund (Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh), Patna and Gaya (Bihar), etc.

- ✓ The Central Government provides 100% funding for the project components undertaken for public funding.

## 2.16 News: Foreign exchange reserves decline by USD 1.466 billion to USD 633.614 billion



### Foreign exchange reserves

- ✓ Forex reserves or foreign exchange reserves (FX reserves) are assets that are held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority.
- ✓ It is generally held in reserve currencies usually the US Dollar and to a lesser degree the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling. It is used to back its liabilities – like the native currency

India's Forex Reserve include:

1. Foreign Currency Assets
2. Gold reserves
3. Special Drawing Rights
4. Reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).



**2.18 News:24th National Conference on e-Governance 2021 organised in Hyderabad; theme: “India’s Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World”**

- ✓ Recently, the 24th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), in association with the State Government of Telangana.
- ✓ The Conference provides a platform for constructive exchange of ideas on some of the latest technologies for promoting e-Governance.
- ✓ At the conference, the ‘Hyderabad Declaration’ on e-Governance was adopted.
- ✓ The declaration aims to bring citizens and governments closer through digital platforms and transform citizen services through the use of technology.

**2.19 News:Assam govt partners with NDDDB (National Dairy Development Board) to set up Rs 2,000-cr dairy joint venture**

**NDDDB (National Dairy Development Board)**

- ✓ The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is a statutory body set up by an Act of the Parliament of India.
- ✓ It is under the ownership of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying of the Government of India.
- ✓ The main office is in Anand, Gujarat with regional offices throughout the country.
- ✓ NDDB's subsidiaries include Indian Dairy Machinery Company Limited, Mother Dairy and Indian Immunologicals Limited, Hyderabad.
- ✓ The Board was created to finance and support producer-owned and controlled organisations. Its programmes and activities seek to strengthen farmer cooperatives and support national policies that are favourable to the growth of such institutions. Cooperative principles and cooperative strategies are fundamental to the board's efforts

**2.20 News: Finance Ministry: Deposits in Jan Dhan accounts cross Rs 1.5 lakh crore**



- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (transl. Prime Minister's People's Wealth Scheme) is a financial inclusion program of the Government of India open to Indian citizens (minors of age 10 and older can also



open an account with a guardian to manage it), that aims to expand affordable access to financial services such as bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance and pensions.

- ✓ This financial inclusion campaign was launched by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 28 August 2014.
- ✓ Run by Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, under this scheme 15 million bank accounts were opened on inauguration day.

#### **2.21 News: Retail inflation rises to 5.59% in December 2021**

- ✓ Retail prices of goods and services: When we talk about the rate of inflation, it often refers to the rate of inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI).
- ✓ The CPI tracks the change in retail prices of goods and services which households purchase for their daily consumption.
- ✓ CPI formula:  $(\text{Price of basket in current period} / \text{Price of basket in base period}) \times 100$

#### **2.22 News: World Bank projects India's GDP growth at 8.3% in FY22**

- ✓ The World Bank has projected the Indian economy to grow at the following rate in its 'Global Economic Prospects' report released on January 11, 2022.
- ✓ The World Bank retained its FY22 growth forecast for India at 8.3 per cent but upgraded it to 8.7 per cent for FY23, from 7.5 per cent estimated earlier, citing improving growth prospects, especially a reviving private capex cycle.

### **2.23 News: RBI Governor-headed FSDC (Financial Stability and Development Council) sub-committee reviews economic situation**

- ✓ Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is an apex-level body constituted by the government of India.
- ✓ The idea to create such a super regulatory body was first mooted by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.
- ✓ Finally in 2010, the then Finance Minister of India, Pranab Mukherjee, decided to set up such an autonomous body dealing with macro prudential and financial regularities in the entire financial sector of India.
- ✓ An apex-level FSDC is not a statutory body.
- ✓ Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs chair the meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).

**2.24 News: Merchandise exports: India had trade deficit of USD 142.44 billion in April–December 2021–22**

**Trade deficit**



✓ The balance of trade, commercial balance, or net exports (sometimes symbolized as NX), is the difference between the monetary value of a

nation's exports and imports over a certain time period.

- ✓ The balance of trade measures a flow of exports and imports over a given period of time.
- ✓ The notion of the balance of trade does not mean that exports and imports are "in balance" with each other.

**2.25 News: WPI (wholesale price index–based) inflation declines to 13.56% in December 2021**

**WPI (wholesale price index–based) inflation**



- ✓ The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is an important index necessary for calculating inflation in a country. The Office of the Economic Adviser in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry is responsible for compiling WPI and releasing it.
- ✓ The Wholesale Price Index represents the price of a basket of wholesale goods. WPI focuses on the price of goods that are traded between corporations.
- ✓ It does not concentrate on goods purchased by the consumers.
- ✓ The main objective of WPI is monitoring price drifts that reflect demand and supply in manufacturing, construction and industry.
- ✓ WPI helps in assessing the macroeconomic as well as microeconomic conditions of an economy.

**2.26 News, January 16 to be celebrated as ‘National Start-up Day’: PM**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared to mark 16th January as 'National Start-up Day'. The announcement was made by PM Modi on January 15, 2022, via video conferencing during a week-long event "Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem" as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

## **2.27 News: RBI released Annual Report of Ombudsman Schemes, 2020-21**

### **Ombudsman Schemes, 2020-21**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its "Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the year 2020-21", highlighting a rise in Banking Ombudsman complaints.

#### **Key Findings of the report**

- ✓ During April 2020-March 2021, report witnessed a 22.27 per cent increase in number of complaints under various ombudsman schemes.
- ✓ ATM & debit cards, mobile banking and credit cards accounted for major chunk of the complaints.
- ✓ Chandigarh, Kanpur and Delhi received the maximum number of complaints.

