

Target

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**WEEKLY**

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

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

**February Week 4 - 2022**



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## Tamil Nadu

### OCEANS 2022:

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Research Park and the National Institute of Ocean Technology jointly hosted the OCEANS 2022 conference.
- It is a bi-annual event of global marine researchers happening in India for the first time.



### UGC's draft education framework:

- Tamil Nadu has opposed the "entry requirements" for higher education listed in the University Grants Commission's Draft National Higher Education Qualifications Framework.

#### Tamil Nadu's concerns

- Tamil Nadu had very little time to evaluate the plan.
- It could destroy the State's policy of 'education for all'.
- Proposal to introduce a compulsory entrance examination for arts and science courses is harsher than NEET.
- Compulsory entrance exam would prevent students of the lower socio-economic background from having access to higher education.
- The draft framework has proposed four years of under-graduation and stipulated that those with a CGPA (Cumulative Grade Points Average) lower than 7.5 would not be allowed to move to the fourth year. This may lead to higher drop out rates.

### Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam:

- The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu distributed the medical kit to the 50th lakh beneficiary of the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' scheme.
- It is a programme to deliver essential healthcare at the doorstep of the people.
- It will screen those above 45 years of age and others with infirmities through routine door-to-door check-ups and detect non-communicable diseases that are also seen to cause sudden mortalities and impact the quality of life.
- The scheme will hinge on women public health workers, women health volunteers (WHVs), physiotherapists and nurses, who will provide healthcare at the doorstep.

### Marine Elite Force units in TN:

- Two units of Marine Elite Force will be set up in the State to combat marine wildlife crimes, including smuggling, prevention and poaching of marine animals, particularly in the Gulf of Mannar biosphere and Palk Bay.
- Each unit will have five marine watchers to be engaged on a contract basis and will be moving around in two deep water boats..
- For intelligence collection and data sharing, these units will interact with other stakeholders like customs, coast guard and naval officers apart from marine police and fisheries officials.
- The primary objective is to strengthen the protection and sustainable management of marine areas and watch out for disasters affecting marine and coastal wildlife.

### Kosasthalaiyar Basin:

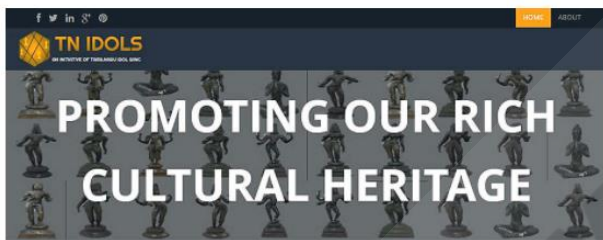


- The Greater Chennai Corporation is set to expedite work on the development of integrated stormwater drains in Kosasthalaiyar Basin to mitigate flooding in the northern parts of the city.

### Insurance for labourers:

- The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (Credai) in association with the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers' Welfare Board will launch an insurance scheme for one lakh labourers.
- This is an initiative by the State government, where Credai will be participating to ensure all labourers, whether migrant or local, are registered under this programme.
- The programme will cover and support the labourer and his family in many aspects regardless of which project or builder they are working for.

### Virtual museum:



- The Idol Wing-CID of the Tamil Nadu police has created a virtual museum with 374 idols to preserve and promote Tamil Nadu's rich cultural treasures.
- The Idol Wing, with the help of Indian Institute of Technology Madras, has taken 3D pictures of all the idols, with virtual reality and augmented reality unique cameras.
- The pictures have been uploaded on <http://www.tnidols.com/>.
- The government also proposed to sell the digitised versions of the idols at the museum, barring the idols of the temples, as Non-Fungible Tokens .

## National

### **Ombudsperson App:**

- Union Ministry for Rural Development and Panchayati launched Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.
- The app will enable easy tracking and timely passing of awards by Ombudsperson on each case as per the guidelines.
- Ombudsperson can also easily upload the quarterly and annual reports on the website through the app.
- The app will help the ombudsperson to a greater extent in discharging her/his duty towards transparency and accountability.
- Also, smooth disposal of the grievances in a time-bound manner with minimal support of further human resources will be possible through the app.

