

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS - ENGLISH DECEMBER - 2021





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## 1. TAMIL NADU NEWS

Activities which held up in Tamil Nadu during December 2021

### Tamil is compulsory, the qualifying norm for govt services: TN



- All state government held competitive exams would from now on have a compulsory paper in the Tamil language and a pass in the subject is the basic qualifying norm for entry to Tamil Nadu government services and state-run public sector enterprises, the government announced.
- A paper on Tamil language, conforming to Class 10 standards is compulsory in all such exams and a score of 40 per cent is the minimum qualifying mark, according to a Government Order dated 1 December 2021.
- If an aspirant does not get through in the qualifying Tamil language paper, other subject papers, that are part of the overall exam scheme, would not be taken up for evaluation, the order said.
- While Tamil language paper would be compulsory, a pass in it is the basic qualifying norm for entry to government and PSU services and this rule is applicable to all state government recruiting agencies including the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.
- As regards the TNPSC, the norm takes immediate effect, the government said. Other state recruitment agencies including the Teachers Recruitment Board, Medical Services Recruitment Board, TN Uniformed Services Recruitment Board and TN Forest Uniformed Services Recruitment Committee would release similar guidelines.

## Bharathiar memorial award for six researchers



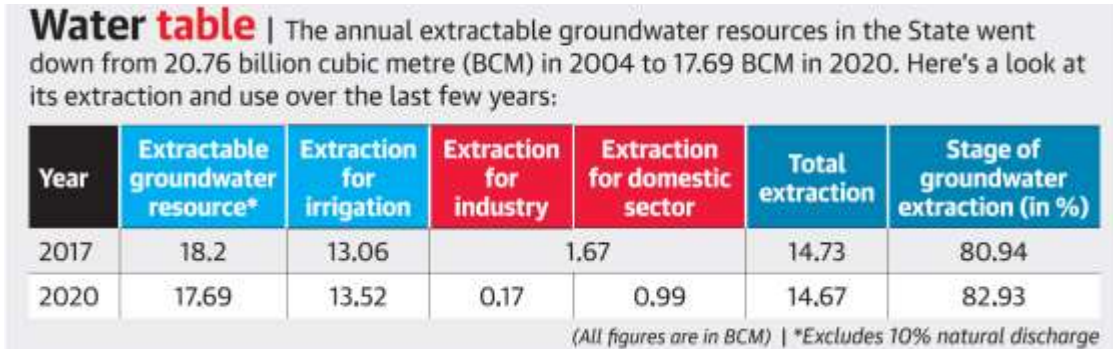
- **CM gives prizes to winners of Thirukkural recital competition**
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handed over Bharathi Memorial Centenary Award to Tamil researchers Seeni Viswanathan and Ya. Manikandan, who undertook research on the life and works of Tamil poet Subramania Bharathi. The award includes a cheque for ₹3 lakh.
- Mr. Stalin gave away the award along with cash prize to family members of senior Tamil scholars Periyasaamy Thooran, R.A. Padmanabhan, T.M.C. Ragnathan and Ilasai Manian, an official release said. The Chief Minister also handed over a cheque for ₹25 lakh to Navi Mumbai Tamil Sangam to its representative Krishnamurthy as contribution from the State government.
- The Chief Minister handed over a cash prize of ₹10,000 to students from Chennai and Kancheepuram districts for reciting all 1,330 couplets of *Thirukkural*. Of the 219 prize-winning students, only nine from these two districts were invited to receive the prize in person from the Chief Minister in view of the COVID-19 situation, the release said.
- Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu, Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu, Secretary of Tamil Development Department Mahesan Kasirajan, Director of Information and Public Relations V.P. Jayaseelan and Director (in-charge) of Tamil Development S. Saravanan were present.

## Two universities in State get new Vice-Chancellors



- Thiruvalluvan is presently working as professor, Centre for Advanced Studies in Linguistics, Annamalai University, Chidambaram.
- Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi appointed Dr. V Thiruvalluvan as Vice-Chancellor (V-C) of the Tamil University, Thanjavur, and Dr. M Sundar as V-C of Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University, Chennai, for a period of three years.
- Sundar presently works as Principal, College of Physical Education, Alagappa University, Karaikudi. He has teaching experience of 26 years and has served as a professor for 11 years. He received the Excellence in Sports Department-My Stamp Award from Indian Postal Department in 2019 and the Mahatma Gandhiji Award from Indian Cultural Development Organisation in 2009.
- Thiruvalluvan is presently working as a professor at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Linguistics, Annamalai University, Chidambaram. He has a teaching experience of 28 years. He has published five research papers and presented four research papers in international academic/research events and organised five international academic or research events.

## Groundwater law may cover commercial users



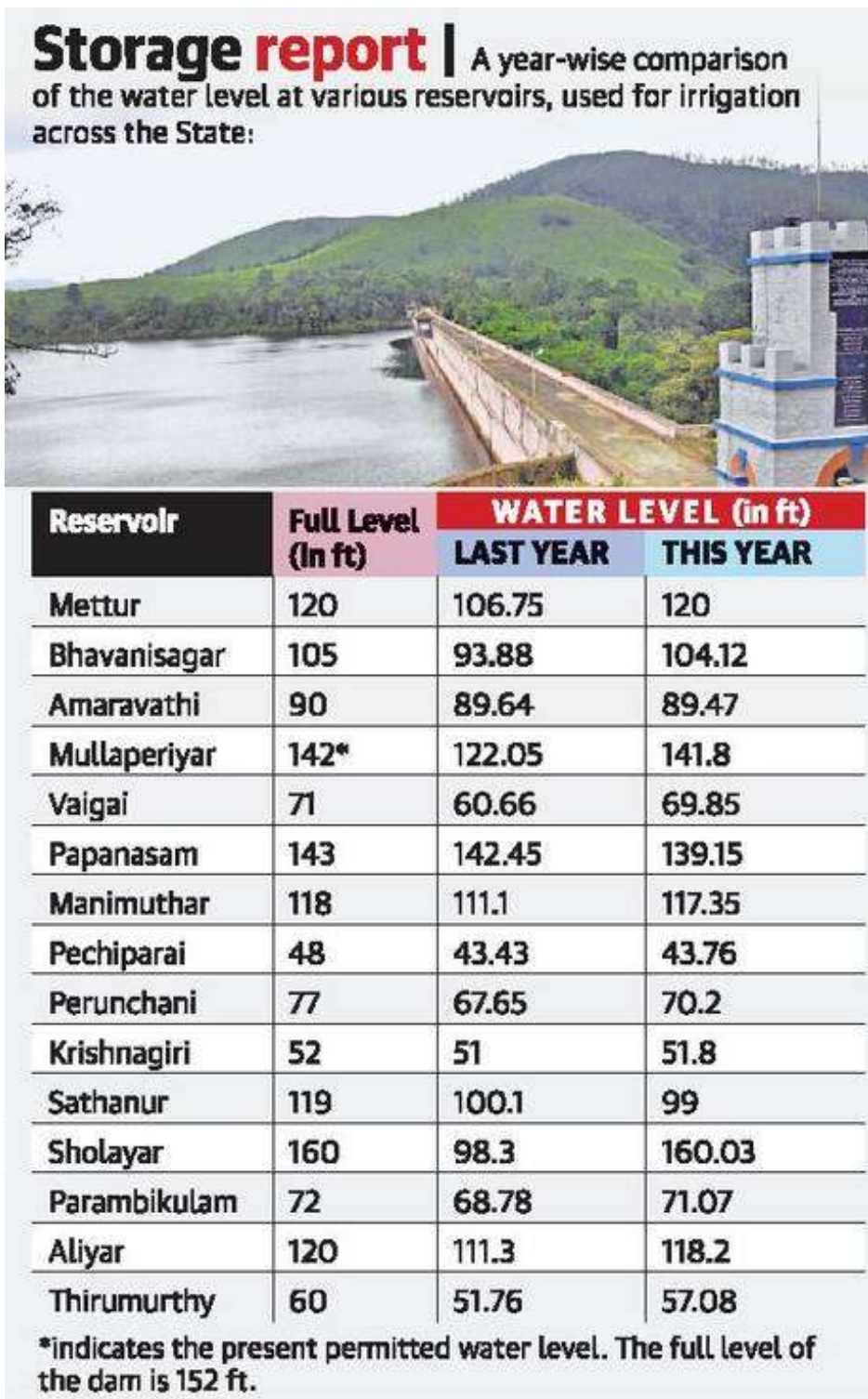
- The proposed law on groundwater development and management, being fine-tuned by the State Government, essentially seeks to cover every commercial user of groundwater in the State.
- Commercial, industrial, infrastructural and bulk users, withdrawing groundwater of two lakh litres a day, will be mandated to recycle water. The installation of sewage treatment plants will be mandatory for all residential apartments where groundwater requirement is more than 20 cubic meter a day or 20,000 litres a day.