## 2.28 News:Defence Ministry sets up Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal

### Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal

- ✓ The Defence Ministry has set up an online portal named ‘Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal’. It aims to resolve pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents.
- ✓ The measures were announced on the occasion of Armed Forces Veterans Day, celebrated on January 14.

## 2.29 News:Applications invited under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme from domestic semiconductor chip design firms

### Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme–Objective

- ✓ To provide financial and infrastructural support to companies setting up fabs or semiconductor making plants in India.
- ✓ It aims to attract existing and global players as it will support their expenditures related to design software, IP rights, development, testing, and deployment.
- ✓ Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), a scientific society operating under MeitY, will serve as the nodal agency for the implementation of the DLI scheme.

**2.30 News:Wealth of 98 richest Indians same as bottom 552 million, says Oxfam India report titled 'Inequality Kills'**

- ✓ In the report, India was described as a 'very unequal,' country, as the top 10 people in India holds 57 per cent of the wealth. On the other hand, the share of the bottom half is 13 per cent.
- ✓ The wealth of India's richest families reached to a record high in 2021.
- ✓ When 84 percent of households in the country suffered a decline in their income in a year marked by tremendous loss of life and livelihoods, the number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142, Oxfam India's latest briefing 'Inequality Kills' has revealed.

**2.31 News:Minister of State Subhas Sarkar launches Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar**

**Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar**

- ✓ The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India launched 'Swachh Bharat Swachh Vidyalaya' (SBSV) initiative in 2014 to ensure that all schools in India have access to separate functional toilets for boys and girls.
- ✓ The initiative also has its emphasis on promoting safe and appropriate hygiene practices in schools and behaviour among children.

- ✓ The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar was instituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India in 2016 to recognize, inspire and celebrate excellence in sanitation and hygiene practice in schools.
- ✓ The explicit purpose of the awards is to honour schools that have undertaken significant steps towards fulfilling the mandate of the Swachh Vidyalaya Campaign.

### **2.32 News.DPIIT organized Startup India Innovation Week from 10 to 16 January**

- ✓ Startup India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate large-scale employment opportunities.
- ✓ The initiative aims to empower startups to grow through innovation and design. The initiative not only brought a sharp focus on startups but catalysed the Indian startup ecosystem and accelerated Indian entrepreneurs building innovative solutions for Indian and global needs.



- ✓ Since the launch of the initiative, several programs have been undertaken to contribute to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of transforming India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers.

### **2.33 News:Cabinet approves infusion of Rs.1,500 crore in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**

#### **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**

- ✓ Established in 1987, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- ✓ The organisation is committed to providing innovative financing in Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency/Conservation and Environmental Technologies
- ✓ It is a Public Limited Government Company which was established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution and works on the motto “Energy for Ever.”

## 2.34 News:Special camps to register workers on e-Shram portal

### e-Shram portal

- ✓ Its for register 38 crore unorganised workers such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors, and domestic workers, among others.
- ✓ The workers will be issued an e-Shram card containing a 12 digit unique number.
- ✓ If a worker is registered on the eSHRAM portal and meets with an accident, he will be eligible for Rs 2.0 Lakh on death or permanent disability and Rs 1.0 lakh on partial disability.

## 2.35 News:RBI announces Digital Payments Index for September 2021

### Digital Payments Index

- ✓ The RBI-DPI comprises 5 broad parameters that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different time periods.
- ✓ 5 Parameters:
  1. Payment Enablers (weight 25%),
  2. Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors (10%),

3. Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors (15%),
  4. Payment Performance (45%) and
  5. Consumer Centricity (5%).
- ✓ It will be published on RBI's website on a semi-annual basis from March 2021 onwards with a lag of 4 months.

### **2.36 News: National Tourism Day celebrated on Jan 25; theme: 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism'**

#### **National Tourism Day**

- ✓ National Tourism Day is celebrated across the country on January 25 every year to appreciate India's beauty and spread awareness about the importance of tourism and its impact on the economy.
- ✓ Theme: for National Tourism Day is 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism'.
- ✓ Telangana's Pochampally village: The central government is organizing the main event which is known for its famous hand-woven Ikat sarees. Pochampally was selected as one of the best tourism villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2021.

## 3.Environment

### 3.1 News:Bhupender Yadav chaired 19th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority

- ✓ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established in December 2005, following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force, constituted by the Prime Minister of India for reorganised management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India.
- ✓ A programme for protection called, 'Tiger Protection Program' (popularly known as Project Tiger) was started in 1973, by the Government of India in co-operation with WWF.

### 3.2 News: Recently, The Government of India has decided to reintroduce Cheetahs in National Parks over five years, under 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India- kuno palpur national Park'.



- ✓ **Kuno National Park** is a national park in Madhya Pradesh, India, established in 1981 as a wildlife sanctuary .In 2018, it was given the status of a national park. It is part of the Khathiar–Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion.
- ✓ **The cheetah** is a large cat native to Africa and central Iran. It is the fastest land animal, IUCN Status is Vulnerable.
- ✓ The other sites recommended for holding and conservation breeding of cheetah in India, in controlled wild conditions are:
  1. Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh
  2. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary - Bhainsrorgarh Wildlife Sanctuary complex, Madhya Pradesh
  3. Shahgarh bulge in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
  4. Mukundara Tiger Reserve as fenced enclosure ,Rajasthan.

### 3.3 News: India's oldest sloth bear 'Gulabo' passes away at Van Vihar National Park

- ✓ Van Vihar National Park is a national park in Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh in central India. Declared a national park in 1979.
- ✓ It has the status of a national park, but is developed and managed as a modern zoological park, following the guidelines of the Central Zoo Authority.

