

Target

TNPSC

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS
(ENGLISH)

For TNPSC Group I, II/IIA,
IV & VAO Exams

April week - 5, 2022



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Tamil Nadu News

Avvaiyar festival

1. Recently avvaiyar festival was celebrated in Avvai temple.
2. The **avvai temple** is located in **Nagapattinam District at Tulsiyapattinam**.
3. The temple was built **by King Tuljaji** who ruled Tanjore.
4. The festivals is celebrated by by Hindus, Muslims and Christians together.
5. It has been as a **state festival since 2005**.

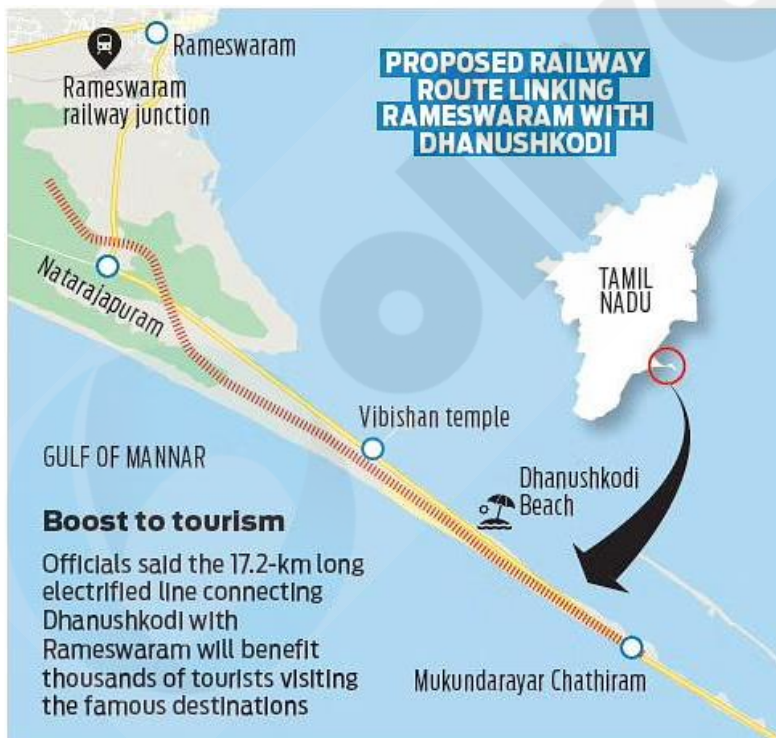
Avvaiyar was the title of more than one female poet who were active during different periods of Tamil literature. They were some of the most famous and important female poets of the Tamil canon.

The **first Avvaiyar lived during the Sangam period** (c. 3rd century BCE) and is said to have had cordial relations with the Tamil chieftains Vel Pari and Athiyaman. She wrote 59 poems in the Purananuru.

Source: thetamilmozhi

Boat mail project

1. The project will connect **Rameswaram and Dhanuskodi with rail line**.
2. The Southern Railway has sought forest clearance to restore the erstwhile 17.20-km railway line.
3. Dhanushkodi (Bow's end) is a village at the southern tip of Rameswaram island. Once a flourishing tourist and pilgrimage centre, it was devastated by the **cyclonic storm of 1964**, which also **destroyed the Rameswaram-Dhanushkodi rail link**. The train, popularly known as 'Boat mail', was hit by a massive tidal wave and got submerged in the sea; none of the 115 passengers survived.
4. 28 hectares of Rameswaram reserve forest will be diverted for the project.
5. The project will also help restore the ferry service between Dhanushkodi and Talaimannar in Sri Lanka.



Source: newindianexpress

Tamil Nadu – FDI

1. The foreign direct investment (FDI) in Tamil Nadu **grew about 41.5% to Rs.17,696 crore** (about \$2.4 billion) in April--December 2021 from Rs.12,504 crore (about \$1.7 billion) in the same period of 2020.
2. Key sectors which attracted significant FDI were : construction, financial services, manufacturing (auto, electronics, machinery), retail and information technology services.

3. Tamil Nadu's share in the total FDI in the country increased to **5% from 4%**.

4. **Tamil Nadu has the fifth highest share**, after Maharashtra (26%), Karnataka (23%), Gujarat (21%) and Delhi (13%) In April-September 2021.

5. **Guidance Tamilnadu** is the nodal agency for investment promotion

Source: The hindu

PARAVAI

1. PARAVAI: Personality Attitude Reformation Assistance Venture Affirming Identit

2. The Greater Chennai Police along with the prisons department and the social welfare department have launched an initiative called Paravai (bird)

3. It is launched for **reforming young first-time offenders** and their rehabilitation and reintegration.

4. Aimed at reducing and preventing repeated crimes and re-arrest.

5. The project is being implemented along with PRISM, an NGO.

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity conservation - Japan

1. Tamil Nadu's **biodiversity conservation and greening project** has received a loan of **680 crore from Japan international cooperation agency (JICA)**

2. TN Forest department will implement this project.

3. Using this, TN's forest department will implement the project focusing on ecosystem-based climate change measures; human wildlife conflict measures; supply chain development, livelihood improvement and capacity development.

4. JICA has implemented afforestation projects in Tamil Nadu since 1997.

Source:timesof india

State health council

1. Recently **State Health Council** under the **Tamil Nadu Health Rehabilitation Program** was inaugurated at Government Omandurar Multi-speciality Hospital.

2. The health council is **held only once a year**.

3. In the first phase, 14 districts will participate in the Health Council and by 2024, 38 districts will be participating.

4. The **Chief Minister will be acting as the Chairman** of the State Health Council.

5. The Tamil Nadu Health Rehabilitation Project is being implemented with the support of the World Bank. The World Bank has approved Rs 1,995 crore.

6. The **primary aim** is to make **health care accessible to all the citizens in Tamil Nadu**.

Population health Sensex is being taken across the State. Once it is completed, information about everyone's health will be collected and treated.

Source:dtnext

Autodelfia Maternal Analyzer

1. This is a one crore rupees worth of medical equipment to **detect early stage developmental defects** in pregnant mothers.

2. Autodelfia Maternal Analyzer was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu recently.

3. For the **first time in India**, AutoDELFIA Maternal Analyzer, a medical device specially developed from abroad, has been **set up at the State Hospital**, Government Multipurpose Specialty Hospital.

4. During early pregnancy (11-14 weeks) this test can **detect a number of genetic problems** in the fetus and prevent the baby from growing up with an organ defect.

Source:hindustantimes

Bharat Net phase II

1. Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Ltd entered into a Master Service Agreement with Polycab India Ltd for implementation of BharatNet Phase-II in the State at a cost of **Rs. 509 crore**.

2. Bharat Net Phase-II Project envisages providing all the **12,525 Gram Panchayats** in the State with **high-speed bandwidth connectivity** using Optical Fibre Cable. The minimum scalable bandwidth will be 1 Gbps.

Bharatnet

Bharatnet is **world's largest rural broadband project.**

It aims to provide broadband connectivity to all the 2.5 lakhs gram panchayats (gps) across india.

The BharatNet infrastructure will allow provision of digital services like e-education, telemedicine, triple play services (Telephone, Television & Internet Connection) to the common man at affordable cost.

