

Target

TNPSC

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS
(ENGLISH)

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

January week - 4, 2022



Table of Contents

Tamil Nadu News	3
National.....	5
International	7
Defense	9
Science & Technology	10
Appointments.....	11
Important Days.....	12
Awards.....	15
Sports.....	18
Books & Authors.....	20

Tamil Nadu News

CLApp

1. CM MK Stalin launched a mobile app for police personnel to apply leave.
2. The **Chennai Police Leave Application (CLApp)** lists 7 types of leave including casual, medical and earned leave and applicants may specify reasons by picking from options listed separately.
3. The app provides a duration of 3 hours for police officers to act on leave applications.
4. If the designated, jurisdictional official does not look into applications with the specified time limit, the papers would get automatically forwarded to officers at the next higher level.
5. Currently, about 5,800 police personnel need to visit the offices of their superiors to submit leave applications.

Sixth Tiger Reserve

1. The central government approved the Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger reserve as the state's fifth Tiger Reserve a year ago.
2. Erode is likely to become the sixth tiger reserve of Tamil Nadu.
3. The state forest department is in the final stages of drafting a proposal to create a new Tiger reserve in **Erode forest range**.
4. In addition to 15-20 tigers, Erode Forest division is home to elephants, wild boars, leopards, wild dogs, deer, Indian guars, and other rare species.
5. It is surrounded by the Kollegal forest division of Karnataka on the northern side and the Satyamangalam Forest Range on the western side.
6. Chief Wild Life Warden of Tamil Nadu: **Shekar Kumar Niraj**

The Protected Areas in the Tamil Nadu includes:

- 5 National parks,
- 15 Wildlife sanctuaries,
- 15 bird sanctuaries and
- 2 conservation reserves
- Besides, **5 Tiger Reserves** viz. Anamalai, Kalakkad - Mundanthurai, Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam and Srivilliputtur Megamalai.
- Further Tamil Nadu also have 3 Biosphere Reserves viz. Nilgiris, Gulf of Mannar and Agasthiarmalai.

Vinisha Umashankar

1. Birmingham 2022 is staging the **16th official Queen's Baton Relay** – an epic journey across the Commonwealth, with The Queen's Baton visiting all 72 nations and territories.
2. The baton finally arrived in India (27th Nation in route) on 12 Jan 2022.
3. **Vinisha Umashankar**, a student innovator turned environmentalist carried the Queen's Baton and is also selected as a "**changemaker**".
4. Vinisha hails from the **Tiruvannamalai district** of Tamil Nadu.
5. She made a mobile ironing cart, which uses solar panels to power a steam iron for which she was awarded the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Awards instituted by National Innovation Foundation (NIF).
6. Her speech at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2021 at Glasgow, Scotland turned out to be an inspiration for the world.

Alanganallur Stadium

1. MK Stalin announced a new stadium at Allanganallur in Madurai district for tourists, where the renowned Jallikattu events are held every year.
2. The permanent venue would also house a museum for documenting traditional bovine species and treatment facilities for bull tamers and tourists.

Satyamangalam Tiger Reserve

1. The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve is awarded the prestigious **international TX2 Award** for doubling its tiger population since 2010.
2. **Nepal's Bardia National Park** was also jointly conferred the award, for doubling its population of wild tigers.
3. It is presented by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) along with other conservation agencies.
4. Set in 2010 by the 13 tiger range countries, the goal known as TX2 is credited with reversing the downward decline of tigers.
5. The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve is located in **Erode district**, and now houses **80 tigers** in its 1408 sq. km campus.
6. Its area is contiguous with the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) and BR Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka).
7. Together, these reserves — forming the Nilgiris biosphere landscape — have the biggest tiger population in the world, at over 280 tigers.