## Tamil Nadu launches emergency care scheme



- Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated Innuyir Kaapoom-Nammai Kaakkum 48 scheme.
- The scheme ensures the government pays for the medical bills of all accident victims in enlisted hospitals for treatment within 48 hours of the accident.
- All medical care services will be covered under the scheme.
- People can avail of benefits in 609 hospitals across the State.
- They include 204 government hospitals and 405 private hospitals.
- Those who are not eligible for the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) will also be covered under the scheme.
- The free treatment will be provided in collaboration with the Department of Highways and Department of Transport.

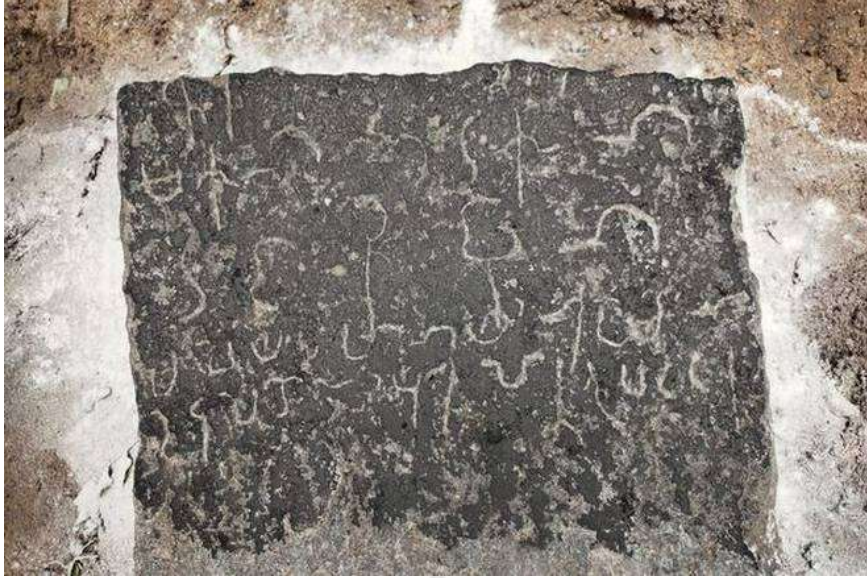
**Irrigation reservoirs in Tamil Nadu boast good water level**



SOURCE: WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT | AS ON DECEMBER 24, 2021

- 12 out of 15 of them are either full or close to full, thanks to a bountiful monsoon
- As many as 12 out of 15 irrigation reservoirs in Tamil Nadu are better placed than last year, thanks to the bountiful northeast monsoon.
- Among them are the Mettur and Bhavanisagar, both belonging to the Cauvery basin, and the State's two top reservoirs in terms of storage. While the former is full with a storage of 93.47 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft), the latter is almost full with 32.06 tmcft.

### Hero stone unearthed in Villupuram district



- Analysis indicates artefact is likely from the 4th to 5th Century CE: ASI archaeologist
- A team from the Chennai Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has unearthed a hero stone, likely to be from the 4th to 5th Century CE, at V. Nerkunam village in Vikravandi taluk, Villupuram district.

### CM Stalin declares 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' as state song



- The Tamil Nadu Government declared the Tamil Thai Vaazhthu as the State song of Tamil Nadu.
- Everyone except the differently-abled should rise when the song is sung at educational institutions, government offices, and public functions.
- The decision comes in the wake of the Madras High Court recently ruling that 'Tamil Thai Vaazhthu' is a prayer song and not an anthem.
- Government Order to this effect has been issued, mandating that all barring the differently-abled persons should remain standing when the 55-second long song is sung.



## A 22-km channel in Villupuram comes alive after 45 years



- **Residents of Villupuram and three villages restored the waterway that supplied to eight tanks**
- A 22-km water channel has come to life, after 45 years, thanks to the residents of Villupuram and three villages.
- Originating at the zero point of the Thenpennaiar at Thelimedu, the Villupuram channel meandered its way to eight waterbodies that helped to recharge the groundwater table and meet the drinking water requirements of Villupuram town. The waterbodies are Villupuram Periya Eri, Puthu Eri, Sitheri, Virattikuppam Eri, Maruthur Eri, Ayyankovilpattu Eri, Vazhuthureddi Eri and Thattampalayam Eri.
- But the channel lost its glory with waste dumping, encroachments on account of farming activities and the closure of a part of the channel after the Villupuram-Chennai national highway was four-laned in 2003. Instead of building a culvert, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) closed the channel near the west end of Villupuram, thus stopping the flow from the Thenpennaiar to Periya Eri. Then, debris and silt filled the channel.
- Since 2015, the town had gone through a severe water scarcity. Lack of maintenance of the channels meant the eight waterbodies remained dry, while the other waterbodies in the district brimmed. This was when a group of residents from Villupuram and from Nannadu, Viratikuppam and Alathur stepped in. “We found that the Villupuram channel had once flowed 22 km and recharged eight large waterbodies spread over 900 acres.
- “A WhatsApp group of youths from Villupuram and the three villages was formed. This group decided to desilt the channel and the inlets to streamline the flow to the eight tanks. In 2018, the residents volunteered to do manual work, while others contributed money for the first phase of restoration,” he says.
- “The locals cleared the waste, strengthened the embankments and carried out other works to increase storage. Though the channel received around 20% of the flow from the Thenpennaiar. Yet, the youths continued their efforts and

restored the channel to a distance of 16 km in 2019. Their dream became a reality, and the channel got a copious flow from the Thenpennai, reaching 65% of its carrying capacity.

- “The Water Resources Department joined the efforts and sanctioned ₹35 lakh under the ‘kudimaramathu’ scheme in 2020”.
- Subsequently, the villagers and the residents of Villupuram found that the channel had to be restored to another 6 km from Nannadu to Villupuram town and approached the district administration for help. Collector D. Mohan inspected the channel and promised them funds. However, the villagers raised ₹8.54 lakh through crowdfunding and restored the final portion of the channel.
- The channel is back on the district’s water map. The efforts of the villagers have helped to drive up the groundwater table, and irrigated 250 acres of farmland around the eight waterbodies.

## New amenities inaugurated at Gangaikondacholapuram temple



- Visitors to the famous Sri Brihadisvara Temple at Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur district can have access to better amenities as the Archaeological Survey of India inaugurated a few new facilities at the temple complex.
- A publication counter, cafeteria, a reverse osmosis water treatment unit, a toilet complex and a camp office were inaugurated at the temple. The facilities have been established at a cost of ₹2.01 crore.
- Separate toilets for men and women have been built as part of the project, meeting a felt need. The ASI’s and other publications would be available at the publication counter. An approach pathway and lawn have also been developed in between the buildings, which have been designed in line with the heritage ambience of the temple.
- Built by King Rajendra Chola-I, the Gangaikondacholisvarar Temple is a major tourist attraction in this region. Following the conquest of the Gangetic plains in 1023 CE, Rajendra-I built the city of Gangaikondacholapuram, a Siva temple and a lake Chola Gangam in commemoration of his victory. The gigantic stone temple, which is a repository of beautiful sculptures, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Monument and is maintained by ASI.

### Tamil Nadu CM launched 'Meendum Manjappai' scheme



- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** has launched the '**Meendum Manjappai**' scheme to promote the use of cloth bags by the public and discourage the use of plastic bags.
- This awareness campaign on using '**yellow**' cloth bag or '**manjappai**' as it is called in Tamil, is aimed at encouraging the people to return to the use of this eco-friendly bag and discard the plastic bags.
- The state government had enforced a ban on the production, use, storage, distribution, transportation or sale of 14 types of plastics with effect from January 1, 2019.

### Kazhuveli Wetland declared as 16th Bird Sanctuary of Tamil Nadu



- The **Kazhuveli wetland** situated in **Villupuram district** of **Tamil Nadu** has been declared as the **16th Bird Sanctuary** by Surpiya Sahu, Environment and Forest Secretary, at the Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change.
- The declaration was made under subsection (1) of section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Kazhuveli wetlands is referred to as the 2nd largest **Brackish Water Lake** in South India, only after Pulicat lake.

## New rose variety named after M.S. Swaminathan



The M.S. Swaminathan Rose and the Jewel of Monkomp

- **M.S. Viraraghavan, a leading horticulturist in the country based in Kodaikanal, has bred the variety**
- A new rose variety has been named after the eminent agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan.
- M.S. Viraraghavan, a leading horticulturist in the country based in Kodaikanal, has bred a new rose variety and named it “The M.S. Swaminathan Rose”. This rose wearing a magenta purple is highly disease resistant, according to a release from the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai.
- This variety of rose plant, which results from a series of crosses between “news” variety of rose and other purple roses, grows up to a height of 4 to 5 feet with a dark green granular surface, large leaves with regular thorns.
- “Professor Swaminathan pioneered in bringing new approaches to the breeding of food crops which increased production and made India food self-sufficient,” the release said.