TANFINET

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced on 14.09.2015 that the BharatNet project of Government of India will be implemented in Tamil Nadu through a State-led Model and a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) named "Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Limited" will be set up for the purpose.

Government issued necessary orders for the formation and TANFINET Corporation was incorporated under the companies Act, 2013 on 08.06.2018.

Tamil Nadu CM's visit to UAE

1. MoUs worth Rs 6,100 crore signed during UAE trip.
2. Firms and their investment values are as follows:
 - a. LuLu Group - investment of RS.3,500 crore.
 - b. Noble Steel- investment of Rs. 1,000 crore.
 - c. Aster DM Healthcare, Sharaf Group and White House Textiles - investment of Rs. 500 crore each.
 - d. Transworld - investment of Rs.100 crore.

Source: the hindu

Valluvar street

- A Street in the **United States** is named as Valluvar way in honor of Thiruvalluvar.
- The street in the **Fairfax country of Virginia** in the United States is named Thiruvalluvar.

Source:timesofindia

Central square project

1. Recently, the inauguration ceremony was held on behalf of the Chennai Metro Rail Corporation following the completion of the Rs 34.22 crore beautification tunnel corridor as part of the Central Square project.
2. The Central Square project at a **cost of Rs 400 crore** has been implemented to ease traffic congestion in front of the Chennai Central Railway Station.
3. Under this project, **a single tunnel** will be constructed connecting **Chennai Central, Metro Railway Station, Ribbon Building, Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and Park Railway Station.**
4. A 31-storey commercial complex called Central Plaza has been set up under the Central Square project, with all amenities of a hotel, a shopping mall, an amusement park, hotels and a three-storey underground parking lot. These include new sidewalks, concrete benches, seats with desks, and two bus stops.

Source:dtnext

Tamil Nadu Urban Employment Scheme (TNUES)

1. The Greater Chennai Corporation has rolled out the Tamil Nadu Urban Employment Scheme (TNUES)
2. It is a minimum wage programme that would provide job opportunities for people living below the poverty line.
3. This scheme is similar to the MGNREGA scheme, which provides job opportunities in rural areas, while the **TNUES will provide jobs in Chennai city.**

4. The civic body has rolled the scheme at a cost of Rs.10 crore in two zones - Tondiarpet and Thiruvika Nagar in the first phase

Source:dtnext

National

Vande Bharat Mission

1. A total of **1.41 million people from Kerala** were brought back from various countries under the Vande Bharat Mission.
2. According to state-wise data, the **second largest group** of people rescued were from **Delhi** (1.33 million).
3. The maximum number of people brought back under the mission were from the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) --2.54 million.**
4. The government repatriated Indian citizens from more than 100 countries under the mission, including 10,303 people from Kyrgyzstan, 400 from Mongolia, 157 from Syria and 4,697 from Rwanda.

Vande Bharat Mission (VBM)

It is the biggest civilian evacuation exercise to bring back Indian citizens stranded abroad amidst the coronavirus induced travel restrictions.

Operation Samudra Setu

The Indian Navy has also launched Operation "Samudra Setu" (sea bridge) to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas

Source: hindustantimes

INS Valsura

1. In recognition of service rendered by INS Valsura, President presented President's colour to INS Valsura.
2. The **President's Colour Award** is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon any military unit of India. It is also known as '**Nishaan**'
3. INS Valsura is a "stone frigate" (shore establishment) of the Indian Navy in **Jamnagar, Gujarat.**
4. Meaning: VAL- SWORD;SURA – FISH
5. The Navy was the first Indian armed force to be awarded the President's Colour by Dr Rajendra Prasad on May 27, 1951.

Source: The Hindu

Export preparedness Index 2021

1. **NITI Aayog**, in partnership with the **Institute of Competitiveness**, released the 2nd edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021.
2. The report is a comprehensive analysis of India's export achievements
3. The EPI ranks states and UTs on 4 main pillars—Policy; Business Ecosystem; Export Ecosystem; Export Performance—and 11 sub-pillars
4. **TN Ranks 4** in both coastal and overall, while Gujarat tops list.

Overall Rankings

State	Export Preparedness Scores	State Category	Overall Rank
Gujarat	78.86	Coastal	1
Maharashtra	77.14	Coastal	2
Karnataka	61.72	Coastal	3
Tamil Nadu	56.84	Coastal	4
Haryana	53.20	Landlocked	5

Coastal		
State	Score	Rank
Gujarat	78.86	1
Maharashtra	77.14	2
Karnataka	61.72	3
Tamil Nadu	56.84	4
Andhra Pradesh	50.39	5

Bottom three states

Mizoram	12.58	Himalayan	34
Arunachal Pradesh	11.18	Himalayan	35
Lakshadweep	2.12	UT/City States	36

Source: The hindu

Maternity benefit

1. Recently, Madras High Court has directed the State government to provide **one-year maternity leave** to a government employee for her **third child borne through second marriage** as the two children she had got through the first marriage are staying with her legally separated first husband.

Making It Easy For Mothers

The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 amends the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 to provide the following

26 weeks

maternity leave for the first two children

12 weeks maternity leave for children beyond the first two

12 weeks leave for mothers adopting a child below the age of three months



The Act makes it mandatory for employers in establishment with 30 women or 50 employees, whichever is less, to provide creche facilities either in office or in any place within 500-meters.

Working mothers will be permitted to make four visits

during working hours to the creche

The employer may permit a woman to work from home if it is possible to do so

Every establishment will have to make these benefits available from the time of appointment

Source: the hindu

PRAGATI

1. Its been 7 years since the launch of PRAGATI.
2. Launched on March 25,2015.

3. PRAGATI: Pro-Active Governance & Timely implementation

4. It is a three-tier system (PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States)

5. It is a platform which enables the **Prime Minister to discuss the issues with the concerned Central and State officials** with full information and latest visuals of the ground-level situation.
6. Objective:
- Grievance Redressal
 - Programme Implementation
 - Project Monitoring

THIS DAY THAT YEAR

25th March 2015



PM launched
PRAGATI
platform

Pro-Active
Governance & Timely
Implementation

**Delivering
Good Governance**

- Ensuring **transparency & accountability**
- **Bringing all stakeholders** on the same table
- Resolving project specific **issues and clearances**
- **Efficient and responsive** governance
- **Expediting** long pending projects

Source: pib

Swadhar Greh Scheme

1. This scheme caters to the primary **needs of women in difficult circumstances** like homeless due to family discord, crime, violence, mental stress, social ostracism or are being forced into prostitution and are in moral danger.
2. Implemented by **Ministry of women and child development**
3. The Scheme **envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health** as well as economic and social security for these women.

Source: PIB

Konkan Railways

1. Konkan Railway has accomplished **100% Rail electrification** of its entire stretch.
2. The Konkan Railway has completed the electrification work on its entire 741 km long route **between Roha in Maharashtra and Thokur in Karnataka.**
3. The 741- kilometre line **connects Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka States.**
4. According to the Konkan Railway zone, there are several inherent benefits of electric traction i.e. significant savings in fuel expenditure, pollution free mode of transportation, seamless operation on electric traction on the West Coast, as well as reduced dependence on HSD oil.