National

73rd Republic Day

1. India is celebrating the 73rd Republic Day on January 26 as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorating 75 years of independence.
2. The Republic Day parade this year is showcasing India's military might, cultural diversity and many unique initiatives to mark the celebration of the 75th year of independence.
3. Prime Minister on the occasion of Netaji's 125th birth anniversary, unveiled the hologram statue of the freedom fighter at India Gate on Jan 23.
4. The first parade(1950): **President of Indonesia Dr. Sukarno** was invited as a guest.
5. On **26th January 1930**, the Indian National Congress (INC) had proclaimed the Declaration of Indian Independence (**Purna Swaraj**) rejecting the Dominion status offered by the British Regime.

The 71st Republic Day(2020): Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro was the Chief Guest.

The 72nd Republic Day (2021): UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson (however, he could not make it)

The 73rd Republic Day (2022): India had invited the leaders of the five Central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as Chief Guests (They did not make it)

SAAR Program

1. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations across the country, the Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA has launched "**Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)**" program.
2. It is a joint initiative of MoHUA, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.
3. Under the program, 15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by the Smart Cities Mission.
4. The documents will capture the learnings from best practices, provide opportunities for engagement on urban development projects to students, and enable real-time information flow between urban practitioners and academia.
5. The SAAR project includes **75 urban projects** distributed across **47 Smart cities**.

Abide With Me song

1. Recently, the government has dropped "Abide With Me", a song from the retreat ceremony during the Republic Day celebrations.
2. It was penned by **Henry Francis Lyte**, a Scottish Anglican minister and is sung to William Henry Monk's tune Eventide.
3. It has been a fixture in the **Indian Beating Retreat ceremony** since 1950.
4. It is always the last piece to be played by the brass bands before the troops recede up Raisina Hill to the tune of poet Allama Iqbal's Saare jahan se achha.
5. It is played at dusk and is the last piece before the retreat buglers bring down the Indian flag.
6. Abide With Me was one of Mahatma Gandhi's personal favourites.

Spice Exchange Portal

1. The **country's first virtual platform for spice exports Spice Xchange India** was launched at a hybrid event held in Kochi.
2. It was launched by Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash.

3. India presently enjoys a dominant share in the global spice market by exporting 225 different spices and spice products to more than 180 countries.
4. spicexchangeindia.com is a 3D virtual platform aimed at connecting India's spice exporters with buyers from around the world.
5. The portal uses artificial intelligence (AI)-based technology to connect spice buyers with exporters in India.
6. The buyers and sellers can access the database to find the potential customers. The portal works as an extended office enabling the subscribers to conduct virtual meetings.

NIPER Research Portal

1. The **Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry** recently launched NIPER Research Portal.
2. The purpose of this portal is to authenticate availability of the research work that is ongoing.
3. The research portal will try to bring together research institutions spread across different departments within government and also these institutions with industries.
4. The government requested all relevant research institutions like the Department of Biotechnology, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of AYUSH, ICMR etc., and even DRDO, where a lot of pharmaceutical sector-related research takes place to join this portal.

International

UNSC 3D Virtual Diplomacy

1. For the first time, the UNSC went on a **virtual field trip to Columbia** using Virtual reality.
2. This will foster innovative solutions for better understanding of the conflicts, peacekeeping, and the UN-led peace-building efforts.
3. India's diplomat at **India's Permanent Mission to UN at New York, Pratik Mathur**, tweeted the images of the delegations using the futuristic VR glasses.

Virtual Reality vs Augmented Reality

Augmented reality (AR) adds digital elements to a live view often by using the camera on a smartphone. Eg: Pokemon Go Game or a Lenskart Application.

Virtual reality (VR) implies a complete immersion experience that shuts out the physical world. Using VR devices such as HTC Vive, Oculus Rift or Google Cardboard, users can be transported into a number of real-world and imagined environments such as the middle of a squawking penguin colony or even the back of a dragon.

Barbados Prime Minister

1. Barbados Prime Minister **Mia Mottley** was sworn in for a second term in office.
2. Mottley is the eighth person to hold the office of Prime Minister in Barbados and the first woman to hold either position.
3. She is also Barbados' first prime minister under a republic system.
4. She is the leader of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) since 2008.

