

Target

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**WEEKLY**

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
**(ENGLISH)**

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

**February Week - 2, 2022**



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## Tamil Nadu

### Katchatheevu festival

- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister wrote to the Union Minister for External Affairs requesting him to urge Sri Lanka to allow Tamil Nadu fishermen to take part in the annual festival of **St. Anthony's Church at Katchatheevu**.



### Katchatheevu Island

- Katchatheevu is an uninhabited islet in the Palk Strait that was formed due to volcanic eruption in the 14th century.
- It was owned by the **Raja of Ramnad (Ramanathapuram)** and later became part of the Madras Presidency after the delimitation of Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait during British rule between the then governments of Madras and Ceylon.
- In 1921, both Sri Lanka and India claimed this piece of land for fishing and the dispute remained unsettled.
- **In 1974, Katchatheevu was ceded to Sri Lanka** by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi through the Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime agreement to settle the maritime boundary in the Palk Strait with her counterpart Srimavo Bandaranaike.
- An agreement allowed Indian fishermen to fish around Katchatheevu and to dry their nets on the island and to participate in the church festivities.
- However, Sri Lanka has been reluctant to allow Indian fishermen access to the Island on a regular basis.

### Center of Excellence for Cancer Diseases:

- The Center of Excellence for Cancer Diseases coming up on the premises of the Government Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital at **Kancheepuram district** may be completed by April.
- It would have palliative care wards, two facilities for MRI and CT scans, central lab, modular operation theaters, radiation oncology wards, pediatric wards and blood bank.

### Olive Ridleys hatchery:

- The Villupuram Forest Department will soon be establishing its second artificial hatchery for the endangered Olive Ridley turtles along the district's coastline as part of its conservation initiative to protect turtle nests.
- Fishermen led by the Forest Department have been engaged in collecting the eggs and assisted-hatching by fanning across the 32-km-long coastline of **Villupuram district**.
- The Villupuram coastline falls on the migratory route to Odisha used by these turtles listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

- The Olive Ridley is one of only two species of sea turtles that engage in 'arribada' nesting (Spanish for mass migration), where large groups of females assemble at a nesting site on the beach.
- The existing hatchery at **Vasuvankuppam** has almost reached its full capacity.

#### **AquaMAP.**

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras has set up an inter-disciplinary water management and policy centre called 'AquaMAP' aiming to provide smart solutions to water problems.
- It proposes to design scalable models that would be implemented in some locations across the country.
- AquaMAP aims to develop capability to address complex real-life water problems through a consortium approach and set up a hydro-informatics laboratory.
- It proposes to address at least three chronic water issues and conduct pilot studies in six water innovation villages and towns that can be showcased as replicable models for water management and policy implementation within the country.

#### **NEET Bill.**

- The NEET bill titled 'Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill, 2021', was passed again in the Tamil Nadu Assembly after the governor sent the bill back after examining it.

#### **Central University of Tamil Nadu.**

- The Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN), established over a decade ago in **Tiruvarur district**, will soon set up a campus in **Tiruchi**.

## National

### Uniform Civil Code:

- Recently, the Union government announced in the Parliament that 22nd Law Commission will study the Uniform Civil Code.

#### Uniform Civil Code

- The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) calls for the formulation of one law for India, which would be applicable to all religious communities in matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption.
- It comes under **Article 44** of the Constitution, which lays down that the state shall endeavor to secure a Uniform Civil Code for the citizens throughout the territory of India.
- The objective of Article 44 of the Directive Principles in the Indian Constitution was to address the discrimination against vulnerable groups and harmonise diverse cultural groups across the country.
- The origin of the UCC dates back to colonial India when the British government submitted its report in 1835 stressing the need for uniformity in the codification of Indian law relating to crimes, evidence, and contracts, specifically recommending that personal laws of Hindus and Muslims be kept outside such codification.

### e-Passport

- Recently, the Government of India has decided to introduce e-Passport in India.