Source: Live mint

RAMP: Raising and accelerating MSME performance

1. RAMP: Raising and accelerating MSME performance
2. Recently, Cabinet approved **World Bank assisted** programme on "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance" (RAMP)
3. New Scheme would commence in FY 2022-23
4. **Rs.3750 crore** or USD 500 Million would be a loan from the World Bank
5. It is a Central Sector Scheme, supporting various COVID Resilience and Recovery Interventions of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
6. It aims at **improving access to market and credit**, strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State, improving Centre-State linkages and partnerships, addressing issues of delayed payments and greening of MSMEs.



Source: PIB

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)

1. Union Cabinet approved the scheme in February 2017
2. Aim: **to impart digital literacy training** to rural households (one person mper household)
3. It is the scheme initiated under **Digital India Programmeto** make **six crore** persons in rural areas, across States/UTs, digitally literate.
4. The PMGDISHA Scheme covers candidates in the age group of 14-60 years.
5. Implemented by **Ministry of electronics and information technology**

Source:pib

Sakhi One Stop Centres

1. Launched: 1 April 2015
2. One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme, popularly known as Sakhi One Stop Centres under Nirbhaya Fund
3. Objective: to **support women affected by violence**, in **private and public spaces**, within the family, community and at the workplace. Women facing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic abuse,will be facilitated with support and redressal.
4. Implemented by **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**.

Source:Pib

PM SVANidhi

1. Launched on June 01 2020
2. PM SVANidhi : **Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi**
3. Aim: To facilitates provision of **collateral free working capital loan to street vendors** to restart their businesses
4. Implemented by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**

Source:pib

PM E-VIDYA

1. Launched in 2020
2. Aim: to bridge the education learning gaps among students during and after covid19 lockdown.
3. It will help in facilitating access to digital/online learning as well as teaching materials of various types among students and teachers.
4. PM eVIDYA will also be called a **one Nation digital platform**.
5. It is an initiative by the **Ministry of Education**



- > Will enable digital/online/on-air access to education
- > Will benefit more than 25 Crore school going children
- > DIKSHA : Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing
- > SWAYAM online courses in MOOCS format for school and higher education
- > One earmarked TV channel per class from 1 to 12
- > Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast - Shiksha Vani
- > Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired

UPI sets record

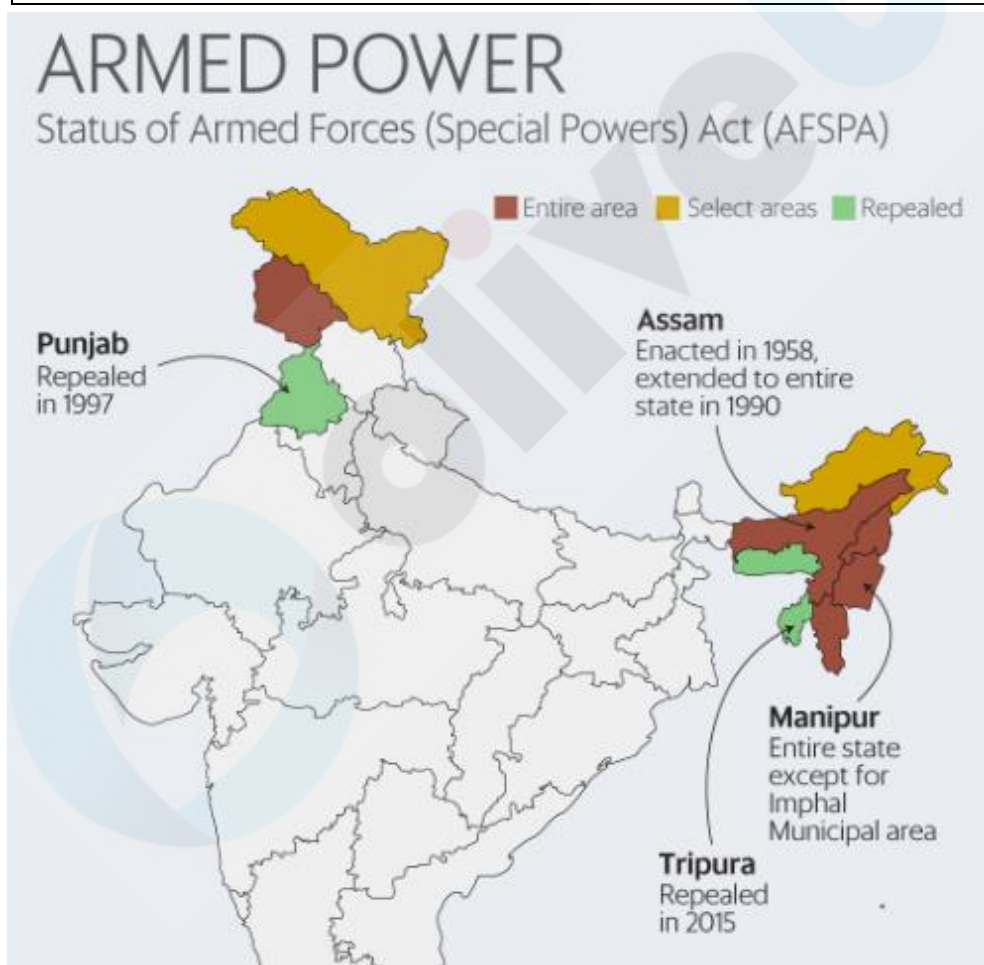
1. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** facilitating inter-bank peer-to-peer (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transaction.
2. The interface is **regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and works by instantly transferring funds between two bank accounts on a mobile platform.
3. The pilot launch was on 11th April 2016
4. UPI **reached 500 crore transaction**

AFSPA - Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act

1. The Union government on Thursday decided to remove the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (Afspa) from large swathes of Nagaland, Assam and Manipur.
2. It was completely removed from Tripura in 2015 and Meghalaya in 2018
3. Afspa is applicable only in three districts, and two police station areas in one other district of Arunachal Pradesh

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

- Armed Forces Special Powers Act, to put it simply, gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in "disturbed areas."
- AFSPA gives armed forces the authority use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.



Source: the hindu

SRS DATA – sample registration system

1. SRS is the only official source of various demographic indicators in India except the census.
2. Data for 2014-16 and 2015-17 has been released by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the home ministry on March 31 2022.

3. Youngest states :

1. Jharkhand – 33.5%
2. Madhya Pradesh – 29.3%

4. Oldest states :

1. Kerala – 12.9%
2. Tamilnadu – 11.3%

5. No of deaths:

1. due to Communicable Disease:

- i. cardiovascular or respiratory diseases - 52.8%
- ii. Injuries caused 10.9%

2. due to Non Communicable Disease:

- i. malaria, HIV/AIDS, or tuberculosis
- source: the hindu

WHO Global Centre for traditional medicine

1. The ministry of Ayush signed an agreement with the UN health agency for the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India **at Jamnagar, Gujarat.**
2. Its interim office will be at the **Institute of Training and Research in Ayurveda in Gujarat.**
3. This global knowledge centre for traditional medicine, supported by an investment of USD 250 million from the Government of India, aims to harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet.

Source: Toi

Pradhan Mantri Garib kalyan Anna yojana

1. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) is a scheme as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat to supply free food grains to migrants and poor.
2. Introduced in April 2020 in the wake of covid 19.
3. It will provide 5 kg of foodgrains free of cost to the poor in addition to normal quota of 2-3 rs per kg.
4. Its nodal Ministry is **the Ministry of Finance.**
5. Cabinet **extended sixth phase** of the scheme till September 2022.