About Barbados:

- Barbados is an **island country in the Lesser Antilles of the West Indies**, in the Caribbean region of the Americas.
- On 30 November 1966, Barbados became an independent state and Commonwealth realm with Elizabeth II as Queen of Barbados.
- In October 2021, **Sandra Mason was elected by Parliament to become the first President of Barbados.**
- On 30 November 2021, Mason replaced Queen Elizabeth as head of state, with Barbados transitioning to a republic within the Commonwealth of Nations.
- President = Sandra Mason
- Prime Minister = Mia Mottley
- Currency = Barbadian dollar
- Capital = Bridgetown

IMF World Economic Outlook

1. WEO is a survey by the International Monetary Fund that is usually published twice a year.
2. It has projected the global economy to grow by **4.4 per cent** in 2022, down by 0.5 percentage points from October's forecast.
3. The rapid spread of the Omicron variant has led to renewed mobility restrictions in many countries and increased labor shortages.

IMF:

- The IMF was *conceived in July 1944 at the United Nations Bretton Woods Conference in New Hampshire, United States.*
- The World Bank and IMF were conceived jointly, and hence they are referred to as 'Bretton Wood Twins'.
- Founded : 27 December 1945
- Headquarters : Washington DC, US
- Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva
- Chief Economist : Gita Gopinath

BRICS Sherpas Meeting 2022

1. A sherpa is a civil servant or diplomat who undertakes preparatory work prior to a summit conference.
2. The first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 was held virtually on January 18-19 2022.
3. India hosted the most recent **13th BRICS summit** on 9 September 2021 virtually.
4. **China has assumed the leadership of BRICS for 2022.**
5. The members thanked India for its BRICS chairship in 2021.
6. **Sanjay Bhattacharya** is India's BRICS Sherpa.

BRICS:

- It was formed in 2006. The term "BRIC" is believed to be coined in 2001 by then-chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management, **Jim O'Neill**.
- Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC" (or "the BRICs") before the **induction of South Africa in 2010.**
- Headquarters: Shanghai, China

Two new COVID Drugs

1. WHO has recommended two new drugs for COVID-19.
2. The first drug, **baricitinib**, is strongly recommended for patients with severe or critical COVID-19.
3. Baricitinib is an oral drug, used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. It provides an alternative to other arthritis drugs called Interleukin-6 receptor blockers.
4. It is part of a class of drugs called Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors that suppress the overstimulation of the immune system.
5. The second drug, **sotrovimab**, is for treating mild or moderate COVID-19 in patients who are at high risk of hospitalization.
6. Sotrovimab is an alternative to casirivimab-imdevimab, a monoclonal antibody cocktail.

India and Israel

1. 29th January, 2022 marks **30 years of diplomatic relations** between Israel and India.
2. Both the countries have launched a commemorative logo with star of David and Ashoka Chakra.
3. India and Israel established diplomacy on January 29, 1992.

Israel

Capital: Jerusalem
President: Issac Herzog
Prime Minister: Naftali Bennett
Currency: New shekel

Defense

Amar Jawan Jyoti

1. Recently, the government announced that the Amar Jawan Jyoti will be merged with the national war memorial.
2. The Amar Jawan Jyoti or eternal flame was added to the **India Gate in the 1970s after India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.**
3. On Republic Day and Independence Day, Prime Ministers traditionally paid tribute at the Amar Jawan Jyoti.
4. In 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi did so at the **National War Memorial.**
5. The names of armed forces personnel killed during the armed conflicts with Pakistan and China as well as the 1961 War in Goa, Operation Pawan, and other operations such as Operation Rakshak are inscribed on the memorial walls in golden letters.

AT4 weapon

1. India has selected **Swedish defence company Saab's AT4 weapon** for its army and air force after a competitive programme for buying a single-shot weapon.
2. Operated by a single soldier, the AT4 single-shot system is designed for use against tanks, helicopters, landing craft, structures and personnel.
3. The Indian army has been using the Swedish-origin Carl-Gustaf weapon system since the 1970s.
4. The AT4 systems are lightweight, single-shot, fully disposable and characterised by ease of use and handling.