- ✓ Animals are kept in near natural habitats.
- ✓ Most animals are either orphaned and brought from various parts of the state or are exchanged from other zoos.
- ✓ No animal is deliberately captured from the forest.
- ✓ Van Vihar is unique because visitors access it from a road through the park, and trenches, walls, and chain-link fencing protect the animals from poachers while providing natural habitat.

3.4 News: Recently, Red Sanders (Red Sandalwood) has fallen back into the 'Endangered' category in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.

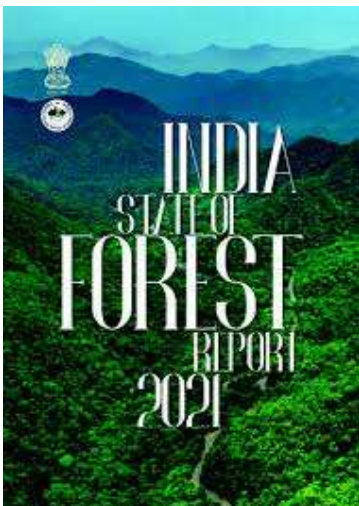


#### RED SANDERS

- ✓ The red sanders is an Indian endemic tree species, with a restricted geographical range in the Eastern Ghats.
- ✓ The species is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Red Sanders usually grow in the rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil and hot and dry climate.
- ✓ IUCN Red List: Endangered.

- ✓ CITES: Appendix II
- ✓ Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972: Schedule II

### 3.5 News: Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav releases 'India State Of Forest Report 2021';



- ✓ Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav has launched the 17th edition of the biennial 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR)' 2021.
- ✓ ISFR is released by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), every two years since 1987 to assess the country's forest resources.
- ✓ Total forest and tree cover in India is 80.9 million hectares in 2021 which is 24.6% of the geographical area of the country
- ✓ India's forest and tree cover rose by 2,261 square kilometres in ISFR 2021 as compared to the assessment of 2019. This includes an increase of 1,540 square kilometres in forest cover and a 721 sq km increase in tree cover.

**3.6 News: Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Bhupender Yadav delivers India's statement at the Fourth Asia Ministerial  
Conference on Tiger Conservation**

- ✓ Outcome: The Kuala Lumpur Joint Statement was adopted.
- ✓ Two legal instruments that have enabled tiger recoveries in India are:
  1. The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
  2. The Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980, which reinforced Project Tiger.
- ✓ Conservation Status of Tiger:
  1. Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I.
  2. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List: Endangered.
  3. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix I.

**3.7 News: (ICAR) committee highlighted that ZBNF would result in  
tremendous reduction in production of agricultural crops thus  
compromising India's food security.**

**ZERO-BUDGET NATURAL FARMING (ZBNF)**





- ✓ Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a type of chemical-free farming where the total cost of growing and harvesting plants comes out to be zero (taking into consideration the costs incurred by the farmers are recovered through inter-cropping).
- ✓ Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is the practice of growing crops without the use of any external inputs, such as pesticides and fertilisers. The phrase “Zero Budget” refers to all crops with zero production costs.
- ✓ Under the specific programme known as Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), the government has been encouraging organic farming. This programme supports all different types of chemical-free agricultural methods, including Zero Budget Natural Farming.

#### **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)**

- ✓ A traditional farming improvement programme, PMKY was launched in 2015.
- ✓ It is an extended component of Soil Health Management (SHM) under the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).
- ✓ With the help of PKVY, the government aims to support and promote:

1. Organic farming
  2. Reduction in dependence on fertilizers and agricultural chemicals
  3. Improvement of the soil health while increasing the yields.
  4. Organic food, thus produced will be linked with modern marketing tools and local markets.
- ✓ The revamped PKVY promotes organic farming through the adoption of an organic village by cluster approach and the Participatory Guarantee System of certification.

### **3.8 News:Kerala got its first-ever scientific bird atlas**

- ✓ Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA), the first-of-its-kind State-level bird atlas in India, has created solid baseline data about the distribution and abundance of bird species across all major habitats, giving an impetus to futuristic studies.
- ✓ It is being conducted as a citizen science-driven exercise with the participation of over 1,000 volunteers of the birdwatching community KBA has been prepared based on systematic surveys held twice over 60 days a year.

### 3.9 News: World Economic Forum (WEF) recently published a report titled 'BiodiverCities by 2030: Transforming cities'

- ✓ BiodiverCities by 2030 initiative is led jointly by the World Economic Forum and the Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute and championed by the Government of Colombia.
- ✓ The initiative aims to support city governments, businesses and citizens, to make choices that enable cities to live in harmony with nature by 2030.

#### Findings

- ✓ Cities contribute nearly 80% to the global economy, but they also account for nearly three-fourths of greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ Impact of Nature Loss: Around 44% of global GDP in cities (\$31 trillion) is estimated to be at risk of disruption from nature loss.
- ✓ More than 1.4 billion people living in the world's largest urban centres are threatened by natural hazards.

### 3.10 News: Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary set to be notified as 4th tiger reserve of Rajasthan



- ✓ Located in the Bundi district of Rajasthan.
- ✓ The area had been declared a sanctuary in 1982 through the Rajasthan Wildlife and Bird Protection Act, 1951.
- ✓ The state government had sent the proposal to develop the Ramgarh Vishdhari sanctuary for tigers which was approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- ✓ It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ✓ While Ramgarh doesn't have a high tiger population, it plays a critical role in the movement of tigers.
- ✓ The newly created tiger reserve will connect the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur district in the northeast with the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in the Kota district on the southern side.
- ✓ This reserve will also help control overpopulation and the consequent effect of overcrowding in Ranthambore.