Source: the hindu

Sainik schools

1. The Sainik Schools are a system of schools in India established and managed by the Sainik Schools Society under Ministry of Defence (MoD).
2. They were conceived in 1961 by V. K. Krishna Menon, the then Defence Minister of India.
3. Sainik Schools follow the "CBSE Plus" by using CBSE curriculum while additionally aiming to prepare children for entry into NDA and INA.
4. 21 New Sainik school are approved in 2022-23

Source:pib

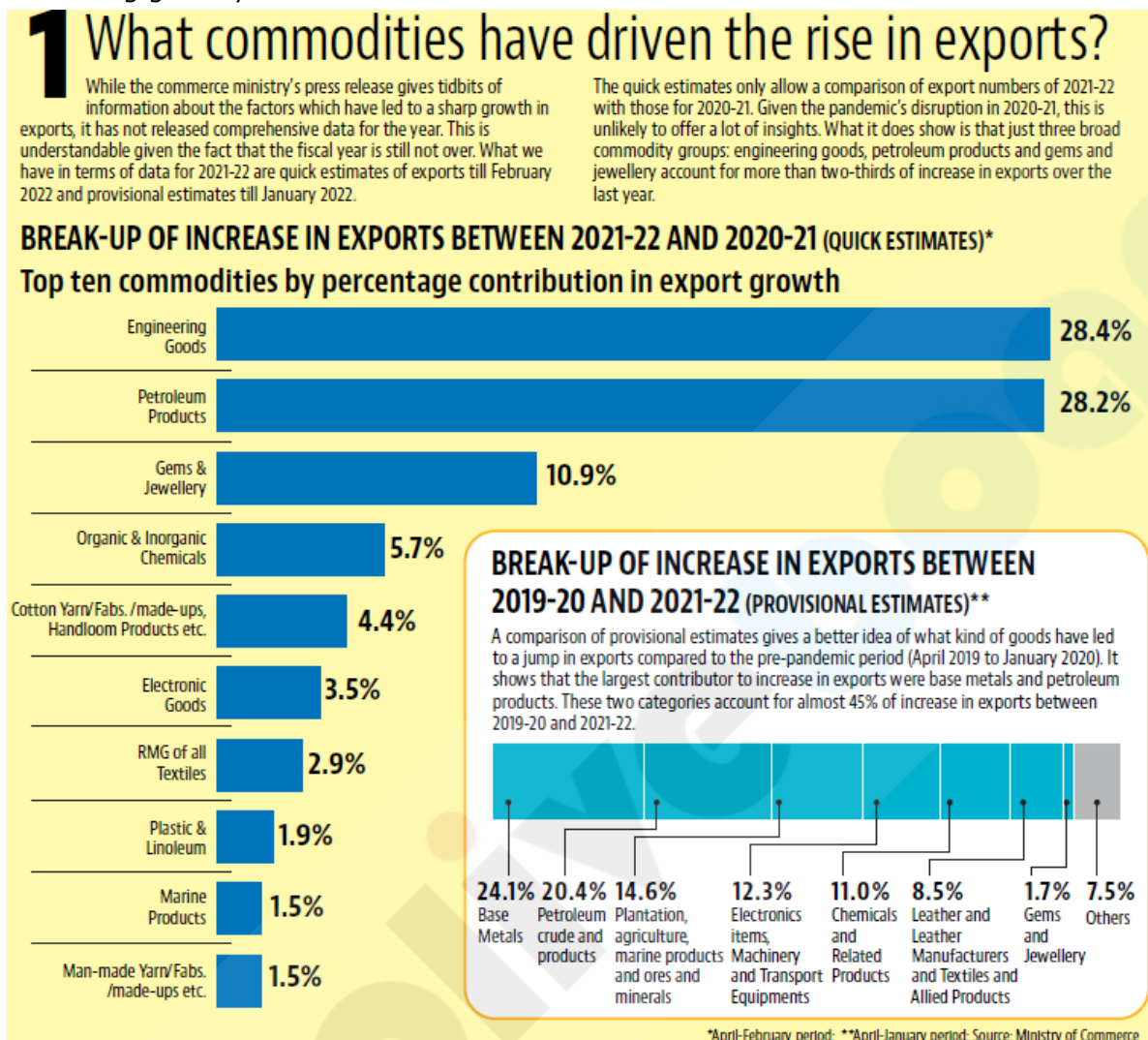
The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (Nalsar)

1. Situated in Hyderabad, it is set to become **India's first fully gender-neutral educational institution.**
2. As part of its policy, the law school would have gender-neutral hostels, leading the way for inclusive campuses for the LGBTQ+ community.
3. The institution has also done away with gender salutations such as "Miss" and "Mr" on their degree certificates.
4. It will no longer have male/female washrooms but gender-neutral ones

Source:toi

Exports target are met

1. In the 87th edition monthly radio broadcast, Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister urged people to remain "vocal for local" so that Indian products could gain prestige across the world.
2. PM stated that Export target of \$400 billion achieved by India and demand for Indian products was increasing globally.



Source:pib

Nagar van yojana

1. The scheme initiated for creation of Nagar Van (city forest) in urban areas over a period of five years (2015-2020) under the National Fund of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)
2. Aim: **To create 200 City Forests** in the Country. A City Forest will be developed in each City with Municipal Council.
3. Implemented by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change**.

Source:pib

E-Sanjeevani OPD

1. E-sanjeevani records 3 crore tele-consultation.
2. E-sanjeevani: it is a **doctor to doctor telemedicine system**, being **implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs)** programme was launched in Nov 2019
3. E-Sanjeevani OPD: This is based on the e-Sanjeevani model and offers **OPD consultation services to people** in the comfort of their homes. This was launched during the COVID pandemic in April 2020.
4. Implemented by Ministry of Health and family welfar.

Source: PIB

TEJAS

1. TEJAS (Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills), Askill India international project to train overseas Indians, aims at skill enhancement, certification and overseas employment of Indians.
2. Aim: Creating pathways to enable Indian workforce to get equipped for skill and market requirements in UAE.
3. Tejas aims at creating a 10,000 strong Indian workforce in UAE during the initial phase.

India's space economy

1. India's space economy is valued at Rs.36,794 crores for the financial year 2020-21.
2. The estimated size, as a percentage of the GDP, has slipped from 0.26% in 2011-12 to 0.19% in 2020-21.
3. The findings, outlined in a paper, "The space economy of India: its size and structure"
4. India's space economy has evolved considerably and now accounts, on an average, for about 0.23% of the GDP (over 2011-12 to 2020-21).

Source: The hindu

Identification of minority community

1. Subject of identification of minority communities is in **concurrent list**
2. **Centre tells Supreme court** that States can confer minority status to religion or linguistic communities which are minority in country or particular state
3. 7th schedule: allocation of powers and functions between Union & States.
 - a. Union List: 100 subjects
 - b. State List: 61 subjects
 - c. Concurrent List: 52 subject

SOME MAJORITIES CORNER BENEFITS: PIL

➤ Centre tells SC that since the **subject of identification of minority communities is in Concurrent List**, both Centre and states have the power to legislate to confer minority status on certain religious or linguistic communities

➤ Centre gives example of **govt of Maharashtra that notified 'Jews' as a minority community** and Karnataka govt that notified Urdu, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi,

Tulu, Lamani, Hindi, Konkani and Gujarati languages as minority languages

➤ **Centre's affidavit is in response to a PIL in SC.** The PIL says followers of Hinduism, Judaism and Bahaism are minorities in J&K, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal, Lakshadweep, Manipur and Punjab. However, **majority communities in these states are treated as 'minorities' and they corner benefits**

Source: the hindu

Initiatives to Tackle Anaemia in Pregnant Women

1. **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)** : provides assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting public health facilities to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.
2. **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** : a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme for promoting institutional delivery.