AK-203 Assault Rifles

1. Russia has delivered to India all the contracted 70,000 AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles.
2. India, Russia 2+2 meet at foreign and Defence ministers level and the visit of Russian president Putin for the annual summit in Delhi took place in December 2021.
3. As part of India's localisation of defence manufacturing, a special purpose Joint Venture called Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd (IRRPL) has been created for the production of 600,000 AK 203 in India.

Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)

1. A joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar was conducted by the Indian Navy concluded off the West Coast.
2. It was conducted over a duration of 20 days with an objective to validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance inter-service synergy among the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Army and Coast Guard.

The Western Naval Command: HQ is in Mumbai

Eastern Naval Command: HQ is in Visakhapatnam

Southern Naval Command: HQ is in Kochi

Science & Technology

Himalayan Buransh

1. Buransh plant, scientifically known as the red Rhododendron arboretum has molecules that can be used for treating Covid 19.
2. It is a Himalayan flowering tree that contains antiviral properties.
3. The Phytochemical compounds in this plant are supposed to have anti-Covid properties.
4. It is found in Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Thailand.
5. It is the national flower of Nepal.
6. In India it is the state tree of Uttarakhand and the state flower of Nagaland.

OM

1. The **CSIR – Central Drug Research Institute's** scientists have developed an indigenous **RT-PCR kit called 'Om'** for testing the omicron variant.
2. Om enables quick and cost-effective detection of omicron variant over genome sequencing for a large population.
3. It will give the test results in around two hours and can be aligned for the detection of other emerging variants of Covid infection and other respiratory infections.
4. The kit has been referred to the ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV) and is yet to be validated.

Chang'e 5

1. China's Chang'e 5 lunar probe finds **first on-site evidence of water** on moon's surface.
2. It was the solar wind that contributed to the most humidity of lunar soil as it brought hydrogen that makes up the water.
3. Earlier, the presence of water had been confirmed by remote observation but the lander has now detected signs of water in rocks and soil.
4. Chang'e 5 is the fifth lunar exploration mission of the Chinese Lunar Exploration Program, and China's **first lunar sample-return** mission.
5. It was launched in November 2020 from Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on Hainan Island.
6. The mission made China the third country to return samples from the Moon after the United States and the Soviet Union.

HD73619 Star

1. A group of Indian and international scientists have spotted a peculiar binary star that shows heartbeat but no pulsations.
2. This is in contrary to the norm of binary stars of sporting both heartbeats as well as pulsations.
3. This star is called HD73619 in Praesepe (M44), located in the **Cancer constellation**, one of the closest open star clusters to the Earth.
4. A team of 33 scientists, led by Dr. Santosh Joshi from Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous institution under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt of India, carried out analysis.

Appointments

PMLA Adjudicating Authority Chairperson

1. **Vinodanand Jha** has been appointed as the chairperson of the PMLA Adjudicating Authority.
2. He is a 1983-batch retired IRS officer.
3. Mr. Jha has been serving as the Member (Finance and Accounts) in the Authority since September 2018.
4. It is a three-member Authority mandated to adjudicate the cases of attachment of assets orders issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
5. The Authority is a mechanism provided under the PMLA to safeguard the interests of the accused against coercive action.

Important Days

Parakram Divas

1. **January 23, 2022** marks the **125th Birth anniversary** of **Netaji** Subhas Chandra Bose.
2. Every year, January 23 is celebrated as Parakram Divas – Day of Valour.
3. PM unveiled a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate.
4. Earlier, the government had renamed an island of Andaman, **Ross Island** as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island.