### 3.11 News: Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve bags TX2 award

- ✓ The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu has won the prestigious **TX2 award** for doubling the tiger population since 2010. Bardia National Park, Nepal, was also jointly conferred the award, for doubling its population of wild tigers
- ✓ The awards are presented by the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Global Tiger Forum (GTF), IUCN's Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP), Panthera, UNDP, The Lion's Share, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and WWF.
- ✓ **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve** is a protected area and tiger reserve in the Eastern Ghats in the Erode District of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It was notified as Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, the fourth tiger reserve in the state of Tamil Nadu as a part of Project Tiger and is the third largest tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu.

### 3.12 News: A recent study states that earth is going through its sixth mass extinction.

#### Mass extinctions

- ✓ when at least half of all species die out in a relatively short time—have occurred only a handful of times over the course of our planet's history.
- ✓ The largest mass extinction event happened around 250 million years ago, when perhaps 95 percent of all species went extinct.
- ✓ The Holocene extinction is also known as the "sixth extinction", as it is possibly the sixth mass extinction

### **3.13 News: Recently UNESCO Heritage tag is being sought for the Living Root bridge.**

- ✓ Living root bridges (also known as Jing Kieng Jri) are the aerial bridges that are built by weaving and manipulating the roots of the Indian rubber tree.
- ✓ A root bridge uses traditional tribal knowledge to train the roots of the Indian rubber tree (found in abundance in the area) to grow laterally across a stream bed resulting in a living bridge of roots.
- ✓ It spans between 15 and 250 feet and is built over centuries.
- ✓ They have been serving as connectors for generations in the Indian state of Meghalaya.
- ✓ The bridges are primarily a means to cross streams and rivers.

- ✓ They have also become world-famous tourist attractions. The two most popular tourist spots are- Riwai Root Bridge and Umshiang Double Decker Bridge.

## 4. International Relations

### 4.1 News: Sri Lanka Cabinet clears Trincomalee oil tank farm deal with India

#### Trincomalee oil tank.

- ✓ The oil tank farm was built by the British during World War II as a refuelling station,
- ✓ It is located in 'China Bay' in close proximity to the internationally coveted deep water natural harbour of Trincomalee.
- ✓ The proposal of this joint development was envisaged 35 years ago, in the Indo-Lanka Accord 1987.
- ✓ In 2003, Indian Oil Corporation set up its Sri Lankan subsidiary called Lanka IOC, to work on this oil farm.
- ✓ Currently, Lanka IOC runs 15 tanks. The new agreement is being negotiated for the remaining tanks.

### 4.2 News: First BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 was held virtually.

#### SHERPA

- ✓ About Sherpas: A Sherpa is a personal representative of the leader of a member country at an international Summit such as the G8, G20 etc.
- ✓ The term is derived from the Nepalese Sherpa people, who serve as guides for mountaineers in the Himalayas.
- ✓ They coordinate the agenda, seek consensus, and participate in a series of pre-Summit consultations to help negotiate their leaders' positions.
- ✓ There is only one Sherpa per Summit for each member country.

#### 4.3 **News:India's TS Tirumurti assumes new chair of UN Counter-Terrorism Committee**

##### **UN Counter-Terrorism Committee**

- ✓ The Counter-Terrorism Committee is a subsidiary body of the United Nations Security Council.
- ✓ In a first, India will host diplomats and officials from all 15 countries of the United Nations Security Council, including China, Russia and the United States, for a special meeting on terrorism, in Delhi and Mumbai in October.
- ✓ The meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), which India is chairing for 2022 as a member of the UNSC, will focus particularly on



challenges such as terrorism financing, cyberthreats and the use of drones, said officials.

#### 4.4 News:Russia-led military alliance CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) to send peacekeeping forces to Kazakhstan after call for help by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

- ✓ The Collective Security Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia.
- ✓ The CSTO consists of select post-Soviet states. They are Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan
- ✓ The treaty had its origins in the Soviet Armed Forces, which was replaced by the United Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and then by the successor armed forces of the respective independent states.
- ✓ Article 4 of the Collective Security Treaty (CST) establishes that an aggression against one signatory would be perceived as an aggression against all. The CSTO charter reaffirmed the desire of all participating states to abstain from the use or threat of force.
- ✓ Signatories would not be able to join other military alliances.

#### 4.5 News: Veteran Chinese diplomat Zhang Ming takes over as new Secretary-General of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization)

- ✓ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic and security organization.
- ✓ In terms of geographic scope and population, it is the world's largest regional organization.
- ✓ The SCO is the successor to the Shanghai Five, a mutual security agreement formed in 1996 between China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
- ✓ The SCO Charter was signed on 7 July 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003.
- ✓ Its membership has since expanded to eight states, with India and Pakistan joining on 9 June 2017.
- ✓ The SCO is governed by the Heads of State Council (HSC), its supreme decision-making body, which meets once a year.

#### 4.6 News: Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel appointed Vice President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

**Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank**

- ✓ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank that aims to improve economic and social outcomes in Asia.
- ✓ The bank currently has 105 members, including 14 prospective members from around the world.
- ✓ The breakdown of the 105 members by continents are as follows: 42 in Asia, 26 in Europe, 20 in Africa, 8 in Oceania, 8 in South America, and 1 in North America.
- ✓ The bank started operation after the agreement entered into force on 25 December 2015, after ratifications were received from 10 member states holding a total number of 50% of the initial subscriptions of the Authorized Capital Stock.
- ✓ The bank was proposed by China in 2013 and the initiative was launched at a ceremony in Beijing in October 2014.
- ✓ It received the highest credit ratings from the three biggest rating agencies in the world, and is seen as a potential rival to the World Bank and IMF.