3. **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** : every pregnant woman is entitled to free delivery, including caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables & diet.

4. **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)**: provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost assured and quality antenatal check up by a Specialist/Medical Officer on the 9th day of every month.

5. **LaQshya**: improves the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure that pregnant women receive respectful and quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.

Source:pib

First steel road in india

1. **Surat** has become the first city in the country to get a processed steel slag (industrial waste) road built.

2. The six-lane public road is a kilometre-long stretch in Hazira industries.

3. The construction began around a year ago by converting mounds of steel waste into steel slag aggregate.

Source: the Indian express

Kaziranga National Park – Rhinos

1. The population of **one-horned rhinoceros** at the Kaziranga National Park has registered **an increase of 200**, taking the total **to 2,613**, according to the findings of a survey.

2. **Assam** now has an **estimated 2,845 rhinos**, the **highest in India**

a. The Orang National Park has 125 rhinos.

b. The Pobitora Wild Life Sanctuary has 107 rhinos.

Other national parks in Assam are:

- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park,
- Manas National Park,
- Nameri National Park,
- Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park

Source: the hindu

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Pmay)-gramin

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently **inaugurated 521,000 houses** of beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Pmay)-gramin in Madhya Pradesh while participating in the '**Grah Pravesham**', a ceremony to hand over new houses to their owners.

2. **So far, 25 million houses** have been constructed under the PMAY scheme in the country, **including 20 million in rural areas.**

3. PM Modi said that under **the Nal-jal scheme** in the country, **60 million families were provided pure water tap** connections in their houses.

PMAY-Gramin

- It is one of the flagship programmes of the Government of India which is driven by the noble objective of providing "**Housing for All**" by the year **2022**.
- It was launched by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- It is a social welfare program through which the Government provides financial assistance to houseless beneficiaries identified using SECC 2011 data to help them construct a house of respectable quality for their personal living.

Source:pib

India's TB report 2022 - highlights

1. During 2021, the total number of TB patients was 19, 33,381. In 2020 it was 16, 28,161.

2. In 2021, tuberculosis cases in India increased by 19 percent compared to the previous year.

3. In India, the mortality rate due to all kinds of tuberculosis increased by 11% between 2019 and 2020.
4. The total number of estimated TB-related deaths, for the year 2020 was 4.93 lakh, which is 13 percent higher than the estimates of 2019.
5. Malnutrition, HIV, diabetes, alcohol, and tobacco smoking are the comorbidities that impact a person suffering from TB.
6. About 61 percent of patients suffering from TB were male and the females constituted 39 percent who were put on treatment.
7. The highest prevalence was in Delhi with 747 per one lakh while the lowest was in Gujarat with 137 per lakh one population.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria (**Mycobacterium tuberculosis**) that most often affect the lungs.

The bacteria that cause tuberculosis are spread from person to person through tiny droplets released into the air via coughs and sneezes.

Source:gov.in

International

2022 BIMSTEC Summit

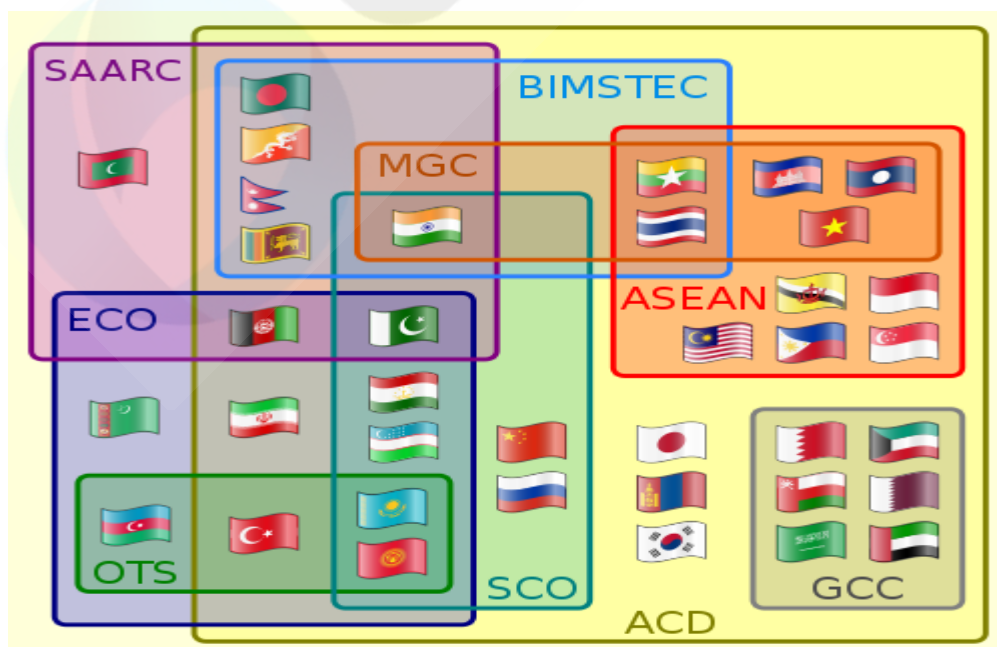
1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the virtual summit of the seven-nation BIMSTEC grouping on March 30 2022.
2. The summit was hosted by Sri Lanka in its capacity as the chair of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation).



No.	Date	Host country	Host city
1st	31 July 2004	 Thailand	Bangkok
2nd	13 November 2008	 India	New Delhi
3rd	4 March 2014	 Myanmar	Naypyidaw ²¹
4th	30–31 August 2018	 Nepal	Kathmandu ²²
5th	2022	 Sri Lanka	Colombo ^{2 23}

BIMSTEC

- There are seven nations in BIMSTEC: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand
- It came into being in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration







2+2 dialogue

1. Two-plus-two dialogue will take place between **India And US in April 2022**.
2. This is first 2+2 dialogue that will take place since President Joe Biden took over.
3. A 'two plus two dialogue' is a term — adopted in foreign parleys — used for installation of a dialogue mechanism between two countries' **defence and external affairs ministries**.