### Jewel of Monkomp

- Another new variety of rose has been named “Jewel of Monkomp”, which was bred by KSG Son, a nursery based in Bengaluru, and it is a sparkling pinkish floribunda rose.
- “Floribunda rose is a hybrid of polyantha and tea roses. They bloom freely with excellent shape and colour and the shrubs are hardy. The shrub of flower grows vigorously with glossy leaves and is thornless,” the release said.
- These two varieties were handed over by Narendra Dadlani, floriculture scientist and former director, horticulture, Government of India, New Delhi, to Mr. Swaminathan in Chennai. Mr. Dadlani also presented a copy of his book *Indian Rose* to the agriculture scientist.

## 2. SPECIAL NEWS

Very important events can be called as special news

### Covid -19 Vaccine & Relief measures

Covid-19: Govt approves emergency use of Corbevax and Covovax vaccines and anti-viral pill Molnupiravir

**Boosting arsenal against Covid**  
Two vaccines and an antiviral pill were given EUA in India

NEW VACCINES		ANTIVIRAL PILL
<b>Covovax</b> 90% efficacy (against original variant) Developer: Novavax Indian maker: Serum Institute of India Expected supply: SII began production in June with a target monthly production of 150 mn by March 2022	<b>Corbevax</b> 80-90% estd efficacy Developer: Baylor College of Medicine and Biological E Indian maker: Biological E Expected supply: Around 150 mn doses already stockpiled	<b>Molnupiravir</b> 30% reduction in risk of hospitalisation/death Developer: Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics Indian maker: Consortium of 8 pharma companies

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved Corbevax and Covovax Covid vaccines and anti-viral drug Molnupiravir for restricted use on adults in emergency situations.
- CORBEVAX vaccine is India's 1st indigenously developed RBD protein subunit vaccine.
- It is made by Hyderabad-based firm Biological-E.
- The Nanoparticle Vaccine, COVOVAX, will be manufactured by Pune-based firm Serum Institute of India.
- Molnupiravir, an antiviral drug, will now be manufactured in the country by 13 companies for restricted use under emergency situation for adults.

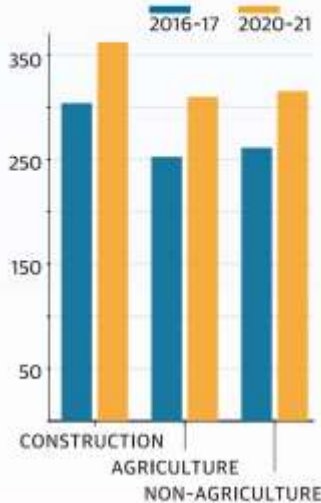
## How States fare in wages for rural workers

The wages of rural workers engaged in construction, agriculture, and non-agriculture (those who are not cultivators or agricultural labourers) have risen considerably in nominal terms over the last five years. However, there are stark differences across the States. In Kerala, for instance, workers receive the highest wages, more than twice of India's average, followed by J&K and Tamil Nadu. In States which have the highest Gross Value Added (rupee value of goods and services produced in the economy after deducting the cost of inputs and raw materials), the wages are among the lowest. By **The Hindu Data Team**

**1** Wages for all three types of workers were the lowest in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh

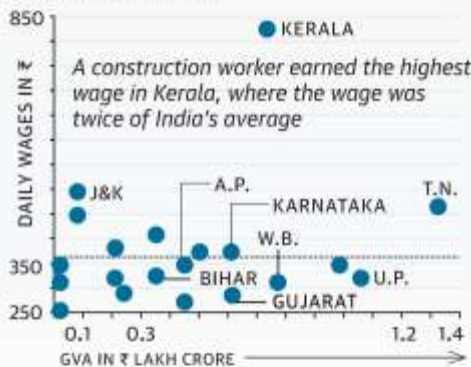
**2** Wages for all three types of workers were the highest in Kerala, J.K. and T.N.

**■ AVERAGE WAGES IN INDIA** | The chart shows average daily wages for rural construction, agriculture and non-agriculture workers in 2016-17 and 2020-21. Over five years, wages for construction workers rose 19% in nominal terms



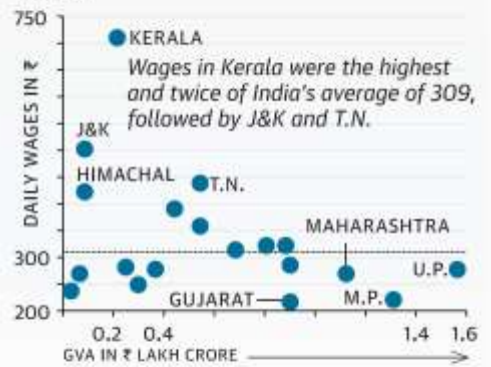
During the same period, wages for general agriculture and non-agriculture workers grew 23% and 21%, respectively

**■ WAGES OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS** | The chart plots State-wise wages earned by a rural construction worker against the GVA by the construction sector.



In Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Gujarat, three States with the highest GVA from the construction sector, the wages were lower than they were in Bihar and Assam

**■ WAGES OF AGRICULTURE WORKERS** | The chart plots State-wise wages earned by general agriculture workers against the GVA by the agriculture sector.

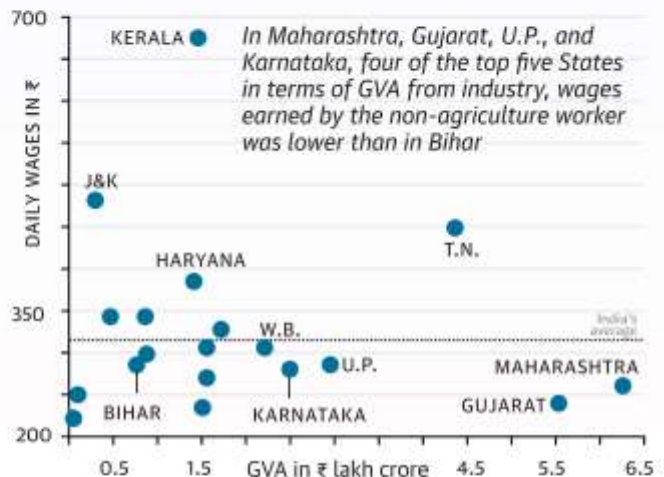


In M.P. and Gujarat, two States with the highest GVA from the agriculture sector, wages earned by an agriculture worker were the lowest in the country

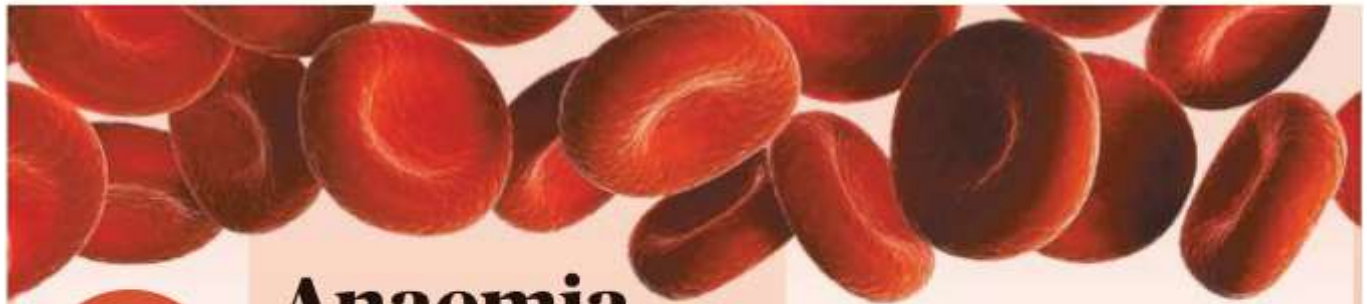
**■ WAGES OF NON-AGRICULTURE WORKERS** |

The chart plots State-wise wages earned by a rural non-agriculture worker against the gross value added by the industrial sector. Rural workers earned the highest in Kerala where the wage was double India's average followed by J&K and T.N.