#### 4.7 News;UNESCO agrees to publish Hindi descriptions of India's World Heritage Sites on its website; World Hindi Day celebrated on January 10

- ✓ World Hindi Day (WHD) is celebrated every year on 10th January to promote the Hindi language all around the world.
- ✓ It was first celebrated in 2006 to commemorate the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference which was held in Nagpur on 10th January, 1975.
- ✓ It is different from Hindi Divas(National Hindi Day- Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, was adopted as the official language of the Republic of India on 14th September, 1949. Therefore Hindi Divas is celebrated on 14th September every year.).
- ✓ It is also celebrated by Indian embassies located in various parts of the world.

#### 4.8 News: Henley Passport Index 2022: India Ranks 83rd in Q1

- ✓ The Henley Passport Index (abbreviation: HPI) is a global ranking of countries according to the travel freedom enjoyed by of holders of that country's ordinary passport for its citizens.



- ✓ It started in 2006 as Henley & Partners Visa Restrictions Index (HVRI) and was modified and renamed in January 2018.
- ✓ The site provides a ranking for 199 passports of the world according to the number of countries their holders can travel to visa-free.
- ✓ The number of countries that a specific passport can access becomes its visa-free 'score'.
- ✓ In collaboration with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and based on official data from their global database Henley & Partners has analysed the visa regulations of the vast majority of the countries and territories in the world since 2006

#### **4.9 News: Indian Navy and Russian Navy conducts PASSEX Exercise in Arabian Sea**

- ✓ Recently, India's INS Kochi and Russian ships engaged in the international Passage Exercise (PASSEX).
- ✓ A passage exercise is normally undertaken whenever an opportunity arises, in contrast to pre-planned maritime drills.
- ✓ Earlier, Indian Naval ships conducted PASSEX with the US Navy also.

#### 4.10 News:PM Modi delivers State of the World special address at World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda

##### World Economic Forum

- ✓ The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international non-governmental and lobbying organisation based in Cologny, canton of Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ It was founded on 24 January 1971 by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab.
- ✓ The WEF is mostly known for its annual meeting at the end of January in Davos

#### 4.11 News:India & Japan conducted Maritime Partnership Exercise in Bay of Bengal

- ✓ The two countries have been carrying out regular exercises in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) aimed at reinforcing maritime association.
- ✓ A Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) was conducted between Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and Indian Navy on Saturday in the Andaman Sea.

#### 4.12 News:Israel completed a successful flight test of the Arrow-3



- ✓ The Arrow 3 or Hetz 3 is an exoatmospheric hypersonic anti-ballistic missile, jointly funded, developed and produced by Israel and the United States.
- ✓ It provides exo-atmospheric interception of ballistic missiles (during the space-flight portion of their trajectory), including intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) carrying nuclear, chemical, biological or conventional warheads.
- ✓ The missile may have a reported flight range of up to 2,400 km (1,500 mi).

#### 4.13 News:Odisha and the United Nations World Food Programme to bolster food security of small farmers

##### World Food Programme

- ✓ The World Food Programme (WFP) is an international organization that works in the field of hunger alleviation and food security.
- ✓ It was founded in 1961 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) with its headquarters in Rome, Italy.

- ✓ It is also a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)

#### 4.14 News:ILO Report: Global unemployment level in 2022 projected at 207 million



International Labour Organization (ILO)

- ✓ International Labour Organization (ILO) is the only tripartite U.N. agency,

since 1919.

- ✓ It brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
- ✓ It was established by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.
- ✓ It became the first specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) in the year 1946.
- ✓ The organization got the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969

#### 4.15 News:FDI flows in India decline 26% in 2021: UNCTAD Investment Trends Monitor report



- ✓ Foreign direct investment (FDI) is when a company takes controlling ownership in a business entity in another country.
- ✓ With FDI, foreign companies are directly involved with day-to-day operations in the other country. This means they aren't just bringing money with them, but also knowledge, skills and technology.

#### **UNCTAD Investment Trends Monitor report**

- ✓ The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Investment Trends Monitor was published on January 19, 2022.

#### **Findings of the report**

- ✓ As per report, in 2021 the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India were 26 per cent lower as compared to 2020, because large M&A deals recorded in 2020 were not repeated.
- ✓ Global FDI flows showed a strong rebound in 2021. It grew to 77 per cent to an estimated USD 1.65 trillion. In 2020, the FDI flow was USD 929 billion.

**4.16 News:India 85th most corrupt country in the world. 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of Berlin, Germany-based non-governmental organisation Transparency International**

### **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)**

- ✓ The Corruption Perceptions Index is released by Transparency International annually.
- ✓ According to Corruption Perception Index 2021, India's rank improved by one place to 85 in 2021 from 86th in 2020.
- ✓ Pakistan dropped 16 spots in this year index and was ranked at 140.
- ✓ In this year's index, countries like Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and Norway topped the list with the highest score.

### **Transparency International**

- ✓ It is an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1993 based in Berlin, Germany
- ✓ Its non-profit purpose is to take action to combat global Corruption with civil societal anti-corruption measures and to prevent criminal activities arising from corruption.
- ✓ Its most notable publications include the Global Corruption Barometer and the Corruption Perception Index.

#### **4.17 News:Russia-China-Iran conducts joint naval exercise CHIRU-2Q22**

- ✓ The Russian, Chinese and Iranian navies undertook naval exercises CHIRU-2Q22 in the Gulf of Oman. The maritime drills conducted in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean aimed at deepening practical cooperation among the navies of the three countries.

#### **4.18 News:Kurdish-led forces say they have retaken Syrian prison seized by IS**

##### **Kurds**

- ✓ Kurds or Kurdish people are an Iranian ethnic group native to the mountainous region of Kurdistan in Western Asia, which spans southeastern Turkey, northwestern Iran, northern Iraq, and northern Syria.