Cementing bilateral ties

This will be the first dialogue in the two-plus-two format between the two countries since US President Joe Biden took over, and will be in the backdrop of the Russian invasion of Ukraine

THE DELEGATIONS		LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED	
			
Rajnath Singh, DEFENCE MINISTER	S Jaishankar, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER	Antony Blinken, SECRETARY OF STATE	Llyod Austin, DEFENCE SECRETARY
WHEN IS IT EXPECTED: Around April 11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ukraine war and relations with Russia Indo-Pacific situation with Chinese Navy growing in strength and PLA dragging feet on restoring peace in eastern Ladakh Improved defence cooperation with American F-18 jets being considered for the soon-to-be-commissioned INS Vikrant How US defence majors can set up shop in India to produce major defence hardware, with an eye on drone technology Political situation in Afghanistan with Taliban continuing with their hardline implementation of Islamic laws 	

Source: the hindu

India – Australia trade facts

1. As of 2020, **India was Australia's seventh- largest trading partner** and **sixth largest export destination**, driven by coal and international education.
2. Major Indian exports to Australia are petroleum products, medicines, polished diamonds, gold jewellery and apparel, while key Australian exports to India include coal, wool, liquefied natural gas (LNG), alumina, pulses, fruits, and non-monetary gold

Source:toi

List of recent foreign dignitaries visit to India

Destination India | Against the backdrop of the Ukraine war, India has seen a flurry of visits by foreign dignitaries

LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK
MAR. 19: Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida	MAR. 28: EU Special Envoy for Indo-Pacific Gabriele Visentin
MAR. 20: Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg	MAR. 30: Mexico FM Marcelo Ebrard and German Foreign and Security Policy Advisor Jens Plotner
MAR. 21: Australian PM Scott Morrison (Virtual)	MAR. 31: U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and U.S. Deputy NSA Daleep Singh
MAR. 22: U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland	APRIL 1: Russian FM Sergey Lavrov
MAR. 23: Greece FM Nikos Dendias	APRIL 2: Nepal PM Sher Bahadur Deuba
MAR. 24: Oman FM Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al Busaidi	
MAR. 25: China FM Wang Yi	




SERGEY LAVROV
DALEEP SINGH

UNEP- Frontier report

1. The Frontiers Report is released by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The latest report is named "Noise, Blazes and Mismatches: Emerging Issues of Environmental Concern."
3. The UNEP Frontiers reports raise awareness of growing environmental challenges.

4. KEY POINTS

- a. Noise pollution, deadly wildfires, and various environmental threats which are looming could cause environmental damage.
- b. Urban noise pollution, phenological shifts, and wildfires are the three major subjects of this report that illustrate the urgent need to address the triple global problems of pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

Source:unep

Science & Technology

Microplastic in blood stream

1. Recently, scientists found microplastics in blood for first time in half of the blood samples that was tested.
2. Showed traces of PET(Polyethylene terephthalate) plastic, that are widely used to make drink bottles. While more than a third had polystyrene.

Microplastics

- Microplastics are plastic particles less than 5mm in diameter.
- Primary Microplastics are tiny particles designed for commercial use and microfibers shed from clothing and other textiles.
- Secondary Microplastics are formed from the breakdown of larger plastics such as water bottles.

Source: the hindu

Coral bleach @ Great barrier reef

1. Australia's Great Barrier Reef is suffering a mass bleaching event as coral comes under heat stress from warmer seas.
2. The reef authority reported that an aerial survey showed coral bleaching at multiple reefs, confirming a mass bleaching event, the fourth since 2016.
3. Climate change leading to warmer waters is one of the main drivers of coral bleaching. It occurs when corals expel algae living in their tissues, draining them of their vibrant colours.

The great barrier reef

- The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef system in the world.
- It has more than 900 coral islands, 2,900 individual reefs that stretches over 2,300 kilometres.
- The reef is located in the coral sea along the coast of Queensland in Australia.
- It was selected as the World Heritage site by the UNESCO in 1981.

Source: hindustantimes

NETRA PROJECT

1. Network for space object Tracking and Analysis(NETRA)

2. Project NETRA is an initiative by the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**)
3. It is an **early warning system** in space to detect debris and hazards to the Indian satellites.
4. As because space debris have become an increasing threat to Indian assets in space, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is building up its orbital debris tracking capability.
5. A **space debris tracking radar** with a range of 1,500 km and an **optical telescope** will be inducted as part of under the Network for Space Objects Tracking and Analysis (NETRA) project

Source: The Hindu

Light combat helicopters

1. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) recently approved the procurement of 15 Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) for Rs 3,887 crore, or about Rs 260 crore each.
2. The CCS also approved the creation of infrastructure worth Rs 377 crore.
3. Light Combat Helicopter Limited Series Production (LSP) is an **indigenously designed, developed and manufactured**, state-of-the-art modern combat helicopter containing approximately **45 per cent indigenous content by value**.

About LCH

- LCH is an Indian multi-role **attack helicopter**.
- The LCH is well suited for anti-tank role wherein it can fly low and fast to attack enemy armour columns and destroy them.
- It is also suitable for scout role wherein it can fly ahead of advancing columns of the Army and

detect enemy presence.

- It is also suitable for air defence roles and destruction of enemy air defence assets.
- It can also be used in urban warfare missions and combat search and rescue operations

Source: business standards

P-8i Squadron

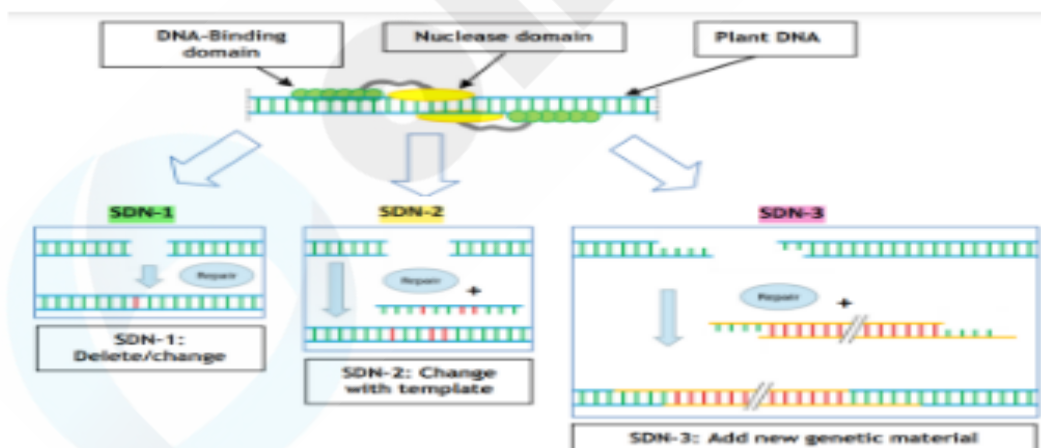
1. Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar commissioned India's second P-8I aircraft squadron at INS Hansa in Goa, a boost for the navy's anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare capabilities.
2. The navy's first P-8I squadron, consists of eight aircraft and based at INS Rajali in Arakkonam.
3. The P-8I is the Indian Navy variant of the P-8A Poseidon that Boeing developed for the US Navy

Genome editing

1. Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically engineered Organisms or Cells Rules 1989 Was modified to allow genome-edited plants, or organisms without any "foreign" genes to be subjected to a different regulatory process than the one applied to genetically engineered products.
2. The **Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee** (GEAC) is the final technical body that certifies a GM product as safe for commercial release.
3. There are three categories of gene-editing: SDN1, SDN2 and SDN3.
 - a. The first two, which largely involve "knocking off" or "overexpressing" certain traits in a genome without any insertion of gene material from outside, will be covered by the new changes.
 - b. The third, which involves insertion of foreign genes, will be treated as GMO.