### **National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing:**

- The National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY).
- The National Strategy on Additive manufacturing (AM) will aim to create a conducive ecosystem for design, development, and deployment, and to overcome technical and economic barriers for Global AM leaders to set up their operations with supporting ancillaries in India, facilitating development of the domestic market and enhancement of global market share.

#### **Additive manufacturing**

- Additive manufacturing (AM), also known as 3D printing, is a transformative approach to industrial production that enables the creation of lighter, stronger parts and systems.
- Additive manufacturing uses data computer-aided-design (CAD) software or 3D object scanners to direct hardware to deposit material, layer upon layer, in precise geometric shapes.
- Although the terms "3D printing" and "rapid prototyping" are casually used to discuss additive manufacturing, each process is actually a subset of additive manufacturing.

### **PM CARES Scheme:**

- PM CARES scheme for children orphaned by the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended till February 28, 2022.
- The scheme was earlier valid till December 31, 2021.
- The scheme covers all children who have lost both parents, the lone surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parent or parents, due to COVID-19 after March 11, 2020.
- To avail the scheme, a child should not have turned 18 on the date of death of his or her parents.
- It provides gap funding for education and health and a monthly stipend from the age of 18 years.
- It also provides a lump sum amount of ₹10 lakh when a beneficiary turns 23 years old.

### **Devayatanam conference:**

- Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurated Devayatanam, a conference on temple architecture of India, at Hampi, Karnataka.
- He also released a booklet consisting of 75 glorious temples from across India.
- Devayatanam aims to highlight the architectures of Indian temples.
- The 2 day international conference is being organized by Archaeological Survey of India.

### **MILAN Exercise**

- Warships of Quad countries, France, Myanmar, South Korea and Vietnam and several others will come together at Visakhapatnam for MILAN.
- It is the largest multilateral exercise hosted by the Indian Navy.
- The exercise will see the participation of around 42 countries with ships from over 15 countries.
- The U.S. will be joining the exercise for the first time.



- The theme of the MILAN 2022 exercise is 'Camaraderie - Cohesion – Collaboration', which aims to project India as a responsible maritime power to the world at large.
- Starting with the participation of four countries — Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand — in 1995, the exercise has since transitioned in terms of number of participants and complexity of exercises.

### **Karakattam/Kumbakkali**



- The Kerala Nattukala Kshema Sabha (KNKS) has demanded that Karakattam (also known as Kumbakkali in certain parts) be recognised as the agricultural art form of Kerala.
- Karakattam is a form of folk dance performed at festivals, conferences, roadshows and primarily at Mariamman festivals.
- It is one of the many creative traditions that owe their existence to Mariamman, the rain goddess.
- The Mariamman pooja is held in the month of Medam after Makarakkoythu (harvest season) in Kerala, and Mariamman is considered to be the goddess of rain.
- The form is about more than just worship—it is also about reversing the caste dominance. It is a dance on muddy ground with people participating from the lower rungs of the society.
- Karakattam performances are characterised by a lot of swaying movements, a container is balanced on the head of a Karakattam dancer.
- Other highlights include blowing fire, inserting needles into eyes, and keeping balance while holding a bottle parallel to the ground on the performer's back.

## International

### Lugansk and Donetsk:



Russia has recognised the independence of eastern Ukraine's separatist republics Lugansk and Donetsk.

- These two areas are located in south-eastern Ukraine and are major industrial centres in an area which is collectively known as the Donbass.
- This area has borders with Russia. In 2014, the two areas declared themselves independent of Ukraine.
- Donbass has the largest coal reserves in Ukraine.
- Donetsk, has a population of around 2 billion, is known for a wide range of metallurgical industries and is considered to be the fifth largest city in Ukraine.
- More than 40 percent of the people in these two areas are ethnic Russians and they form the largest minority in the Donbass region.

### Russia banned from SWIFT:

Top Russian banks have been banned from the SWIFT global interbank payments system.

#### What is the SWIFT banking system?

- SWIFT is a secure messaging system that facilitates rapid cross-border payments.
- It is the principal mechanism for financing international trade.
- Using the SWIFT system, more than 40 million messages are sent every day between governments and financial institutions in the same period.