#### **4.19 News:India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022 approved at 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting**

- ✓ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional organization which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states.
- ✓ The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- ✓ 8th August is observed as ASEAN Day.

- ✓ Who are the Member Nations? :Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia.

## 5.Internal Security

- 5.1 News:Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla releases CyberPravah – newsletter of Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre

### CyberPravah

- ✓ Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Monday released a set of manuals and a newsletter of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) as part of a campaign to check cyber crimes.
- ✓ The manuals and the newsletter prepared by the Cyber and Information Security Division (CIS) of the Union home ministry are ‘Cyber Hygiene for Cyber Space – Dos and Don’ts – Basic Manual’, ‘Cyber Hygiene for Cyber Space – Dos and Don’ts – Advanced Manual’ and the quarterly newsletter ‘Cyber Pravah’, an official press release said The manuals are part of a focused awareness campaign for prevention of cyber crimes and to inculcate cyber hygiene in rural areas, industrial bodies, and the general public.

**5.2 News:Ladakh: BRO (Border Roads Organisation) creates history, Zoji-La pass opens to vehicles for the first time ever in January**

**Border Roads Organisation**

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is a road construction executive force in India that provides support to and is now a part of the Indian Armed Forces.
- ✓ BRO develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries. T
- ✓ his includes infrastructure operations in 19 states and three union territories (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka. As of 2015,

**5.3 News:Rajasthan: BSF to conduct 'Operation Sard Hawa' along Pak border from Jan 23 to 28**

- ✓ The Operation Sard Hawa was launched by the Border Security Force in the western border of Rajasthan.
- ✓ The main purpose of the operation is to check the instances of infiltration due to dense fog in the region.

- ✓ The Operation has also been launched to enhance the security ahead of Republic Day.

#### **5.4 News:Amar Jawan Jyoti to be merged with flame at National War Memorial in New Delhi on Jan 21**

- ✓ Amar Jawan Jyoti (Immortal Soldier Flame, or light) is an Indian memorial conceptualised and constructed after the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 and inaugurated on 26 January 1972.
- ✓ It was the national war memorial in India until February 2019,when the new National War Memorial and its own flame was inaugurated and lit.
- ✓ On 21 January 2022, the older flame was merged with the newer one at National War Memorial.

#### **5.5 News:Western Naval Command conducts Joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)**

- ✓ Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy conducted a joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022) off the West Coast which concluded.

- ✓ The exercise continued for 20 days and was conducted with an aim to enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard.
- ✓ The Western Naval Command (HQ- Mumbai) is one of the three command-level formations of the Indian Navy. The other two are Eastern Naval Command (HQ- Visakhapatnam) and Southern Naval Command (HQ- Kochi).

## 6.Science and Technology

### 6.1 News:Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology at Chandigarh University

#### Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology at Chandigarh University

- ✓ Established with the objective of training students in space science and satellite development and to meet future challenges in the area of space research, this state-of-the-art space centre would be the Ground Control Station (GCS) for the Chandigarh University's Student Satellite (CUSAT), an in-house developed nano-satellite being designed by the students of

Chandigarh University, and a Geo Spatial Centre for research, besides other important projects.

## 6.2 News: 'Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future' announced as theme of National Science Day 2022 to be celebrated on February 28

### National Science Day 2022

- ✓ National Science Day is celebrated every year on February 28 to mark and recognise the contributions of scientists towards the development of the country.
- ✓ On this day, in 1928, Indian Physicist Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman made an important discovery in the field of spectroscopy, which was later named after him – the Raman Effect.
- ✓ **Theme 2022: "Integrated Approach in science and technology for Sustainable Future".**
- ✓ The theme focuses on a four-fold integrated approach for a sustainable future which are
  1. Extended scientific intervention encompassing engineering
  2. Medical and other institutions.



3. Extra scientific integration involves identification of the needs of other ministries like Jal Shakti, Railways, among others.
4. Extended science driven all inclusive approach integrating startups and industry.

### 6.3 News.China's Chang'e 5 lunar probe finds first on-site evidence of water on moon's surface



- ✓ Chang'e 5 is the fifth lunar exploration mission of the Chinese Lunar Exploration Program, and China's first lunar sample-return mission.
- ✓ Like its predecessors, the spacecraft is named after the Chinese moon goddess Chang'e.
- ✓ It launched at 2020 from Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on Hainan Island, landed on the Moon on 1 December 2020, and returned to the Earth 16 December 2020.
- ✓ Chang'e-5 was the first lunar sample-return mission since the Soviet Union's Luna 24 in 1976.

- ✓ The mission made China the third country to return samples from the Moon after the United States and the Soviet Union.

#### **6.4 News:India successfully test-fires naval variant BrahMos cruise missile**

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired an extended range sea-to-sea variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ This advanced sea to sea variant of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile was launched from INS Visakhapatnam, a stealth guided-missile destroyer of the Indian Navy
- ✓ The missile can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.
- ✓ BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.

#### **6.5 News:Decommissioned INS Khukri to be handed over to Diu administration; will be developed as museum**

##### **INS Khukri**

- ✓ INS Khukri, lead ship of the Indian Navy's Khukri class corvettes and an indigenous surface-to-surface missile fitted vessel that had the distinction

of being part of both, the Western and Eastern Fleets, is scheduled to be handed over to the Diu Administration on 26 January 2022.

- ✓ Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, the ship was commissioned on 23 August 1989 in Mumbai.