SDN

- SDN stands for Site-directed Nuclease and refers to the practice of cleaving DNA strands to effect the subsequent genome editing.
- SDN1 and SDN2 types of genome editing are currently being used in Indian labs for breeding new crops, and imparting traits including resistance to diseases and drought
- BT Cotton is India's only transgenic crop approved for commercial cultivation.



Source: Hindustan times

Corner Shot Weapon system (CSWS)

1. CSWS is designed and **developed by DRDO**
2. It allows its **operator to see and attack an armed target**, without exposing himself for any counterattack.
3. It's equipped with weapon, camera, laser, infrared illuminator and torch in front portion, while display, electronics, battery and swiveling mechanism
4. Inducted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Jammu and Kashmir police.



Source: Hindustan times

Web 3

1. Entrepreneurs, software developers and startups in India will play a critical role in building global apps and platforms for Web3, the third generation of the Internet.
2. Web3 uses blockchain-based technologies to create a decentralized version of the web.
3. Web3 will create more jobs and opportunities and will enhance the economy.
4. Web3 is the name some technologists have given to the idea of a **new kind of internet service**.

Blockchains

They are a new data structure that is secure, cryptography-based, and distributed across a network. The technology supports cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, and the transfer of any data or digital asset.

Source: Hindustan times

Param shakthi

1. Peta scale (one quadrillion, or 10^{15}) **Supercomputer Param Shakti** inaugurated at IIT Kharagpur under National Supercomputing Mission
2. National Supercomputing mission: announced in 2015, with an aim to connect national academic and R&D institutions with a grid of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities over the period of seven years.
3. New high-performance computational facility to aid researchers to solve large-scale problems of different fields of Science and Engineering.

Supercomputer

A supercomputer is a computer with a high level of performance as compared to a general-purpose computer. The performance of a supercomputer is commonly measured in floating-point operations per second (FLOPS) instead of million instructions per second (MIPS)

Supercomputers of India:

- PARAM Siddhi – AI
- Pratyush (Cray XC40)
- Mihir (Cray XC40)

Jaipur Foot

1. The Jaipur foot, also known as the Jaipur leg, is a **rubber-based prosthetic leg** for people with below-knee amputations.
2. It was developed by **Pandit Ram Chandra Sharma** and orthopedic surgeon **P K Sethi** in 1968.
3. The Jaipur foot consists of a rubber core, wooden block and vulcanised rubber coating. It is a soft multi axial artificial foot and provides enough dorsiflexion.
4. The Jaipur foot was named after Jaipur, India, where it was designed.
5. Use of the Jaipur foot is limited to prosthetic users at the level of household and limited community ambulation, since it is unsuitable for high level activities and sports or if the user must transverse uneven terrain.

Source: the hindu

Personalities & Places

Gulmaki Dalawzi Habib

1. She elected to the post of **chairperson of the bhadrak municipality, Odisha.**
2. She stood for election as independent candidate.
3. In the history of Odisha, there had never been a Muslim woman helming the top post of any municipality.

Source: the hindu

Important dates

World theater day: Mar 27

1. World Theatre Day is celebrated every year on 27 March by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) centers and the theatre community across the globe.
2. This year marks 60th anniversary of celebrations
3. Theme: Theatre and a Culture of Peace"

Source:toi

International Transgender Day of Visibility

1. International Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual event occurring on **March 31**.
2. It is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.

Source: Hindustan times

Earth hour

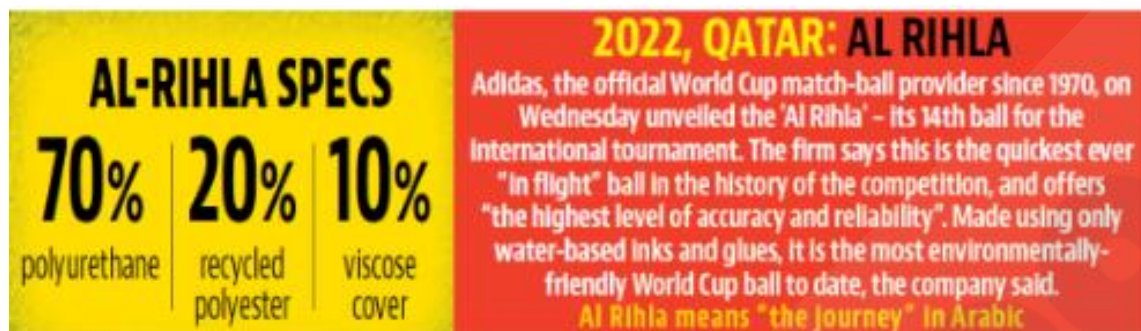
1. Every year, on the last Saturday in March, Earth Hour is observed.
2. In 2022 it fell on **March 26th**, 2022.
3. At 8:30 p.m. local time, Earth Hour will begin and end at 9:30 p.m. local time. The
4. Idea is to refrain from the use of non-essential lighting to save energy in a symbolic call for environmental protection during the earth hour.
5. The Earth Hour 2022 theme will focus on '**Shape Our Future**'.
6. Earth Hour is organized by WWF.



Sports

Al- Rihla

1. Al Rihla is the **Official Match Ball for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022**
2. It has been revealed by **Adidas**.
3. It is Adidas' 14th World Cup ball.
4. It is designed to accommodate the fastest game speeds possible, since it flies quicker in flight than any other World Cup ball.



Source: the hindu

International chess Olympiad

1. 44th International chess Olympiad will be held in **Chennai**.
2. The venue will be the Four Points by Sheraton Mahabalipuram Resort & Convention Center

Rank	Name	Country	ELO	Age
1	Alireza Firouzja	France	2804	18
2	Andrey Esipenko	Russia	2717,9	20
3	Arjun Erigaisi	India	2674,4	18
4	Nodirbek Abdusattorov	Uzbekistan	2661,1	17
5	Vincent Keymer	Germany	2659,9	17
6	Kirill Shevchenko	Ukraine	2652	19
7	Nihal Sarin	India	2647,6	17
8	Shant Sargsyan	Armenia	2639	20
9	Gukesh D	India	2633,7	15
10	Hans Niemann	U.S.	2632,3	18
11	Nodirbek Yakubboev	Uzbekistan	2630	20
12	Raunak Sadhwani	India	2628,2	16
13	Velimir Ivić	Serbia	2625,7	19
14	Praggnanandhaa R	India	2624,3	16
15	Awonder Liang	U.S	2613	18
16	Javokhir Sindarov	Uzbekistan	2609	16
17	Jonas Buhl Bjerre	Denmark	2601	17
18	Luis Engel	Germany	2564	19
19	Leon Luke Mendonca	India	2551,9	16
20	Paweł Teclaf	Poland	2542	18

Young and restless

With 11 of the country's 72 Grandmasters (GMs) aged below 21, India has a bright future in chess. Six of the top 20 junior players in the world belong to India. GM Arjun Erigaisi from Telangana is also likely to quickly cross the coveted 2700 ELO rating mark, traditionally termed the **Super GM mark**. It is a recognition of this fact that has led to India being chosen to host the 44th international Chess Olympiad in Chennai in July/August this year. **By Srinivasan Ramani**

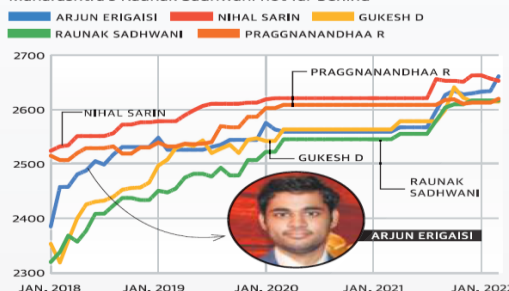
HIGHEST-RANKED PLAYERS

In terms of the average ELO ratings of the top 10 players in each country, India held the fifth position as of FIDE's latest list with an average ELO of 2672.5. Russia continues to lead the list with 2739 points

Country	Avg ELO Rating
Russia	2739
U.S.	2725.8
China	2700.4
Ukraine	2673.3
India	2672.5
France	2661.9
Hungary	2658.4
Azerbaijan	2650.9
Netherlands	2642.1

India's highest rated chess player remains Viswanathan Anand (2751) followed by Maharashtra's Vidit Gujrathi (2722.6) and Andhra Pradesh's P Harikrishna (2705.2).