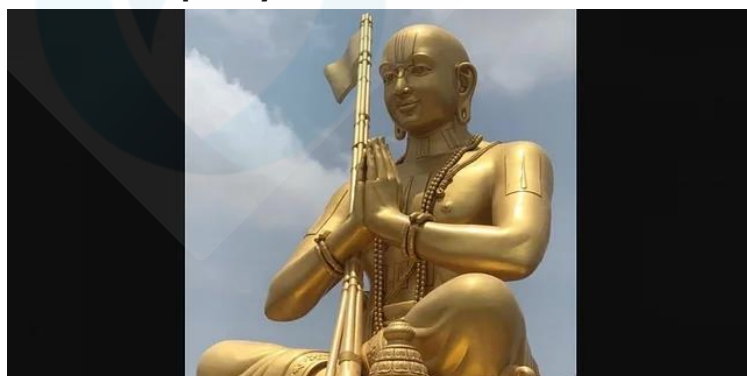
#### e- Passport.

- An e-Passport is a chip-enabled passport with a biometric identification card strengthening the transparency and security of travel documents.
- Passengers with an e-passport do not have to stand in a queue for a long time as it can be scanned in a few seconds.
- It has a biometric record of individuals. Therefore, it will prevent fraudsters from conducting data piracy and making duplicate passports.
- On tampering, the chip passport authentication will fail.
- No one can wipe data from it.

### Kakoijana Reserve Forest:

- Residents of Assam's Bongaigaon district have opposed a move by the State government to upgrade Kakoijana Reserve Forest to a wildlife sanctuary.
- Kakoijana Reserve Forest is one of the better-known homes of the golden langur (**Trachypithecus geei**) found only in Assam and Bhutan and a Schedule-I species under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- Golden langur is listed as among the world's 25 most endangered primates.

### Statue of Equality:



- The Prime Minister has inaugurated the statue of equality in Hyderabad.
- The 216-feet tall Statue of Equality commemorates the 11th-century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya, who promoted the idea of equality in all aspects of living including faith, caste and creed.

- The inner sanctum deity of Sri Ramanujacharya is made of 120 kilos of gold to commemorate the 120 years the saint spent on earth.
- The complex has identical recreations of 108 Divya Desams, the 108 ornately carved Vishnu temples mentioned in the works of the Alvars, mystic Tamil saints.

#### **Ramanujacharya.**

- Ramanujacharya is also known as Bhagvad Ramanuja was born in 1017AD in a Tamil Brahmin family in a village Sriperumbudur.
- He went on to put the strong foundation of Bhakti Marga, which continued to inspire the devotional movement that spread across the Bharata in centuries to come.
- Ramanujacharya is the pioneer of the Vishishtadvaita (qualified monism) doctrine of the Vedanta philosophy.
- He moved to Kanchipuram where he studied in the Advaita Vedanta school of thought under the guidance of his **master Yadav Prakash.**

#### **Sariska Tiger Reserve:**

- The Tiger population of Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan's Alwar district has gone up to 25, years after they became extinct in the reserve.
- It is well nestled in the Aravali Hills covering 800 sq km area divided into the grasslands, dry deciduous forests, sheer cliffs and rocky landscape.
- Sariska park is home to numerous carnivores including **Leopard, Wild Dog, Jungle Cat, Hyena, Jackal, and Tiger.** These feed on an abundance of prey species such as Sambar, Chital, Nilgai, Chousingha, Wild Boar and Langur.

#### **Sovereign green bonds**

- Government has proposed to issue sovereign green bonds to mobilize resources for green infrastructure.
- Issual of Sovereign Green Bonds signals India's seriousness in pursuing climate action.
- Green bonds are issued by companies, countries and multilateral organisations to exclusively fund projects that have positive environmental or climate benefits and provide investors with fixed income payments.
- The projects can include renewable energy, clean transportation and green buildings, among others.

#### **Operation AAHT.**

- The Railway Protection Force has launched a nationwide operation **to curb human trafficking** as part of "Operation AAHT".
- Special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- As part of "Operation AAHT", the infrastructure and intelligence network of the force could be utilized to collect, collate and analyze clues on victims, source, route, destination, popular trains used by suspects, identity of carriers/agents, kingpins etc and shared with other law-enforcing agencies.

#### **Three-Point Seat Belts.**

- The Government of India has made it mandatory for all carmakers to equip three-point seat belts for all front-facing passengers in a car, including for the third passenger seat in the middle of the rear row.
- Several studies done in the automobile industry have pointed out that a three-point seatbelt is far safer than the two-point seat belt and causes less damage or injury to the passenger during an accident.
- This is the second big intervention by the government to make car rides safer following the recent proposal to make six airbags mandatory in all passenger vehicles in the country.