SOURCE: HANDBOOK OF STATISTICS ON INDIAN STATES



**DATA POINT**



Gujarat had the highest share of children (79.7%) aged 6-59 months who were anaemic in NFHS-5



Among the major States, Chhattisgarh recorded the highest increase in the share of anaemic children in NFHS-5 compared to NFHS-4



More than 60% of children were anaemic in rural and urban areas

## Anaemia among children on the rise

The progress made in reducing the prevalence of anaemia among children between 2005 and 2015 has been derailed as a higher proportion of children aged 6-59 months have been found to be anaemic in India, according to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) compared to NFHS-4 (2015-16). In 30 out of the 36 States/UTs, over half the children in the age group were found to be anaemic in 2019-20. More worryingly, the proportion of anaemic children increased in 29 States/UTs in NFHS-5 compared to NFHS-4. A relatively higher share of children were found to be anaemic in several northern and western States in rural and urban areas. By **Sumant Sen**

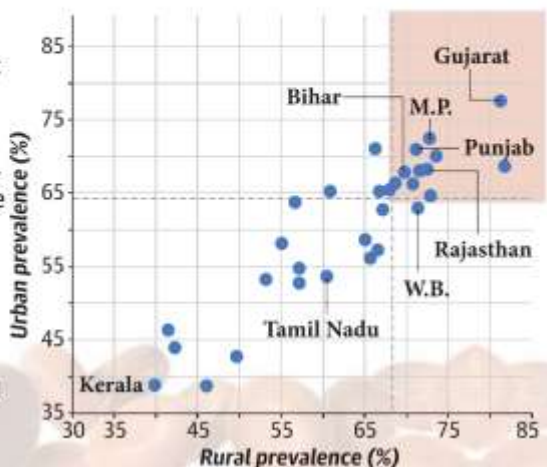


### Prevalence of anaemia

The share of anaemic children aged 6-59 months in NFHS-5 (2019-21) increased by 8.5% points compared to NFHS-4 (2015-16) and was closer to levels recorded in NFHS-3 (2005-06)

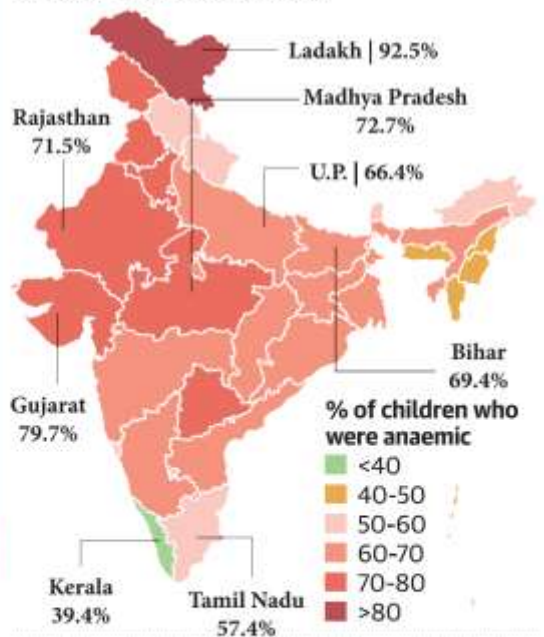
Year	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	Total (%)
NFHS-5	64.2	68.3	67.1
NFHS-4	56	59.5	58.6
NFHS-3	-	-	69.4

**Urban and rural** | The chart plots the share of anaemic children in rural areas of a State/UT in NFHS-5 against the share of such children in urban areas. The States in the shaded region had a relatively high prevalence of anaemia among children in rural and urban areas



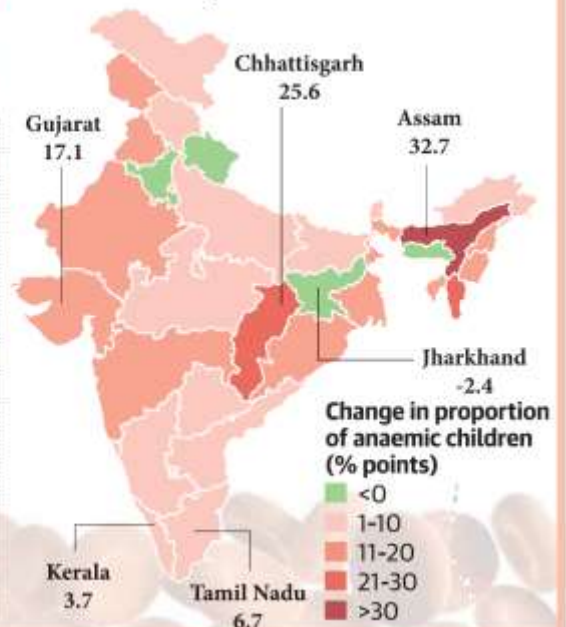
### State-wise prevalence

The map shows the State-wise percentage of children aged 6-59 months who were anaemic, according to NFHS-5. The share of anaemic children was more than 70% in nine out of the 36 States/UTs. Kerala was the only State where the share was less than 40%



### Change from NFHS-4

The map shows the State-wise change in the share of children aged 6-59 months who were anaemic in NFHS-5 compared to NFHS-4. Assam, Mizoram and Chhattisgarh recorded the highest increases. The share of anaemic children fell in only four States





## DATA POINT

# Omicron: Spreads fast, less severe

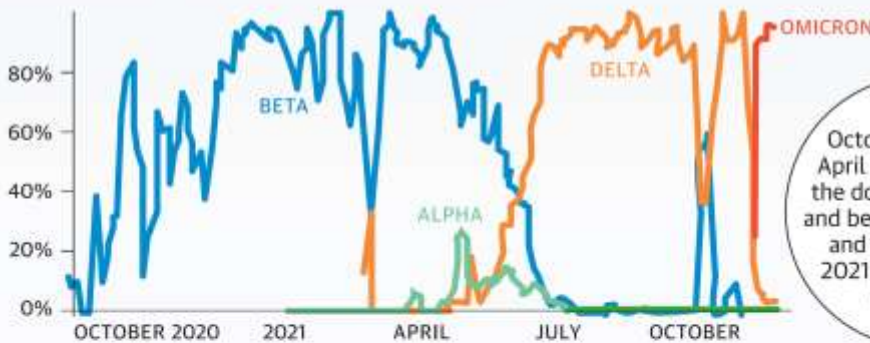
While the Delta variant of COVID-19 is still the dominant strain globally, the recently discovered Omicron variant threatens to pose more significant problems. A comparison of infection rates in South Africa's Gauteng province, considered the epicentre of the new strain, shows that the Omicron variant spreads faster than the Delta and Beta variants. However, initial data from the province also indicate that the Omicron variant does not cause more severe disease. The number of hospital admissions and ICU patients with this variant of COVID-19 was lower compared to that of the Delta wave. However, these are still early days. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

**1** The number of infections in the Gauteng province jumped from 150 to 11,500 in just over 20 days after the Omicron variant was discovered

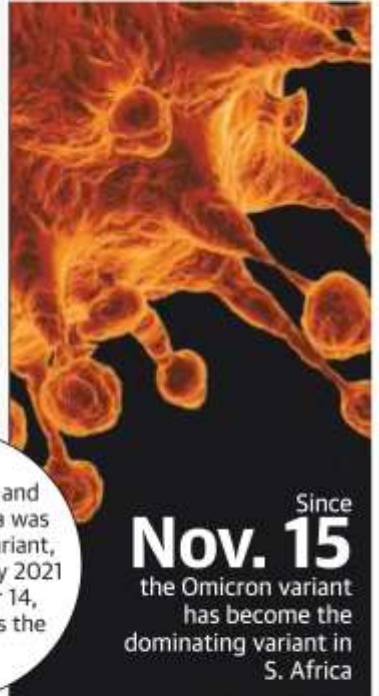
**2** However, the number of hospitalisations in the same period has crossed just the 1,500-mark, relatively slower than the pace observed during the Delta wave

**3** The number of ICU admissions in the same period too has gone up from 50 to around 150, much lower than the initial days of the Delta wave

■ **LEADING VARIANT** | The graph shows the % share of various variants in the Gauteng province of South Africa among the samples sequenced. Over 96% of all the new samples sequenced on Friday are of the Omicron variant

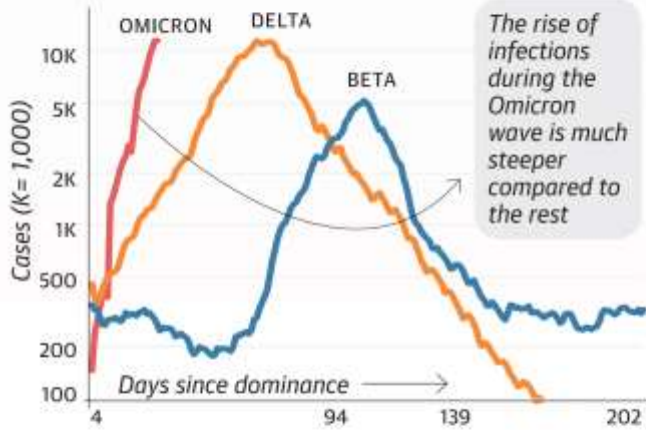


Between October 2020 and April 2021, Beta was the dominant variant, and between July 2021 and November 14, 2021, Delta was the dominant one