Some important facts about Netaji

- Bose was born on **January 23, 1897, in Cuttack in Odisha.**
- He was highly inspired by Swami Vivekananda's teachings.
- He went to England in 1919 to compete for Indian Civil Services, but returned midway.
- Netaji joined the Indian National Congress in **1921.**
- During the period of 1921-1941, he was **imprisoned 11 times** in various jails due to his stand for complete independence.
- He started a newspaper called '**Swaraj**' took charge of publicity for the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee.
- In the year 1923, Bose was elected the **President of All India Youth Congress** and also the Secretary of Bengal State Congress.
- He was also the **editor of the newspaper "Forward"**, founded by Chittaranjan Das.
- He formed the **All India Forward Bloc** as a part of the Indian National Congress in 1939.
- In 1941, Bose escaped to Germany via Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.
- He founded **the Free India Center in Berlin**, and created **the Indian Legion** (consisting of some 4500 soldiers) out of Indian prisoners of war.
- Netaji built a force known as the **Azad Hind Fauj** (Indian National Army).

National Girl Child Day

1. India celebrates National Girl Child Day on **January 24.**
2. It is an initiative undertaken by the ministry of women and child development with an objective to provide support and opportunities to the girls of India.
3. The government of India, **in 2008**, declared January 24 to be celebrated as the National Girl Child Day every year.
4. On the occasion of National Girl Child Day and as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Prime Minister virtually interacted with Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees.

The International Day of Education

1. The first International Day of Education was celebrated on **24 January 2019.**
2. On 3 December 2018, UNGA adopted with consensus a resolution proclaiming 24 January as International Day of Education, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.
3. The right to education is enshrined in **article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**
4. **Sustainable Development Goal 4**, in particular, aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030.
5. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, goes further to stipulate that countries shall make higher education accessible to all.
6. The theme of 4th International Day of Education in 2022 is **Changing Course, Transforming Education.**

7. The celebration is organised by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

UNESCO

Headquarters: World Heritage Centre, Paris, France

Founded: 16 November, 1945

Director-General: Audrey Azoulay

National Voters Day

1. The first-ever National Voters' Day was celebrated on **January 25**, 2011.
2. India celebrates this day to encourage more young voters to take part in the electoral process.
3. The theme for this year's National Voters' Day is '**Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative**'.
4. This year, it is the 12th edition which is being celebrated.
5. Eligible voters who reach the age of 18 on January 1 of each year would be enrolled and be given the Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) on January 25 every year.
6. During the event, National Awards for the Best Electoral Practises for the year 2021-22 will be given to state and district level.
7. On the occasion of National Voters' Day, microblogging platform Koo has released a multi-lingual guide on voter rights and responsibilities.

The Election Commission of India

- **Article 324** of the Constitution
- It is a permanent constitutional body.
- It was established in accordance with the Constitution on **25th January 1950**.
- Originally the commission had only a Chief Election Commissioner. It currently consists of Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- 1st Chief Election Commissioner: Sukumar Sen
- Current Chief Election Commissioner (24th): Shri Sushil Chandra

Note:

- The system of **indirect election was introduced in India in the year 1892** (Indian Councils Act 1892 increased the additional members of the Legislative Council through indirect elections)
- **The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988**, lowered the voting age of elections to the Lok Sabha and to the Legislative Assemblies of States from **21 years to 18 years**.

National Tourism Day

1. Every year, **25th January** is celebrated at the India National Tourism Day.
2. To spread awareness about the importance of travelling and protecting nature.
3. This year's theme, according to the Ministry of Tourism, is - '**Rural and Community Centric Tourism**'
4. The central government organised a programme at **Telangana's Pochampally**.
5. It was selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) as one of the best tourism villages.

6. Pochampally in Nalgonda district is referred to as the silk city of India for the exquisite Ikat saris.
7. The unique style — Pochampally Ikat — received a Geographical Indicator (GI status) in 2004.

International Customs Day

1. The International Customs Day (ICD) is observed **on 26 January** every year by the World Customs Organisation (WCO).
2. The theme for 2022 is '**Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem**'.
3. It recognizes the role of custom officials and agencies in maintaining border security.
4. It commemorates the day in 1953 when the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) was held in Brussels, Belgium.
5. In 1994 the CCC was renamed World Customs Organization (WCO).