## International

### India's diplomatic boycott of Winter Olympics :

- Recently, India has diplomatically boycotted the Winter Olympics taking place in the city of Beijing in China.
- Earlier, the U.S., the U.K., Canada and Australia had announced a diplomatic boycott of the games to protest China's human rights record in the Uighur Muslim majority province of Xinjiang.
- India's decision was based on **China's appointment of a PLA regiment commander who was decorated for his actions against Indian soldiers in Galwan, as an Olympic torchbearer.**
- India's move found support from the US and other democratic countries.

### Winter Olympics



- The Winter Olympic Games are held once every four years in different cities across the world.
- From 1924 to 1992, the Summer and Winter Games were each held in the same year, every four years.
- Since then, the Summer and Winter Games are still held every four years but the Summer Games are celebrated during the first year of an Olympiad (a four-year period) and the Winter Games are held in the third year.
- The first Winter Olympic Games were held from 25 January to 5 February 1924 in Chamonix, France.

### Sanction waiver to Iran:

- The U.S. is waiving sanctions on Iran's civilian nuclear programme to return to the 2015 nuclear agreement also called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).
- The U.S has withdrawn from JCPOA in 2020 during the Trump administration.

### JCPOA

- It was signed between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and Germany—collectively known as the P5+1. The European Union also took part.
- At the time of signing of the deal, U.S. intelligence officials estimated that, in the absence of an agreement, Iran could produce enough nuclear material for a weapon in a few months.
- Iran agreed not to produce either the highly enriched uranium or the plutonium that could be used in a nuclear weapon.
- It also took steps to ensure that its Fordow, Natanz, and Arak facilities pursued only civilian work, including medical and industrial research.

**Queen Elizabeth II:**

- Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday became the **first British monarch to reign for seven decades**.
- She is Britain's longest-serving monarch and acceded to the throne aged 25 on February 6, 1952, following the death of her father King George VI.

**Monarch in British Political System**

- The British Monarchy is known as a constitutional monarchy. This means that, while The Sovereign is Head of State, the ability to make and pass legislation resides with an elected Parliament.
- Although The Sovereign no longer has a political or executive role, he or she continues to play an important part in the life of the nation.
- As Head of State, The Monarch undertakes constitutional and representational duties which have developed over one thousand years of history.
- In addition to these State duties, The Monarch has a less formal role as '**Head of Nation**'.
- The Sovereign acts as a focus for national identity, unity and pride; gives a sense of stability and continuity; officially recognises success and excellence; and supports the ideal of voluntary service.
- In all these roles The Sovereign is supported by members of their immediate family.

**Semiconductors in the EU:**

- The EU recently unveiled a plan to quadruple the supply of semiconductors in Europe by 2030 to limit its dependence on Asia.
- The production of semiconductors has become a strategic priority in Europe and the United States, after the pandemic choked off supply.
- The manufacturing of semiconductors overwhelmingly takes place in Taiwan, China and South Korea and the European Union wants factories and companies inside the bloc to take on a bigger role.

**European Union:**

- The European Union (EU) is a group of 27 countries that operates as a cohesive economic and political block.
- Capital: Brussels.
- European Parliament : Strasbourg, France.
- Currency: Euro( 19 of its 27 members have adopted the currency.)

**Unitary Digital Identity framework:**

- India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modeled on the Aadhaar card.
- It is expected to introduce a personal identity verification device based on biometric data, a digital tool that can represent the identities of individuals in cyberspace, and the identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in digital and physical environments by combining the two devices.

**Hunger in Africa:**

- Drought conditions have left an estimated 13 million people facing severe hunger in the Horn of Africa, according to the **United Nations World Food Program**.
- People in a region including Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya face the driest conditions recorded since 1981.
- Drought conditions are affecting pastoral and farming communities. Malnutrition rates are high in the region.

**Quad Ministers' meet:**

- India will attend a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Quad (India, Australia, United States, Japan), which is expected to discuss cooperation on vaccines, technology and regional security issues including related to China.