#### **6.6 News: Dr S. Somanath, new Chairman, ISRO calls on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and discusses status of “Gaganyaan” and other future Space mission**

- ✓ ISRO’s first human space flight programme Gaganyaan
- ✓ Gaganyaan is a mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to send a three-member crew to space for a period of five to seven days by 2022.
- ✓ The Gaganyaan spacecraft will be placed in a low earth orbit (LEO) of 300-400 kilometres.
- ✓ The total programme cost is expected to be under Rs. 10000 crore.
- ✓ Gaganyaan is significant because it is the first indigenous mission that will send Indian astronauts to space. If it succeeds, India will be the fourth country to have sent a human to space, the other three being the US, Russia and China.

- ✓ ISRO is developing the spacecraft and Russia is helping in the training of the astronauts.

#### **6.7 News:James Webb telescope reaches final stable position 1 mn miles from Earth**

- ✓ It is the most powerful infrared telescope of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- ✓ It is also considered a successor of the Hubble Telescope and will extend and complement its discoveries.
- ✓ The telescope is the result of an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency.
- ✓ Webb will reveal new and unexpected discoveries, and help humanity understand the origins of the universe and our place in it.
- ✓ The telescope will study the atmospheres of a wide diversity of exoplanets.

#### **6.8 News:DRDO successfully test-fires final deliverable configuration of MPATGM**

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM), in its final “deliverable configuration”.
- ✓ MPATGM will be manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited at its facility in Bhanoor, Telangana.
- ✓ The purpose of testing the missile was to check its consistent performance at a minimum range, which is 200–300 metres.

## 7. Geography

### 7.1 News: Cabinet approves MoU between India and Nepal for construction of bridge over Mahakali River at Dharchula (India) – Dharchula (Nepal)

#### Mahakali river

- ✓ The Sharda River, also called Kali river and Mahakali River, originates at Kalapani in the Himalayas at an elevation of 3,600 m in the Uttarakhand, India.
- ✓ It flows along Nepal's western border with India
- ✓ It joins Ghaghra River, a tributary of the Ganges.
- ✓ It takes the name Kali River from the union of the two streams at Gunji as it flows through the hills.

- ✓ After Brahmadev Mandi near Tanakpur, it enters the Terai plains, where it is called Sharda River.
- ✓ It offers potential for hydroelectric power generation.

## 7.2 News: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates India's first Open Rock Museum in Hyderabad

- ✓ The Open Rock Museum, set up with the aim of educating and



enlightening the masses about several lesser-known facts, displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India.

- ✓ These rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth, up to 175 km from the surface of the earth.
- ✓ The rocks have been sourced from Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir and others.

## 7.3 News: Drinking Water Supply Schemes worth Rs. 6,872 crores approved for Rajasthan under Jal Jeevan Mission

**Jal Jeevan Mission**

- ✓ Jal Jeevan Mission, a central government initiative under the Ministry of Jal Shakti is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.
- ✓ The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting.
- ✓ The Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission.
- ✓ The Mission was launched on August 15, 2019.

#### **7.4 News: Wolf Volcano (1701 m) erupts on Galapagos islands of Ecuador**

##### **Wolf Volcano**

- ✓ Wolf Volcano also known as Mount Whiton, is the highest peak in the Galápagos Islands.
- ✓ It is situated on Isabela Island and reaches 1,710 m .
- ✓ It is a shield volcano with a characteristic upturned soup bowl shape.

- ✓ The volcano was named after Theodor Wolf, a German geologist who studied the Galápagos Islands in the 19th century.
- ✓ Wolf Volcano's height makes it an ultra prominent peak (a peak with a topographic prominence of over 1,500 m).

#### **7.5 News: Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha‘apai volcano erupts in Pacific Island nation Tonga**

- ✓ It is an Undersea Volcanic Eruption consisting of two small uninhabited islands, Hunga–Ha‘apai and Hunga–Tonga.
- ✓ The Hunga–Tonga–Hunga–Ha‘apai volcano has erupted regularly over the past few decades.
- ✓ One of the reasons for it being highly explosive is the Fuel–Coolant interaction.

#### **7.6 News: Dip in eastern swamp deer numbers**

- ✓ There are three subspecies of swamp deer found in the Indian Subcontinent.
  1. The western swamp deer found in Nepal.



2. Southern swamp deer/Hard Ground Barasingha found in central and north India.
3. Eastern swamp deer found in the Kaziranga (Assam) and Dudhwa National Parks (Uttar Pradesh).

## 8.Culture

### 8.1 News: 'Veer Baal Diwas' to be observed on December 26 as tribute to Guru Gobind Singh's sons

#### Veer Baal Diwas'

- ✓ Veer Baal Diwas' to be observed on December 26 as tribute to Guru Gobind Singh's sons Sahibzadas Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh.
- ✓ Sahibzada Jorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh are among the most revered martyrs in Sikhism. The two sons of Guru Gobind Singh were captured.
- ✓ They were offered safe passage if they became Muslims.
- ✓ They both refused, and so they were sentenced to death and were bricked alive.

- ✓ These two greats preferred death instead of deviating from the noble principles of Dharma.

## 8.2 News:Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas celebrated on January 9

### Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas

- ✓ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-Resident Indian Day) is a celebratory day observed (starting in 2003) on 9 January by the Republic of India to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India.
- ✓ The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915

## 8.3 News:Pakistan: Pilgrims pray at renovated century-old temple of Maharaja Paramhans Ji in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

- ✓ Shri Paramhans Swami Advaitanand Ji Maharaj, son of Shri Tulsi Das Ji Pathak, was born in Chhapra City at Saran district, Bihar, India.
- ✓ Shri Paramhans Dayal Maharaj Ji is also known as the "First Spiritual Master" of the Shri Paramhans Advait Mat.
- ✓ He initiated the "Second Master", Shri Swami Swarupanand Ji Maharaj in the early 1900s.