#### Who controls the SWIFT system?

- SWIFT is overseen by the G-10 central banks (Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, Switzerland, and Sweden), and the European Central Bank, with its lead overseer being the National Bank of Belgium.
- In 2012, this framework was reviewed and a SWIFT Oversight Forum was established.
- In this, the G-10 central banks were joined by other central banks: Reserve Bank of Australia, People's Bank of China, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Reserve Bank of India, Bank of Korea, Bank of Russia, Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Monetary Authority of Singapore, South African Reserve Bank and the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey.

### Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline:

#### Nord Stream pipelines from Russia



- Germany has recently suspended the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline.
- Nord Stream 2 is a 1,200km pipeline under the Baltic Sea, which will take gas from the Russian coast near St Petersburg to Lubmin in Germany.
- The US and UK, along with Russia's neighbours Poland and Ukraine, strongly oppose Nord Stream 2.
- They fear that if Nord Stream 2 were to start operating, it would give Russia even more of a stranglehold over gas supplies to Europe.
- Russia is keen to boost supplies of gas to Europe from its vast fields in the west of the country.

### Chernobyl:

Invading Russian troops have captured the Chernobyl nuclear plant in northern Ukraine, the site of one of the worst nuclear disasters in human history.

#### Chernobyl Accident 1986:

- The April 1986 disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine was the product of a flawed Soviet reactor design coupled with serious mistakes made by the plant operators.
- It was a direct consequence of Cold War isolation and the resulting lack of any safety culture.
- The Chernobyl Power Complex, lies about 130 km north of Kiev, Ukraine, and about 20 km south of the border with Belarus.

### Millennium Challenge Corporation:

- Nepal has recently adopted a \$500 million U.S. grant, which has become a bone of contention between China and the United States.

#### Millennium Challenge Corporation:

- The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is an innovative and independent U.S. foreign assistance agency that is helping lead the fight against global poverty.
- MCC forms partnerships with developing countries who are committed to good governance, economic freedom and investing in their citizens.
- MCC is a prime example of smart U.S. Government assistance in action, benefiting both developing countries and the American taxpayers through:



- a. **Competitive selection:** MCC's Board examines a country's performance on 20 independent and transparent policy indicators and selects countries based on policy performance.
- b. **Country-led solutions:** MCC requires selected countries to identify their priorities for achieving sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. Countries develop their MCC proposals in broad consultation within their society. MCC then works in close partnership to help countries refine programs.
- c. **Country-led implementation:** When a country is awarded an MCC compact, it sets up a local accountable entity to manage and oversee all aspects of implementation. Monitoring of funds is rigorous, transparent and often managed through independent fiscal agents.
- d. **Focus on results:** MCC is committed to producing results and ensuring that the American people are getting a good return on their investment. MCC employs technically rigorous, systematic and transparent methods of projecting, tracking and evaluating the impacts of its programs.

### Blue Economy

- India and France adopt a road map on 'blue economy' and ocean governance.
- They aim to enhance partnership for the exploitation and preservation of marine resources through economic, infrastructure and scientific cooperation.
- France is among India's closest strategic partners in Europe.
- According to the World Bank, Blue economy is the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem.
- In India, blue economy is the sum total of economic activities sourced from marine resources. Fisheries, deep sea mining, and offshore oil and gas make up a large section of India's blue economy.
- Presently, it comprises 4.1% of India's GDP.

## Science

### Corbevax:

- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given emergency use authorisation (EUA) to vaccine maker Biological E's COVID-19 vaccine "Corbevax" for the 12- 18 age group.

#### Corbevax

- It is the first indigenously developed Receptor Binding Domain Protein sub-unit vaccine against COVID-19.
- The vaccine is administered through an intramuscular route with two doses scheduled 28 days apart

### 'Sustainable Cities India' program:

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India' program.
- It will aim to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and the built environment sectors.
- The 'Sustainable Cities India' program intends to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.

### Cheetah Action Plan:



- A five-member delegation from India visited Namibia this week to hold discussions on translocating the Cheetahs to India.
- Last year, the Centre approached the government of Namibia, known as the world's cheetah capital, for support in sending a few cheetahs for re-introduction into the wild in a scientific and carefully-monitored manner.
- India plans to bring over a dozen cheetahs from Africa over five years.

### Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS)

- According to a study, most Carbon Capture and Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) technologies, might fail to help the world reach Net Zero emissions by 2050.
- CCUS technologies suck carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere and convert it into fuel or other valuable products.
- These technologies constitute methods to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, followed by recycling the CO<sub>2</sub> for utilization and determining safe and permanent storage options.
- The following reasons were cited for its economic unviability:
  - Carbon capture needs the development of sorbents that can effectively bind to the CO<sub>2</sub> - this is economically unviable.
  - The demand for CO<sub>2</sub> is much less than what needs to be removed from the atmosphere.
- Presently, the Department of Science and Technology conducts Mission Innovation Challenge on CCUS to facilitate R&D and innovation that can lead to development of safe and cost effective technology.

- India has joined forces with France, Germany, Greece, Norway, Romania, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States to achieve these objectives.

**P-8I Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft:**

- Boeing delivered the 12th P-8I Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to India.
- The P-8I is an integral part of the Indian Navy's fleet and has surpassed 35,000 flight hours since it was inducted in 2013.
- The aircraft, with its exceptional maritime surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, versatility and operational readiness, has proven to be an important asset to the Navy.
- In addition to unmatched maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the P-8I has been deployed to assist during disaster relief and humanitarian missions.

## Personalities

### **Madhavi Puri Buch:**

- Madhavi Puri Buch has been appointed the new SEBI chief.
- She is the first woman to head the SEBI..
- She was earlier a whole-time member (WTM) at the SEBI.

### **Sant Gadge Baba:**



- February 23rd was Sant Gadge Baba's birth anniversary.
- Debuji Zhingraji Janorkar (February 23, 1876 - December 20, 1956), popularly known as Sant Gadge Maharaj or Gadge Baba, was a saintly social reformer, a wandering mendicant who held weekly festivals with the help of his disciples across Maharashtra.
- His reforms and visions for villages in India are still a source of inspiration for various political parties and non-government organizations.
- He was born in Shedgaon village in Amravati District of Maharashtra in a washerman's family.
- A public teacher, he traveled from one place to another wearing his food pan upturned on his head and carrying his trademark broom.
- . When he entered a village, he would instantly start cleaning the gutters and roads of the village.
- He exhorted people to stop animal sacrifice as part of religious rituals and campaigned against vices such as alcohol abuse.
- He tried to embody the values that he preached: hard work, simple living and selfless service to the poor.

## Sports

### Winter Olympics:

1	 Norway	16	8	13	37	1
2	 Germany	12	10	5	27	3
3	 People's Republic of China	9	4	2	15	11
4	 United States of America	8	10	7	25	5
5	 Sweden	8	5	5	18	6
6	 Netherlands	8	5	4	17	9
7	 Austria	7	7	4	18	6
8	 Switzerland	7	2	5	14	12
9	 ROC	6	12	14	32	2
10	 France	5	7	2	14	12

- Norway topped the medal table at the Winter Olympics with a record-breaking performance in Beijing to cement their dominance in winter sports.
- In total, Norway won 16 gold, eight silver and 13 bronze medals.
- Germany finished second in the medal table with 12 gold, 10 silver and five bronze.

### India's biggest wrestling academy:

- The Indian Railways will soon set up the country's biggest world-class academy, exclusively for wrestlers in railways, with all the best sports facilities at Kishanganj locality in Delhi.
- Most of the medals won by India in wrestling in Olympics were from Indian Railways like Sushil (2008 and 2012), Sakshi Malik (2016), Ravi Kumar and Bajrangj (2020).



## Books & Authors

Books	Authors	Description.
A Nation to Protect: Leading India through the Covid crisis'	Priyam Gandhi-Mody	It described how India battled and emerged from the deadly crisis under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
The Great Tech Game: Shaping Geopolitics and the Destinies of Nations.	Anirudh Suri	The book lays out a roadmap for how any country must develop its own strategic plan to succeed in this technology-dominant era.
A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore's Pioneering Work in Rural Construction	Uma Das Gupta.	It explores Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's work for rural reconstruction by setting up 'Sriniketan', a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan in 1922.

## Awards & Honors

### Outstanding Contribution To Film Industry:

- Legendary actor Asha Parekh has been honoured with Outstanding Contribution To Film Industry accolade at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022.
- Asha Parekh had appeared in many commercially successful films throughout her career. and was the highest-paid actor (female) of the 1960s and 1970s.
- Her most iconic films include: 'Jab Pyar Kisi Se Hota Hai' (1961), 'Phir Wohi Dil Laya Hoon' (1963), 'Teesri Manzil' (1966), 'Baharon Ke Sapne' (1967), 'Pyar Ka Mausam' (1969), 'Kati Patang' (1970) and 'Caravan' (1971) among several others.