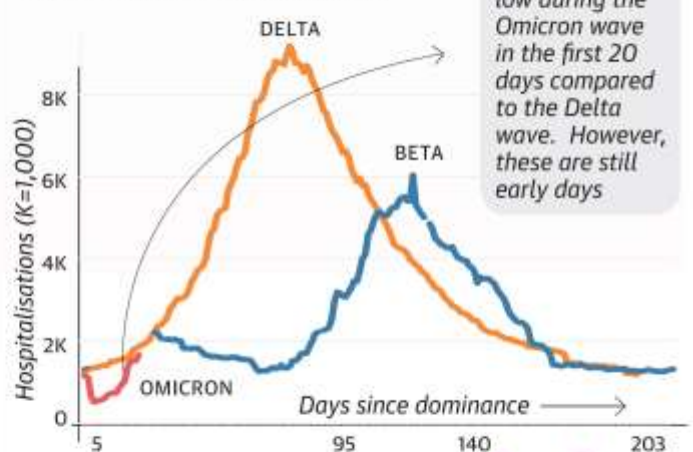
Since **Nov. 15** the Omicron variant has become the dominating variant in S. Africa

■ **HIGHER CASE RATE** | The graph shows the number of daily COVID-19 cases recorded during the Omicron, Delta and Beta waves



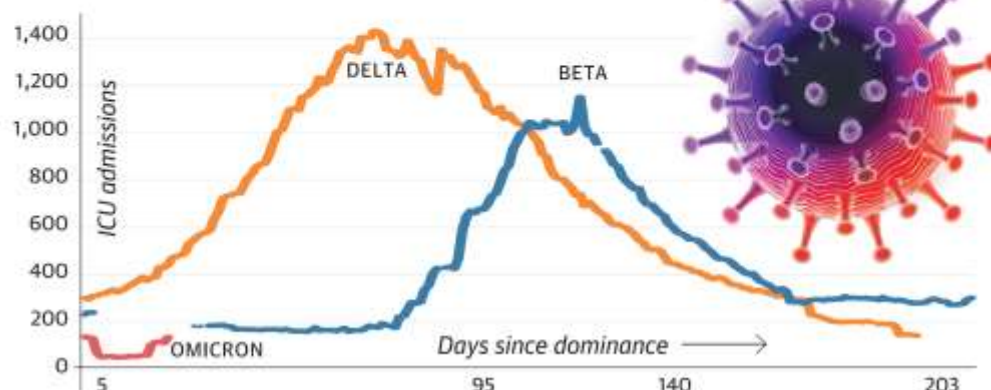
The first day a variant became dominant is considered day 1 of that strain

■ **FEWER HOSPITALISATIONS** | The graph shows the number of daily COVID-19-related hospitalisations recorded during the three waves



■ **FEWER ICU ADMISSIONS** | The graph shows the number of daily COVID-19-related ICU admissions during the three waves.

The number of admissions was relatively low during the Omicron wave in the first 20 days compared to the Delta wave. However, these are still early days







## DATA POINT

# The long-distance sharpshooter

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry broke the record for most three-pointers scored by overtaking Ray Allen's record in the National Basketball Association on Wednesday. The 33-year-old guard is widely believed to be the best shooter ever, not just for the number of three-pointers he shoots per game but the high efficiency he manages to achieve. His three-point shooting excellence extends across distances (from the basket) and zones. By **Srinivasan Ramani**

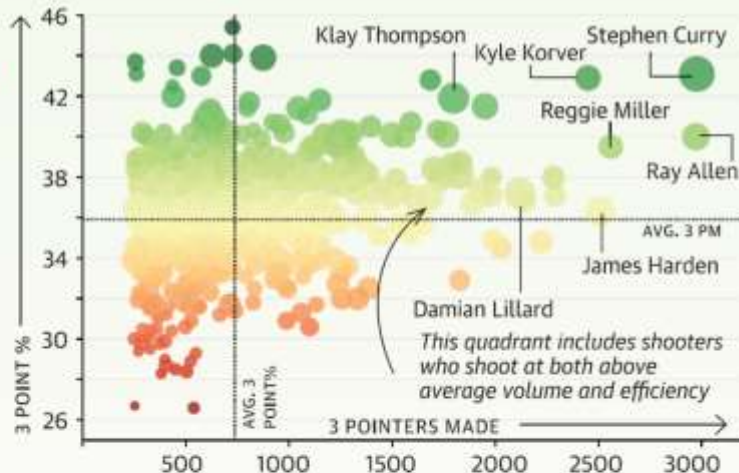
**RAINING FIRE FROM BEYOND |** Steph Curry has not only shot the most number of three-pointers in the NBA but has also managed to do it in merely 789 games

Top 10 three-point shooters ever in the NBA regular season					
Rank	Player	Games played	Active or not	Team most played for	3-pointers made
1	Stephen Curry	789	Y	Golden State Warriors	2,977
2	Ray Allen	1,300	N	Milwaukee Bucks	2,973
3	Reggie Miller	1,389	N	Indiana Pacers	2,560
4	James Harden	903	Y	Houston Rockets	2,509
5	Kyle Korver	1,232	N	Atlanta Hawks	2,450
6	Vince Carter	1,541	N	Toronto Raptors	2,290
7	Jason Terry	1,410	N	Dallas Mavericks	2,282
8	Jamal Crawford	1,327	N	Los Angeles Clippers	2,221
9	Paul Pierce	1,343	N	Boston Celtics	2,143
10	Damian Lillard	705	Y	Portland Trail Blazers	2,119



Among active players, only James Harden (currently with the Brooklyn Nets) and Damian Lillard (with the Trailblazers) come close to shooting 3s at a similar volume as that of Curry. But their efficiencies are lower

**HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST** Steph Curry's three-point shooting is among the best in both volume (no. of shots taken) and in efficiency (shots made as a % of shots taken, 43.1% for Steph). The chart plots the two variables and the size of the circles denote the three-pointers made per game

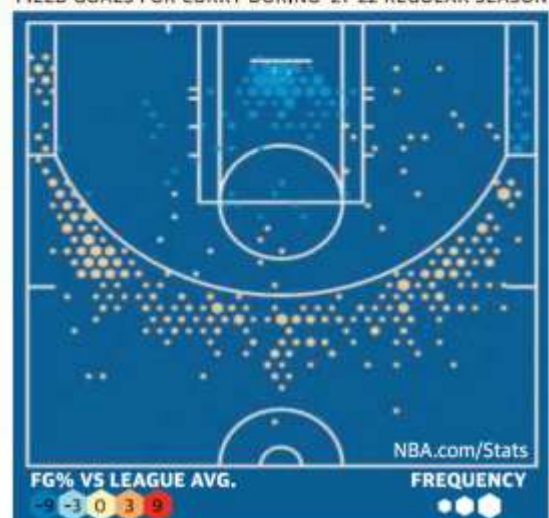


**LONG-DISTANCE GUNNER |** Not only does Steph dominate long-distance shooting, but he is among the few players who is quite efficient in shooting from way beyond the arc (Steph leads all of them in shots made that are 29-30 feet away from the basket and is tied with Damian Lillard at 32-33 feet). The Atlanta Hawks' Trae Young holds the record for most shots made beyond 34 feet

### AREA DOMINANCE

This image, which is a shot chart of Steph in the 2021-22 season, gives a glimpse of why he is such a dominant shooter. Not only does he shoot three-pointers at a scale that is higher than other league player (and despite heavy defensive attention), his efficiency across various areas beyond the three-point line is above average (except for the right corner) That Steph is also proficient as a shooter from the deep is evident in the areas he has launched his three-point attempts, some as close to half-court

FIELD GOALS FOR CURRY DURING '21-22 REGULAR SEASON



### Leading scorers by distance in last 25 years 1996-97 to 2020-21

35-36 feet	Trae Young
34-35 feet	Trae Young
33-34 feet	Tie: Lillard & Steph Curry
32-33 feet	Damian Lillard
31-32 feet	Lillard
30-31 feet	Lillard
29-30 feet	Steph Curry
28-29 feet	Steph Curry
27-28 feet	Steph Curry
26-27 feet	Steph Curry
25-26 feet	Ray Allen
24-25 feet	Ray Allen
23-24 feet	Ray Allen