Holocaust Remembrance Day

1. It commemorates the liberation of the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops on **27 January 1945**.
2. It was officially proclaimed in 2005, International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust by the United Nations General Assembly.
3. In 2022, the theme guiding the United Nations Holocaust remembrance and education is "**Memory, Dignity and Justice**".
4. Holocaust refers to the systematic state-sponsored killing of six million Jewish men, women, and children and millions of others by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during World War II.

Awards

International Association of Working Women Award

1. **Former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen** has won the International Association of Working Women Award for outstanding performance by a female actor in a television series.
2. The award was presented at the DC South Asian Film Festival 2021.
3. The television series **Aarya 2** directed by Ram Madhvani is currently streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.
4. It was nominated in the Best Drama Series category at International Emmys 2021. The series lost the award to Tehran.

- **Washington DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF)** is one of the most celebrated screen events on the Washington, D.C. cultural calendar.
- The festival takes place annually in the heart of America's capital, showcasing the best in alternative cinema from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, and Tibet.
- The 2022 edition of the Festival is being held virtually from Jan 16 to 30.

UNDP Youth Climate Champion

1. Content creator and actress **Prajakta Koli** has become **India's first** UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion.
2. The title has been conferred to her following her contribution towards mental health, women's rights and girl child education through various global social campaigns.
3. Prajakta will be entrusted with interacting with young minds to raise awareness around climate crisis, global warming and biodiversity loss, etc.
4. As a **global ambassador for YouTube's 'Creators For Change'** initiative, she drew the attention of people to trolling, female subjugation and homophobia through her campaign 'No Offence' which was showcased at the UN headquarters in New York on International Tolerance Day.
5. In 2019 she received an invite from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their annual Goalkeepers Summit.
6. The name of her YouTube channel is '**Mostly Sane**'.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Headquarters : New York City, USA
- Current Administrator of UNDP : Achim Steiner
- Human Development Report and index is published by UNDP

Netaji Award and Prabandhan Puraskar

1. **Former Japan prime minister Shinzo Abe** was awarded the Netaji Award, 2022 constituted by the Netaji Research Bureau.
2. **Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM)** and Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority's vice-chairman **Vinod Sharma** were awarded the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for 2022 by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. The Centre had instituted the annual Prabandhan Puraskar to honour the contribution rendered by individuals and organisations in the field of disaster management.
4. The award is announced every year on the freedom fighter's birth anniversary on January 23.
5. It carries a cash prize of ₹ 51 lakh and a certificate in the case of an institution and ₹5 lakh and a certificate in the case of an individual.
6. Note: Shinzo Abe was also conferred Padma Vibhushan award in January 2021.

Genesis Prize 2022

1. The Genesis Prize is a \$1 million annual prize awarded to Jewish people.
2. It is conferred on people who have achieved significant professional success, in recognition of their accomplishments, contributions to humanity, and commitment to Jewish values.
3. It is also referred to as 'Jewish Noble Prize'
4. The winner of its annual prize for 2022 is **Albert Bourla, CEO of Pfizer**, which produced a COVID-19 vaccine that has been used by Israel and other countries around the world to inoculate their populations against the coronavirus.
5. Note: The Pfizer/BioNTech **Comirnaty vaccine** was the first vaccine to obtain EUL (Emergency use Licence) by WHO and also first to be approved by FDA.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

1. A total of 29 children have been conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar this year for their achievements in innovation (7), social service (4), scholastic (1), sports (8), art and culture (6) and bravery (3).
2. In addition to the digital certificates, a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each has been transferred to the bank accounts of the winners.

Tamil Nadu awardees:

- Vishalini N C (Virudhunagar district)- over her invention of technology for a home with Automatic Functional Life Rescue Flood House.
- Aswatha Biju – for her contribution in Palaeontology (study of prehistory and fossils)

Padma Awards 2022

1. The Padma Awards are one of the **highest civilian honours** of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.
2. The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).
3. The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.
4. The Padma Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
5. The nomination process is open to the public. Even self-nomination can be made.
6. The **Padma Awards Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary** and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members.
7. The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.
8. This year the President has approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 2 duo cases.