### List of complete list of winners of Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022:

Film of the Year Award: Pushpa: The Rise  
Best Film Award: Shershaah  
Best Actor Award: Ranveer Singh for film 83  
Best Actress Award: Kriti Sanon for film Mimi  
Critics Best Actor Award: Sidharth Malhotra  
Critics Best Actress Award: Kiara Advani  
Best Actor in Supporting Role Award: Satish Kaushik for film Kaagaz  
Best Actress in Supporting Role Award: Lara Dutta for film Bell-Bottom  
Best Actor in Negative Role Award: Aayush Sharma for film Antim: The Final Truth  
People's Choice Best Actor Award: Abhimanyu Dasani  
People's Choice Best Actress Award: Radhika Madan  
Best Debut Award: Ahan Shetty for film Tadap  
Best Playback Singer Male Award: Vishal Mishra  
Best Playback Singer Female Award: Kanika Kapoor  
Critics Best Film Award: Sardar Udham Singh  
Best Director Award: Ken Ghosh for film State of Siege: Temple Attack  
Best Cinematographer Award: Jayakrishna Gummadi for film Haseena Dilruba  
Best International Feature Film Award: Another Round  
Best Short Film Award: Pauli  
Best Actor in Web Series Award: Manoj Bajpayee for The Family Man 2  
Best Actress in Web Series Award: Raveena Tandon for Aranyak  
Best Web Series Award: Candy  
Best Actor in Television Series Award: Shaheer Sheikh for Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi  
Best Actress in Television Series Award: Shraddha Arya for Kundali Bhagya  
Television Series of the Year Award: Anupama  
Most Promising Actor in Television Series Award: Dheeraj Dhoopar for Kundali Bhagya  
Most Promising Actress in Television Series Award: Rupali Ganguly for Anupama

### Ramanujan Prize For Young Mathematicians:

- The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians was awarded to Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician of the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata.
- She received the award for the year 2021 for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
- The prize is awarded annually to a researcher from a developing country funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Government of India in association with ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics) and the International Mathematical Union (IMU).

**Hilal-e-Pakistan:**

- Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates has been conferred with Hilal-e-Pakistan, the second highest civilian honour in the country, for his efforts to help eradicate polio in Pakistan.
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been a major contributor in worldwide polio eradication through Gavi, the vaccine alliance.

## Important Days

### World Peace and Understanding Day:

- Celebrated on February 23, World Peace and Understanding Day is Rotary Club's birthday as well.
- With the motto to spread peace, the day is celebrated to remember that it is our world, and we collectively can make it a peaceful place to live.
- World Peace and Understanding Day has a motto that stands for "Service above Self".
- The World Peace and Understanding Day spreads the message of sharing different values to maintain world peace.
- Values like education, literacy, equality, cultural values, development of the community, eradication of poverty, disease prevention, and more are shared amongst the people of the world.
- It also promotes people to be better humans and work on themselves so that they contribute to world peace.

### Central Excise Day.

- Central Excise Day is celebrated every year on February 24 across the whole of India.
- It is celebrated to encourage the employees of the excise department to carry out the central excise duty all over India in a better way.
- It also aims to prevent corruption in the goods manufacturing business as well as implement other rules to carry out the best possible excise services.
- The Central Excise Day is also celebrated to commemorate the Central Excise and Salt Act, which was enacted on February 24, 1944.
- In India, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is responsible for administering Customs, Goods, and Service Tax (GST), Central Excise, Service Tax, and Narcotics in India.

### India Protein Day:

- India has been observing its National Protein Day on February 27 since 2020.
- Indian health professionals came up with a 'Right to Protein' initiative to educate Indians on the importance of protein intake.
- The sole intention behind this drive is to promote protein sufficiency in India through awareness, advocacy about the right to protein accessibility.

### National Science Day in India:



- 28th February is celebrated as National Science Day in India.
- Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman, on this day in 1928, discovered a phenomenon of scattering of photons which was later known as 'Raman Effect'.
- To mark the discovery of his famous phenomenon, National Science Day is celebrated in India on the day each year.

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