UP, UP AND AWAY! The top five youngsters in India have steadily increased their **ELO ratings** in the last four years. Kerala's Nihal Sarin and Tamil Nadu's R. Praggnanandhaa had a strong headstart in 2018, but in recent months, Arjun Erigaisi and Tamil Nadu's D. Gukesh have had meteoric rises, with Maharashtra's Raunak Sadhwani not far behind



Source: the hindu

Swiss open champ

1. **PV Sindhu** won the Swiss Open and defeats world number 11 Busanan Ongbamrunphan.
2. The 2022 Swiss Open was the sixth tournament of the 2022 BWF World Tour and was part of the Swiss Open championships which has been held since 1955.



Books & Authors

Periyar Comic Book

1. **Dravida Iyakka Tamilar Peravai** set to release **100 page comic book** to popularize the ideologies of social reformer Periyar.
2. **Karunchatai pathigam** will work on book.
3. The book will **educate children** about the **Dravidian movement** and the role of periyar in the socio economic development of tamilnadu
4. The book will also discuss on women's rights caste discrimination and the reservation policy.

Source: the hindu

Jugalbandi: the BJP before Modi

1. Author : Vinay Sitapadi
2. Content : It follows journey through the entangled lives of its founding jugalbandi: Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani. Their partnership explains what the BJP before Modi was.
3. Launched in the year 2020.

Source:Hindustantimes

Planning Democracy

1. Launched in the year 2022
2. Author : Nikhil menon
3. Content : Planning Democracy explores how India adopted liberal democracy to a socialist economy.

Source:goodreads

Get Rich Or Lie Trying

1. Launched in the year 2022
2. Author : Symeon Brown
3. Content : Ambition and Deceit in the New Influencer Economy. Exposing the fraud, exploitation, bribery, and dishonesty at the core of the influencer model, Get Rich or Lie Trying asks if our digital rat race is costing us too much.

Source: goodreads

You People

- Launched in the year 2020
- Author : Nikita Lalwani
- Content : Perspective Of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees

Indian Agriculture towards 2030

1. **NITI Aayog and FAO** Launched Book Titled "Indian Agriculture towards 2030"
2. Book Discusses Pathways for **Enhancing Farmers' Income**, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems.

Source: Time of India

Awards

World Press Photo Award

1. **R. Senthil Kumaran** from Madurai has won World Press Photo Award, for his submission titled '**Boundaries: Human-Tiger Conflict**'.
2. This is the **first time the award is won by a south Indian**.
3. It is given by world press photo foundation.
4. Senthil Kumaran was awarded under the Long term projects in the Asian region category.



Source: the hindu

National water awards

1. Awards given **by Jal Shakthi Ministry**.
2. **Tamil Nadu secured third prize** in the best state category of the National Water Awards
3. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan got the first and second prizes, ahead of TN in the best state category for exemplary work in management of water resources.
4. In 2020 Tamil Nadu secured the first prize.
5. Vellaputhur panchayat in chengatpattu district won second prize in the best village panchayat (south zone) category.
6. Madurai corporation secured third prize in the best urban local body category.
7. Government girls higher secondary school in Kaveripattinam was the best school.
8. Hyundai motor India, Tamil Nadu won second position in best industry category
9. Vivekananda Kendra, NARDEP, Kanyakumari bagged second prize in best NGO category.

Source:timesofindia

South Asian Travel Award

1. The Pacific Region Travel Writers Association and Safari India are jointly presenting the South Asian Travel Award.
2. **Tamil Nadu**, which attracted the highest number of travelers in the spiritual category during the Corona period in 2020-21, was given the award for the **best state for spiritual tourism**.

Source:dtnext

Best Investment Promotion Agency Award

1. **Guidance Tamil Nadu** has won the 'Best Investment Promotion Agency Award' in Asia Oceania Region.
2. Guidance Tamil Nadu is Tamil Nadu's investment promotion agency.
3. The Award was given at the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) 2022, an initiative of the Ministry of Economy of the United Arab Emirates.

Source: dtnext

Oscar awards

1. The Academy Awards, popularly known as the Oscars, are awards for artistic and technical merit in the film industry.
2. Given annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), the awards are an international recognition of excellence in cinematic achievements.

Following are the categories and winners

- Best Actor in a Leading Role: Will Smith, "King Richard"
- Best Actress in a Leading Role: Jessica Chastain (The Eyes of Tammy Faye)
- Best Picture: CODA
- Best International Feature Film: Drive My Car
- Documentary Short Subject: The Queen of Basketball
- Best Directing: Jane Campion (The Power of the Dog)
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Ariana DeBose (West Side Story)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Troy Kotsur (CODA)
- Best Makeup & Hairstyling: The Eyes of Tammy Faye
- Best Cinematography: Dune
- Best Original Score: Hans Zimmer (Dune)
- Best Visual Effects: Dun
- Best Animated Feature Film: Encanto
- Best Animated Short Film: The Windshield Wiper
- Best Costume Design: Cruella
- Best Original Screenplay: Kenneth Branagh (Belfast)
- Best Adapted Screenplay: Sian Heder (Coda)
- Best Live Action Short Film: The Long Goodbye
- Best Sound: Dune
- Best Documentary Feature: "Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)"
- Best Original Song: "No Time To Die" from "No Time to Die," music and lyric by Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell
- Best Production Design: Dune
- Best Film Editing: Dune

Source: the hindu

Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

1. R. Parthasarathy, commonly known as Indira Parthasarathy or Ee. Paa., is an Indian author and playwright who writes in Tamil.
2. He was conferred with Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.
3. He is best known for his plays, "Aurangzeb", "Nandan Kathai" and "Ramanujar".
4. He is the only Tamil writer to receive both the Sahitya Akademi Award (1977) and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2004).
5. He received Padma Shri in the year 2010

Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

- The Sahitya Akademi Fellowship is a literary honour in India bestowed by the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters.
- It is the highest honour conferred by the Akademi on a living writer, the number of fellows at no time exceeding 21.

Source: the hindu

Covid champion awards

1. The **Cochin International Airport Limited** (CIAL) has bagged the '**Covid champion**' award at Wings India 2022.
2. **Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport** (CSMIA) won the '**Aviation Sustainability & Environment**' award by Wings India Awards 2022 for its efficient green practices.

Wings India 2022

- It is one of Asia's biggest civil aviation shows.
- It jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

Source: The hindu

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