Credit: Kirk Goldsberry's Instagram account

Source: NBA.com, basketball-reference.com

## States' performance on health indicators

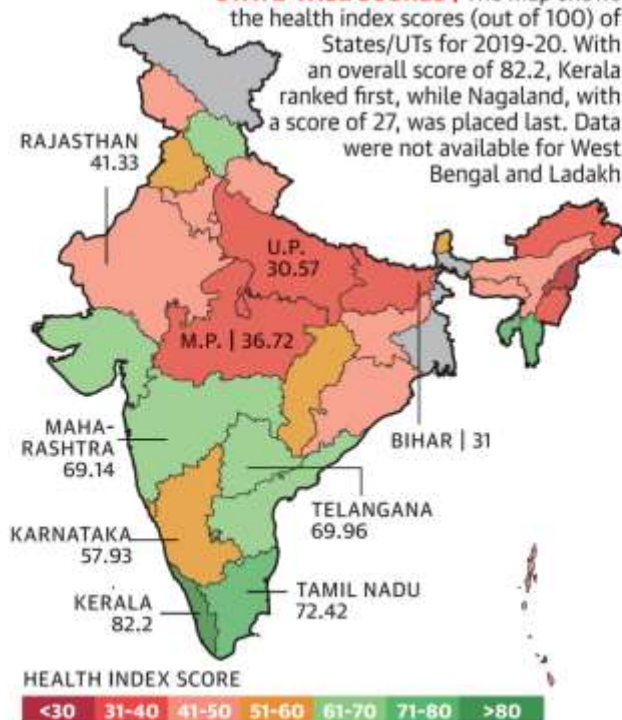
Kerala emerged as the best-performing State on health parameters for the fourth consecutive year, according to NITI Aayog's Health Index for 2019-20. The annual health index, compiled by the government think tank, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the World Bank, tracks a State/UT's progress on health outcomes. It is computed using indicators such as maternal mortality ratio, neonatal and under-five mortality rate, institutional deliveries, and birth and death registrations. Among the major States, Kerala was followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana in the rankings. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh were the three lowest-ranked States. By **The Hindu Data Team**

**1** Four out of the top five major States in the 2019-20 index are from the south

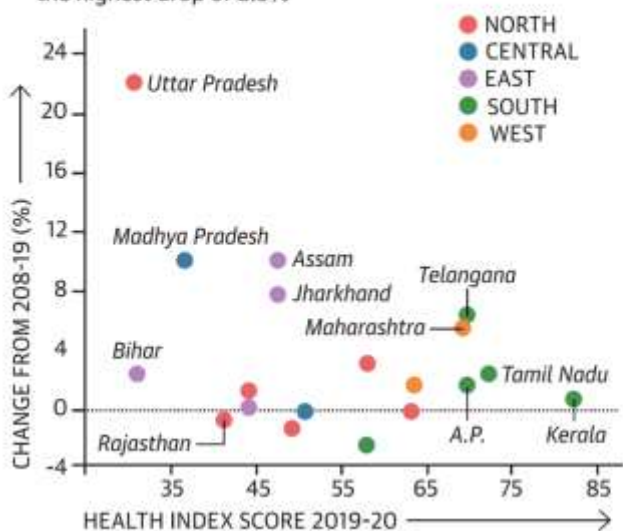
**2** Uttar Pradesh's score improved by 22% compared to 2018-19, the highest among major States

**3** Kerala performed best on the maternal mortality ratio and under-five mortality rate parameters

**STATE-WISE SCORES** | The map shows the health index scores (out of 100) of States/UTs for 2019-20. With an overall score of 82.2, Kerala ranked first, while Nagaland, with a score of 27, was placed last. Data were not available for West Bengal and Ladakh



**CHANGE IN SCORE** | The chart plots the health index scores for major States in 2019-20 and the change in their scores from 2018-19. While the overall score in most States increased, it fell in five States. Karnataka registered the highest drop of 2.3%



**Pandemic preparedness:** A COVID-19 testing centre set-up at a primary health centre in Palakkad district in Kerala. • MUSTAFAH KK

**INDICATOR WISE** | The tables show the top and bottom three among major States across select indicators that were used to compute the health index scores. For instance, under the maternal mortality ratio indicator, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu were the best-ranked, while Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh were the lowest-ranked

**MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (MMR)** | Number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births in 2016-18

Rank	State	MMR	Rank	State	MMR
1	Kerala	43	18	Assam	215
2	Maharashtra	46	17	U.P.	197
3	Tamil Nadu	60	16	M.P.	173

**UNDER-5 MORTALITY RATE (U5MR)** | Number of child deaths of less than 5 years per 1,000 live births in 2018

Rank	State	U5MR	Rank	State	U5MR
1	Kerala	10	19	M.P.	56
2	Tamil Nadu	17	18	Assam	47
3	Maharashtra	22	17	U.P.	47

**PROPORTION OF INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERIES (2019-20, IN %)**

Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
1	Telangana	96.31	19	U.P.	60.78
2	Kerala	92.29	18	Bihar	61.66
3	Maharashtra	91.19	17	M.P.	66.33

**PROPORTION OF SHORTFALL OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AGAINST THE REQUIRED NUMBER (2019-20, IN %)**

Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
1	Haryana	1.45	19	Bihar	41.27
2	Punjab	5.33	18	H.P.	37.51
3	Telangana	7.54	17	Chhattisgarh	33.01

**DEATH REGISTRATION** | Proportion of deaths registered under CRS against the estimated number of deaths in 2019 (%)

Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
1	Punjab, T.N., Kerala, Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, A.P., Maharashtra, Odisha	100	19	Bihar	51.6
			18	Jharkhand	58.8
			17	Uttar Pradesh	63.3

## DATA POINT



# Arctic in distress

The Arctic region is warming significantly faster than the rest of the world, according to the recently released Arctic Report Card 2021. Several indicators, such as the volume and extent of sea ice and the surface air temperature, depict how the region has been heating up for quite some time now. The Arctic region, which is characterised by frozen landscapes, has recorded a significant sea ice loss in the past year. According to the report, all of this is a consequence of rising temperatures over the region

**1** The autumn (Oct. to Dec. 2020) period was the warmest ever for the Arctic region since 1900

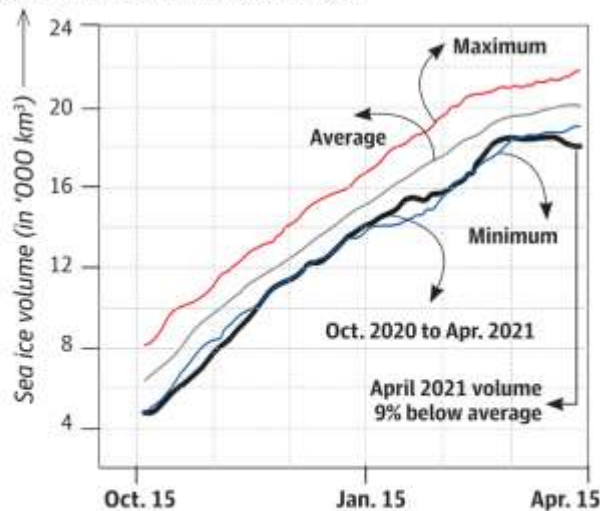
**2** In April, the volume of sea ice in the northern hemisphere was the lowest since data are available

**3** Since April 2002, the Greenland ice sheet has lost nearly 5,000 gigatonnes (Gt) of mass

### 1. Sea ice volume

The chart shows the volume of sea ice floating in the northern hemisphere from October 15, 2020, to April 15, 2021, classified as winter in the region. During the winter months of 2020-21, the sea ice volume was lower than the 2010-2020 average volume. It fell to a record low between mid-October and mid-November

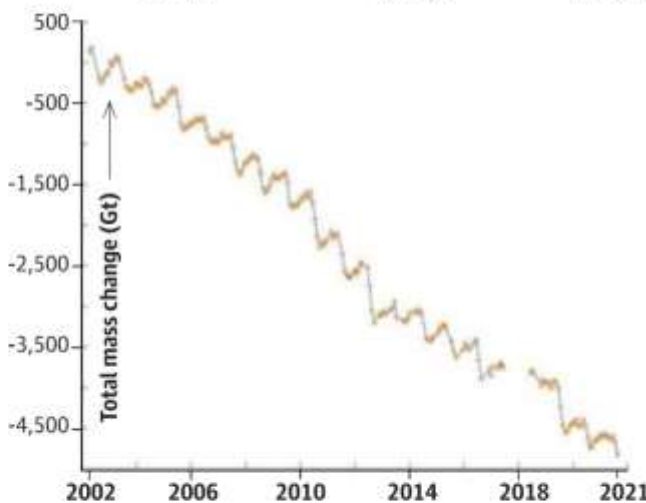
After November, the volume recovered slightly. However, it continued to be below the average. It once again dipped to a record low in April 2021



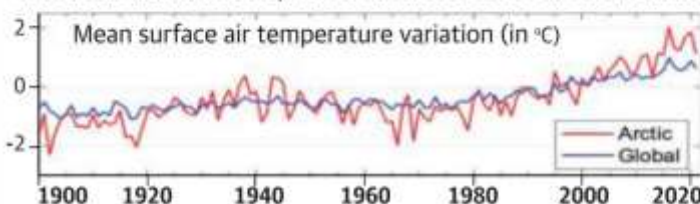
**2. Sea ice extent** | The map shows the sea ice extent over the Arctic region in September 2021 and the median sea ice extent (1981-2010) represented by a red line. The extent of sea ice in 2021 was significantly lower than the median