Tamil Nadu Awardees:

- Shri Sirpi Balasubramaniam - Literature and Education
- Shri S Ballesh Bhajantri – Art
- Shri S Damodaran – Social Work
- Ms. Sowcar Janaki – Art
- Ms. R Muthukannammal – Art
- Shri A K C Natarajan – Art
- Dr. Veeraswamy Seshiah – Medicine

Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 – 2022

1. The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar was first distributed by the **Department of School Education and Literacy**, in 2016-17 to create self-motivation and awareness about sanitation.
2. It awards schools who have undertaken exemplary work in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene.
3. **The 6 sub-categories** are: Water, Sanitation, Hand Washing with soap, Operation and Maintenance, behavior change and capacity building and the newly added category on COVID-19 preparedness and response.
4. All categories of schools, that is, government, government aided and private schools in both rural and urban areas can participate.
5. A total of 40 schools will be selected under the overall category this year at the national level.
6. The award money has been increased to Rs 50,000 to Rs. 60,000 per school under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.
7. Additionally, 6 sub-category awards have been introduced for the first time and entails an award money of Rs. 20,000/- per school.

UiPath Automation Excellence awards 2021

1. The Kerala-based lender South Indian Bank has won the UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021 for **Best Automation under Crisis for Business Continuity**.
2. It aims to recognise the change-makers of automation.
3. In the 2021 Edition, the individuals and organisations across India and South Asia (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal), who have solved some of the greatest challenges through transformative automation projects were recognised.

Sports

International Cricket Council (ICC) Annual Awards

1. The 2021 ICC Awards were the seventeenth edition of ICC Awards.
2. The International Cricket Council (ICC) is the world governing body of cricket.
3. It was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 by representatives from Australia, England and South Africa.
4. It was renamed as the International Cricket Conference in 1965, and took up its current name in 1987.
5. The ICC has its headquarters in **Dubai, UAE**.

Category	Awarded to	Country
1. Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year	Shaheen Afridi	Pakistan
2. Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year	Smriti Mandhana	India
3. ICC Umpire of the Year	Marais Erasmus	South Africa
4. ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year	Mohammad Rizwan	Pakistan
5. ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year	Tammy Beaumont	England
6. ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year	Zeeshan Maqsood	Oman
7. ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year	Andrea-Mae Zepeda	Austria
8. ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Babar Azam	Pakistan
9. ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Lizelle Lee	South Africa
10. ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year	Joe Root	England
11. ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year	Janneman Malan	South Africa
12. ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year	Fatima Sana	Pakistan

Neeraj Chopra

1. Neeraj Chopra, who won a gold medal for India in 2021 Olympics for javelin throw, has been honoured with **Param Vishisht Seva Medal** along with 121 others.
2. Neeraj Chopra is the first track and field athlete to win a gold medal for India at the Olympics.
3. Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) is a military award of India. It was constituted in 1960 and since then till date, it is awarded in recognition to peace-time service of the most exceptional order.

India's First Para-Badminton Academy

1. **Dronacharya Awardee Gaurav Khanna** launches India's First Para-Badminton Academy.
2. The state-of-the-art, high-performance centre is located in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.
3. Gaurav Khanna is also the Head National Coach of the Indian Para-badminton team.
4. The Academy has been launched in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance.
5. It aims to improve India's medal chances at the 2024 Paralympics.

Syed Modi Badminton Championship 2022

1. P V Sindhu won the Syed Modi International badminton title, beating Malvika Bansod.
2. The 2022 Syed Modi International badminton tournament was held at Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from 18 to 23 January 2022.
3. PV Sindhu is currently ranked World No. 7.

Books & Authors

Book	Author	Description
The Legend of Birsa Munda	Tuhin A Sinha and Ankita Verma	It glorifies the tribal revolution and Birsa Munda's contribution to India's freedom struggle.
India's Women Unsung Heroes	Prepared by the Ministry of Culture in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha	A pictorial comic book paid as a tribute to India's women freedom fighters.