### Quad

- Known as the 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue' (QSD), the Quad is an informal strategic forum comprising four nations, namely -- United States of America (USA), India, Australia and Japan.
- One of the primary objectives of the Quad is to work for a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.
- The group met for the first time in 2007 on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- It is considered an alliance of maritime democracies, and the forum is maintained by meetings, semi-regular summits, information exchanges and military drills of all the member countries.
- Its origins can be traced back to the evolution of Exercise Malabar and the 2004 Tsunami when India conducted relief and rescue operations for itself and neighboring countries and was later joined by the US, Japan and Australia.

## Science & Technology

### Hack-proof Quantum Communication

- Using real-time Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), ISRO scientists conducted hack-proof communication between two places separated by 300 meters.
- Quantum communication is one of the safest ways of **connecting two places with high levels of code and quantum cryptography** that cannot be decrypted or broken by an external entity.
- If a hacker tries to crack the message in quantum communication, it changes its form in such a manner that would alert the sender and would cause the message to be altered or deleted.
- During the demonstration, scientists managed to create an atmospheric channel on the ground to enable sharing of quantum-secure text, image transmission and quantum-assisted two-way video calling.
- This latest breakthrough comes on the back of an earlier demonstration of quantum secure video-conferencing in free space, over a distance of 300 meters in March last year.
- China already has a satellite dedicated to quantum information science, Micius, and demonstrated quantum communication in a laboratory over a coiled optical fibre up to 404 kilometres long.

### Biodegradable Face Mask

- A self-disinfecting '**copper-based nanoparticle-coated antiviral face mask**' to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic was unveiled.
- It kills the virus and filters it. It is also biodegradable, highly breathable and washable too.
- This novel invention has been a collaborative effort of International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous R&D centre of Department of Science & Technology (DST), CSIR- Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) and a Bengaluru based private firm Resil Chemicals.
- Most masks available in the country neither exhibit antiviral nor antibacterial properties.
- CSIR-CCMB tested the efficacy of this fabric against SARS-CoV-2 for disinfection properties and reported a 99.9% disinfection from the standard results.

### Vande Bharat Trains

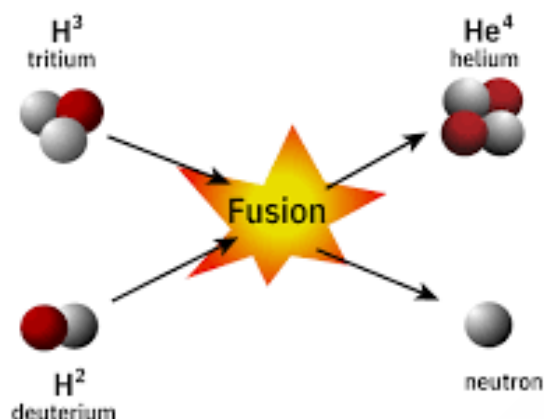
- The Finance Minister in the Union Budget for 2022-2023 proposed the development and manufacture of 400 new Vande Bharat trains in the next three years.
- The Vande Bharat train is an indigenously designed and manufactured semi high speed, self-propelled train.
- The train known as Train 18, operate without a locomotive and are based on a propulsion system called distributed traction power technology, by which each car of the train set is powered.
- The Vande Bharat coaches incorporate passenger amenities including on-board WiFi entertainment, GPS-based passenger information system, CCTVs, automatic doors in all coaches, rotating chairs and bio-vacuum type toilets like in aircraft.
- The first Vande Bharat was manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai as part of the 'Make in India' programme, at a cost of about ₹100 crore.
- It can achieve a maximum speed of 160 kmph due to faster acceleration and deceleration, reducing journey time by 25% to 45%.
- Currently, two Vande Bharat Expresses are operational —one between New Delhi and Varanasi and the other from New Delhi to Katra.

### Mission Indradhanush 4.0

- The Union Health Minister launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 in New Delhi to protect children and pregnant women from severe diseases.
- It is a special drive to ensure full immunization coverage in the country.
- This Mission will give impetus to the vaccination coverage. As of now the immunization coverage among children has increased to over 76 percent.
- Mission Indradhanush was launched in December 2014 as a special drive to expand immunization coverage in the country.
- 416 districts across thirty-three states will be covered under the Mission Indradhanush 4.0. It will be run in two phases.
- This mission will be focussed on those districts where the vaccination coverage is comparatively lower.
- Under the Mission Indradhanush 4.0, **12 vaccines** will be administered to the children.