### 3. Greenland ice sheet

The chart shows the total change in the mass of the Greenland ice sheet from April 2002 to August 2021. At present, the Greenland ice sheet spans an area of approximately 1.63 million sq. km. having lost mass almost every year since 1998



**4. Surface air temperature** | The chart shows the variation in the mean surface air temperature during the October-September period compared to the 1981-2010 mean in the Arctic region and the world over. In recent years, the Arctic has warmed up faster than the rest of the world. The April-June 2021 period was the fourth warmest ever



Season	Pan-Arctic
October-November-December 2020	Warmest
January-February-March 2021	53rd warmest
April-May-June 2021	4th warmest
July-August-September 2021	11th warmest

## The NEET quota

### Falling behind

The table shows the number of students who gained MBBS admissions in Tamil Nadu during various years

Education board	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015
State Board - Govt. schools	6	5	3	34	36	38
State Board - private schools	2,756	2,621	2,300	3,510	2,960	3,102
CBSE	1,368	894	1113	35	2	2
ICSE	72	118	101	29	17	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,202</b>	<b>3,638</b>	<b>3,517</b>	<b>3,608</b>	<b>3,015</b>	<b>3,147</b>

### MBBS, BDS seats reserved for 2020-21

Gender	MBBS seats in Govt. medical colleges	MBBS seats in private medical colleges	Total	Gender	BDS seats in Govt. medical colleges	BDS seats in private medical colleges	Total
Female	170	67	237	Female	11	69	80
Male	69	30	99	Male	4	15	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>99</b>

### Conclusions reached by Justice P. Kalaiyaran Commission

Factor	Advantages of being a private school student	Disadvantages of being a government school student
<b>Social category</b>	NEET scores are higher in each social category. They rank higher in their social category's rank list	NEET scores are lower in each social category. They end up in the bottom of their social category's rank list
<b>Parental income</b>	More than ₹1 lakh a year	Less than ₹42,000 a year
<b>Father's profession and education</b>	Secure job in private or government sector. They possess educational qualifications and can guide the child	Depends on unstable daily wage jobs. They lack educational qualifications and cannot guide the child
<b>Mother's profession and education</b>	Homemaker or working women with a degree. They teach the child at home and procure right resources for NEET preparation	Daily wage labourer or homemaker with no degree. They do not have the knowledge to teach the child
<b>Living standards</b>	Have no obligations except for studying	Need to be involved in part time work to support the family and get less time to study
<b>Psychological factors</b>	Part of a classroom where students aspire to be a doctor, software engineer and so on	Part of a classroom where students talk about difficulties faced in daily life
<b>Medium of instruction</b>	English medium. Can access Internet and look for NEET materials	Tamil medium. Access to resources is relatively less
<b>Location of school</b>	Primarily located in a town or city. Even those in villages have access to better facilities	Primarily located in villages and lacks facilities
<b>Private coaching</b>	Signs up for NEET coaching in Class XI and spends considerable amount of money	Cannot afford any private coaching
<b>Repeaters</b>	Have the luxury, psychological and economic support to spend more than one year to prepare for NEET	Most of them have only one chance of taking NEET and cannot afford to spend a year or more for just NEET preparation due to poor economic situation

\*Source: Data submitted by T.N. Govt. in Madras High Court



## Average annual parental income of 2018-19 batch of Class XII students

Type of school	Average parental income
Government	₹46,686
Aided	₹67,102
Unaided	₹1,23,807
Matriculation	₹1,50,526
CBSE	₹4,69,413
ICSE	₹4,77,263

\*Source: Data submitted by T.N. Govt. in Madras High Court

**World Talent Ranking report 2021: India ranked 56<sup>th</sup>**

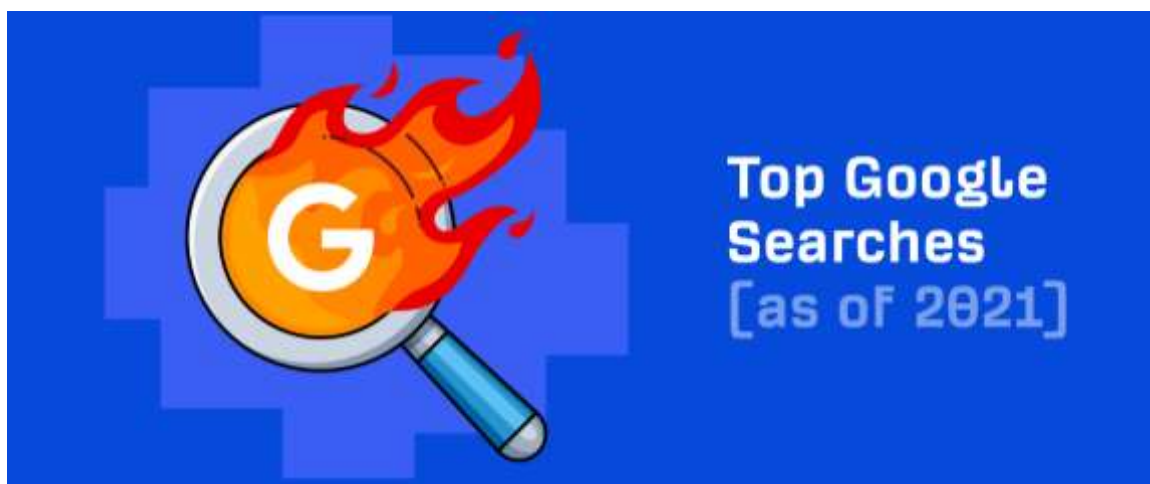


- The International Institute for Management Development World Competitive Centre published its “World Talent Ranking Report”.
- In the report, Europe has dominated the ranking in 2021.
- Global top 10 countries are from this region.
- Switzerland has retained its top spot.
- India has been ranked at 56th position.

**Top 10 in World Talent Ranking report 2021:**

Rank	Country
1	Switzerland
2	Sweden
3	Luxembourg
4	Norway
5	Denmark
6	Austria
7	Iceland
8	Finland
9	Netherlands
10	Germany

## The top searches on Google in 2021



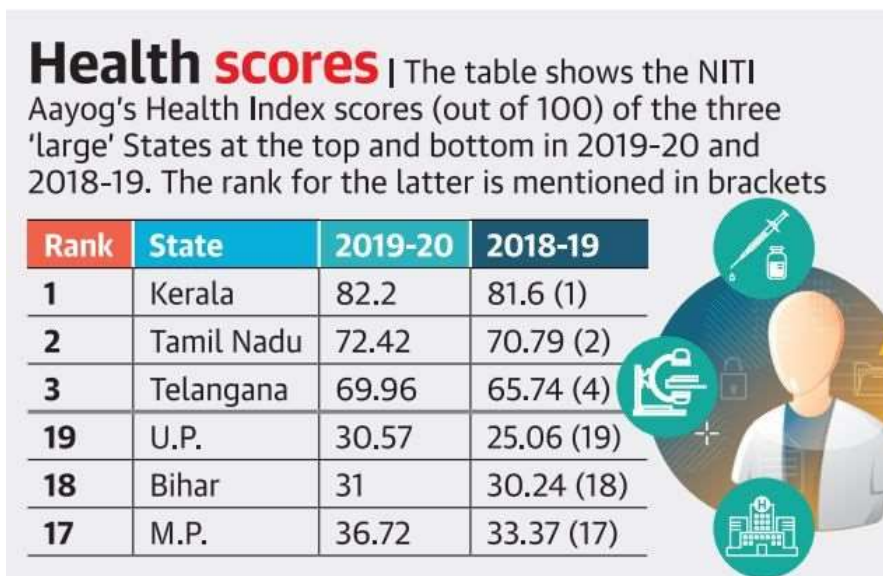
- Google India announced the results for its Year in Search 2021 and has recapped the top search trends of 2021 in India.
- As per result, the top searches are Cricket and CoWin in 2021.
- Cricket continued to be a major search trend in 2021.
- Indian Premier League, CoWIN, and ICC T20 World Cup have occupied the top three spots in the overall list of search queries.
- Euro Cup and Tokyo Olympics were respectively at number four and five in the list.
- The Covid vaccine, Free Fire redeem code, Aryan Khan, Neeraj Chopra, and Copa America were other notable searches that made to the top ten list.
- Top searched movies on Google in India in 2021 is Jai Bhim.

## Centre grants GI Tag to Bihar's Mithila Makhana



- The Geographical Indications Registry under the Central Ministry of Commerce has accepted the petition to rename Bihar Makhana as Mithila Makhana.
- This is done for the welfare of fox nut growers in the Mithila region.