- ✓ He was born on the day of Rama Navami and was therefore named as "Ram Yaad".
- ✓ His father was a famous scholar Pandit Tulsi Pathak.
- ✓ Shri Paramahans Dyal Ji travelled from place to place and carried the message of Sahaj Yoga, Bhakti and service unto humanity to one and all.

#### 8.4 News:PM pays tributes to Rani Velu Nachiyar, the Sivaganga queen in Tamil Nadu who waged war against the British, on her birth anniversary



#### Rani Velu Nachiyar

- ✓ Rani Velu Nachiyar (3 January 1730 – 25 December 1796) was a queen of Sivaganga estate from c. 1780–1790.
- ✓ She was the first Indian queen to wage war with the East India Company in India.
- ✓ She is known by Tamils as Veeramangai ("brave woman").
- ✓ With the support of Hyder Ali's army, feudal lords, the Maruthu Brothers, Dalit commanders, and Thandavarayan Pillai, she fought the East India company.

### 8.5 News: PM launches Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation virtually

- ✓ Pandit Jasraj was an Indian classical vocalist. He belonged the Mewati gharana. His musical career spanned for 75 years, giving him fame, respect and major awards nationally and internationally.
- ✓ Legacy of Pandit Jasraj includes memorable performances of classical and semi-classical vocal music, devotional & classical music, albums and film soundtracks. He is also known for innovations in various genres such as Haveli Sangeeth and popularizing Mewati Gharana.
- ✓ Mewati Gharana is also known as Jodhpur gharana

### 8.6 News: PM to unveil 216-foot statue of Ramanujacharya in Hyderabad on Feb 5

#### Ramanujacharya (1017–1137AD)



- ✓ He was born at Sriperumbudur.
- ✓ He was the disciple of Yamuna Muni and Vedprakash

- ✓ He founded the philosophy called Vishishta Advaita and preached Vaishnavism
- ✓ Kulottanga Chola who was a Shaivite banished Ramanujacharya for preaching Vaishnavism
- ✓ Ramanujacharya preached Shudras and outcastes could also attain salvation by completely surrendering to the will of the guru.
- ✓ He was also referred to as Ilaya Perumal which means the radiant one.

**8.7 News:T.N. will install statue of Col. Pennycuick in UK for constructing Mullaperiyar reservoir in 1895: CM M. K. Stalin**

- ✓ Colonel John Pennycuick was a British Army engineer and civil servant who served as a member of the Madras Legislative Council when parts of the Indian subcontinent were under colonial rule of the British East India Company.
- ✓ He undertook several irrigation works which included the masonry dam of Mullaperiyar on the Periyar River.

**8.8 News : Thiruvalluvar Day celebrated on Jan 15 in honour of Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar**

- ✓ The Thiruvalluvar Day is celebrated on January 15 or January 16. It is celebrated as a part of Pongal (or Sankranti) celebrations in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The day is celebrated to honour the contribution of the Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar to Tamil literature. Thiruvalluvar wrote Thirukkural.

## 9.Misc

### 9.1 News: NDRF celebrates its 17th Raising Day on 19 January 2022

- ✓ The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is an Indian specialized force constituted "for the purpose of special response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster" under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ✓ It comes under Ministry of Home Affairs
- ✓ The Apex Body for Disaster Management in India is the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The Chairman of the NDMA is the Prime Minister.
- ✓ The responsibility of managing disasters in India is that of the State Government. The 'Nodal Ministry' in the central government for management of natural disasters is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ✓ National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is under the National Disaster Management Authority.

## 9.2 News: Tripura celebrated 44th Kokborok Day

- ✓ The Kokborok language, the official language of Tripura, is also known as Tripuri or Tiprarak.
- ✓ 19th January 2022 marks the observance of the 44th Kokborok Day.

## 9.3 News: India's first graphene innovation center to be established in Kerala

- ✓ India's first innovation centre for graphene will be set up in Kerala by the Digital University Kerala (DUK), along with the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in Thrissur, for Rs 86.41 crore.
- ✓ This will be the first graphene Research and Development (R&D) incubation centre in the country. Tata Steel Limited is set to be the industrial partner of the centre.
- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, has given approval for the project. The project, which will be implemented with the support of the Kerala government, is expected to accelerate the state's growth in the knowledge industry sector.

## 9.4 News: Indian Army Day observed on 15 January

- ✓ Army Day is celebrated on 15 January every year in India, in recognition of Field Marshal Kodandera M. Cariappa's (then a Lieutenant General)

taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Francis Roy Bucher , the last British Commander-in-Chief of India, on 15 January 1949.

- ✓ The day is celebrated in the form of parades and other military shows in the national capital New Delhi as well as in all headquarters.
- ✓ Army Day marks a day to salute the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens

#### 9.5 News: National Youth Day2022: Nation observes National Youth Day on January 12



- ✓ National Youth Day, also known as Vivekananda Jayanti, is celebrated on 12 January, being the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. In 1984 the Government of India declared this day as National Youth

Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year

#### 9.6 News A book on Arundhati Bhattacharya “Indomitable: A Working Woman’s Notes on Life, Work and Leadership” released



- ✓ Arundhati Bhattacharya, retired Indian banker and former first-ever woman Chairperson of the State Bank of India.
- ✓ Indomitable features the story of Arundhati Bhattacharya's life as a banker and the difficulties she faced in the male-dominated sector.

#### **9.7 News: Armed Forces Veterans Day: 14 January 2022**

- ✓ In India, the Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed each year on 14 January since 2017 to acknowledge and honour the selfless devotion and sacrifice of our veterans in the service of the nation.
- ✓ The day was initially called Armistice Day.
- ✓ 2022 marks the 6th Armed Forces Veterans Day.