### Nuclear fusion:

- Scientists have achieved a new milestone in producing nuclear fusion energy, or imitating the way energy is produced in the sun.
- Nuclear Fusion is the science of producing energy by 'fusing' two atomic particles into one.
- When two particles are fused, a part of the sum of their masses (matter content) gets converted into energy.
- The only way to do nuclear fusion is to get the two particles to collide with each other with such tremendous force that they fuse into one.
- To do this, there is a need to energize them, make them travel at extremely high speeds in random directions so that some will collide with others, and fuse.



### HGCO19

- India's first mRNA (messenger RNA) vaccine, HGCO19 is set to begin its human trials soon.
- mRNA vaccines belong to the category of nucleic acid vaccines, which use genetic material from disease-causing viruses or pathogens to trigger an immune response against it within the body.
- A limitation of the mRNA vaccines developed earlier is that they were required to be stored in sub-zero conditions.
- However, the HGCO19 vaccine can be stored in ordinary refrigerators,

### Havana Syndrome

- 'Havana Syndrome is a set of unexplained medical symptoms first experienced by U.S. State Department personnel stationed in Cuba beginning in late 2016.
- Investigators believed the syndrome was the result of an attack by a sonic or acoustic weapon.
- A later review from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine identified pulsed radio-frequency energy as the most likely culprit.
- Recent studies have found that a majority of the cases were thought to be caused by medical conditions—including undiagnosed bacterial infections and brain tumours.

### Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-04)

- ISRO plans to place, into orbit, an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-04) on board the PSLV C-52 on February 14.
- EOS-04 is a radar-imaging satellite, designed to provide high-quality images under all weather conditions for applications such as agriculture, forestry & plantations, soil moisture and hydrology, and flood mapping.
- The mission will also carry two small satellites as co-passengers — a student satellite, INSPIRESat-1, from the Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology in association with the Laboratory of Atmospheric & Space Physics at the University of Colorado, Boulder and a technology demonstrator satellite, INS-2TD from ISRO.

## Personalities

### Lata Mangeshkar:



- Renowned Indian playback singer, Lata Mangeshkar passed away recently.
- Lata Mangeshkar was born on Sept. 28, 1929, in the city of Indore, in what is now the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- Her career started in 1942 and has spanned over seven decades.
- She has recorded songs for over a thousand Hindi films and has sung songs in over thirty-six regional Indian languages and foreign languages, though primarily in Marathi and Hindi.
- India's highest award in cinema, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, was bestowed on her in 1989 by the Government of India. She also has been awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.

### Munishwar Nath:

- Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari has been appointed **Chief Justice of the Madras High Court**.
- Justice Bhandari had taken over as the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court after the transfer of Justice Sanjib Banerjee to the Meghalaya High Court.

## Sports

### U19 world cup title.

- India won the Under 19 world cup title 2022 beating England in the finals.
- This is the fifth Under-19 World Cup title for India.

## Books & Authors

Books	Authors	Description.
'Sri Bhashya', 'Vedantadeep', 'Vedantasar Sangrah', 'Geetabhashya', 'Nityaradhana-Vidhi' and 'Gadyatraya'.	Ramanujacharya	Books regarding Philosophy of Ramanuja and his idea of equality.
Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Sagarika Ghose	A detailed account of the life of Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



## Important Days

### **The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):**

- **6 February** marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance for female genital mutilation (FGM).
- This year's theme is "Accelerating Investment to End FGM" — calling for support for programmes to provide services and response for those affected and those at risk; in developing and enforcing laws, and fortifying institutional capacity to eliminate the practice.

### **World Day Of The Sick:**

- Every year, the World Day of the Sick is observed on **February 11** across the world.
- On this day, people across the world are encouraged to pray for those suffering from illness.
- The 'World Day of the Sick' was declared by Saint John Paul II in 1992 to motivate people to be attentive to sick people and for those who take care of them.
- World Day of the sick encouraged people to pray for those suffering from illness and who take care of them.

### **World Marriage Day:**

- World Marriage Day, occurring each year on the **second Sunday of February**, honors the lifelong commitment of husband and wife.
- World Marriage Day events provide the visible sign of support couples need to continue to make the daily decision to love one another. Pope St. John Paul II, in 1993, gave World Marriage Day his Apostolic Blessing.

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