**Kerala tops Niti's health index for 4th year in a row**



- NITI Aayog released the fourth edition of its state health index for 2019-20 on December 27, 2021.
- The report, titled “Healthy States, Progressive India”, ranks states and Union Territories based on their year-on-year incremental performance in health as well as their overall status.
- Kerala retained its top rank on the health index among the larger states while Uttar Pradesh was the worst.
- Tamil Nadu ranks second with a score of 72.42
- Mizoram topped the health index among smaller states while Nagaland was ranked at the bottom.
- Among union territories, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu was ranked at the top and Andaman & Nicobar was ranked at the bottom.



## Askot wildlife sanctuary declared eco-sensitive zone

### ASOLA BHATTI WILDLIFE

**SANCTUARY** is spread over 32.71 square kilometres and is at the end of an important wildlife corridor that starts from Sariska National Park in Alwar, Rajasthan, and passes through Mewat, Gurgaon and Faridabad in Haryana



### Eco-sensitive zone

The Union government has notified an area of up to 1km around the boundary of the sanctuary in Faridabad and Gurgaon as eco-sensitive zone

### Villages in eco-sensitive zone

Lakadpur (Surajkund), Pali, Mangar, Bandhwari, Gwal Pahari, Balola, GGothda Mohbtabad, Badkhal, Ankhir, Mewla Mahrajpur, Anangpur

### These are banned

Commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units, polluting industries, discharge of untreated effluent, saw mills, brick kilns

### Regulated activities

Hotels and resorts, construction, small scale non-polluting industries, felling of trees, civic infrastructure, commercial extraction of water

### These are allowed

Rainwater harvesting, organic farming, cottage industries, use of renewable energy and fuels, agro-forestry, use of eco-friendly transport

- The area around the boundary of Askot Wildlife Sanctuary in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand has been declared as the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary Eco-Sensitive Zone.
- The notified area extends from 0 to 22 km around the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Askot Wildlife Sanctuary was established to protect the endangered flagship species Musk Deer and its habitat.
- The Askot Wildlife Sanctuary is also known as Musk Deer Park.
  - Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav.

## 3. IMPORTANT EVENTS

Events like awards, celebrations, etc...

### T.N. to get national award for disability welfare



- Tamil Nadu has been recognized as the Best State in promoting the empowerment of persons with disabilities.
- It received the award on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3), at a ceremony in New Delhi.
- Salem district also got an award for the best district in providing rehabilitation services.
- It is among the two districts in the country getting the award.

### Mathematician Nikhil Srivastava selected for inaugural AMS's Ciprian Foias Award



- The Eminent Indian-American mathematician Nikhil Srivastava has been jointly selected for the inaugural Ciprian Foias Prize.
- This is awarded for the "highly original work" in Operator Theory by the American Mathematical Society (AMS).
- Along with Prof. Srivastava, the two other awardees are Adam Marcus and Daniel Spielman.

### Indian Mathematician Neena Gupta receives Ramanujan Prize 2021



- Indian Mathematician **Neena Gupta** has received the **2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries** for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
- Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata.
- She is the third woman to receive Ramanujan Prize.
- It was first awarded in 2005.
- It is administered by Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics jointly with Dept Science and Technology and International Mathematical Union.

### India's Harnaaz Sandhu crowned 70th Miss Universe 2021



- The 70th Miss Universe 2021 was held in Eilat, Israel.
- **Harnaaz Sandhu** made history as she was crowned Miss Universe 2021, 21 years after India last brought home the title.
- Ms Sandhu is 21-year-old and comes from Punjab.
- Paraguay's **Nadia Ferreira** finished second.
- South Africa's **Lalela Mswane** came third.
- Only two Indians before Ms Sandhu have won the title of Miss Universe.
- They are **Sushmita Sen** in 1994 and **Lara Dutta** in 2000.

## Adani Green inks agreement with SECI to supply 4,667 MW green power



- Adani Green Energy Ltd has signed a purchase agreement with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to supply 4,667 MW of green power.
- It is the world's largest-ever green power purchase agreement.
  - Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited Established: 2011;
  - Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi;
  - Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited Chairman: Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi;
  - Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited Managing Director: Suman Sharma.

## Bhutan confers its highest civilian award on PM Modi



- Bhutan has honoured PM Modi with its highest civilian award, Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo.
- Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering has announced PM Modi's name for Bhutan's highest honour.
- The honour comes as an appreciation for India's friendly approach to Bhutan under PM Modi's governance.
- This is Modi's 10th international award given by various governments.

**Sahitya Akademi Award & Bal Puraskar Award 2021**



- Ambai has won this year's Sahitya Akademi award.
- She has been awarded for her short story collection Sivappu Kazhutthudan Oru Patchaiparavai.
- Ambai is the fourth woman writer from Tamil Nadu to get the award.
- Her original name is C.S. Lakshmi.
- Tamil writer M. Murugesh bagged the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for his collection of short stories.
- The name of the book is 'Ammavukku Magal Sonna Ulagin Mudhal Kadhai'.

ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## 4. PERSON IN NEWS

Persons whom occurred in news

### Former Chief Minister of unified Andhra Pradesh K. Rosaiah passes away



- Former Governor of Tamil Nadu and former Chief Minister of the unified State of Andhra Pradesh, **Konijeti Rosaiah** (89-years) passed away.
- He had served as MLA, MLC, Lok Sabha members. He held several key portfolios including finance, transport, energy in the cabinets headed by Kotla Vijayabhaskhara Reddy, Channa Reddy, and YS Rajasekhara Reddy.

### Olaf Scholz is sworn in as new German chancellor



- Olaf Scholz, from the Social Democrat Party, will be the new Chancellor of Germany.
- Scholz will end the 16-year rule of Angela Merkel, the first female chancellor of Germany.
  - Germany Capital: Berlin;
  - Germany Currency: Euro;
  - Germany President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

**Picked for NASA's 2021 astronaut class, Indian origin Anil Menon is SpaceX's first flight surgeon**



- Nasa-turned-SpaceX flight surgeon, **Anil Menon** has been named among the 10 new astronaut recruits selected by NASA for its future space missions.
- He is born to Indian and Ukrainian parents and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Menon is a lieutenant colonel in the US air force.
- He was SpaceX's **first flight surgeon**, helping to launch the company's first humans to space during NASA's SpaceX Demo-2 mission.
  - NASA administrator: Bill Nelson.
  - Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
  - NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.
  - SpaceX founder & CEO: Elon Musk.
  - SpaceX Founded: 2002.
  - SpaceX Headquarters: California, United States of America.

**Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi has been sentenced to 4 years in jail**



- Aung San Suu Kyi is a Burmese politician.
- She was called the "Children of Gandhi".
- She is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.
- The Myanmar special court sentenced her to 4 years of prison for violating corona virus restrictions.

## Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat passes away



- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has passed away in a helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu.
- He was India's first Chief of Defence Staff since 2020.
- An IAF Mi 17 V5 helicopter met with a tragic accident.
- Wing Commander Prithvi Singh Chauhan was the pilot of the Mi-17V5.
- The Chief of Defence Staff is an important post that was created for the first time.
- The Chief of Defence Staff is also the head of the new Department of Military Affairs.
- The tenure of the Chief of Defence Staff will be maximum up to the age of 65 years.
- The CDS will be the principal military adviser to the Union Defence Minister.
- The Chief of Defence Staff will be senior to the three services' chiefs.
- The Chief of Defence Staff will also serve as the head of the newly formed cyber and space agencies and the tri-service agency of Special Forces.
- Here is the list of people who died in the crash, according to officials: 1. General Bipin Rawat, 2. Madhulika Rawat, 3. Brigadier L S Lidder, 4. Lieutenant Colonel Harjinder Singh, 5. Wing Commander P S Chauhan, 6. Squadron Leader K Singh, 7. Junior Warrant Officer Das, 8. Junior Warrant Officer Pradeep A, 9. Havildar Satpal, 10. Naik Gursewak Singh, 11. Naik Jitender Kumar, 12. Lance Naik Vivek Kumar, 13. Lance Naik Sai Teja.





## UN Appoints Biden Adviser Catherine Russell to Head UNICEF



- The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Catherine Russell as the head of the UN children's agency UNICEF.
- Catherine Russell is an assistant to US President Joe Biden. She also heads the White House Office of Presidential Personnel.
- Russell will succeed **Henrietta Fore**.

## Time magazine's 2021 "Person of the Year" is Elon Musk



- Tesla CEO Elon Musk has been named Time Magazine's "person of the year 2021".
- Musk is also the Founder and Chief Executive of space exploration company SpaceX.
  - US President **Joe Biden** and Vice President **Kamala Harris** were named as the Person of the Year for 2020 by Time magazine.

## Army Chief Naravane takes charge as Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee



- Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane has taken charge as the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee comprising the three service chiefs.
- The post of the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee had fallen vacant after the death of the Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat in the IAF helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu on December 8, 2021.
- Army Chief Gen MM Naravane has been appointed as the current Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee because of his seniority among the three service Chiefs.

## Pradeep Rawat to take over as India's next envoy in China



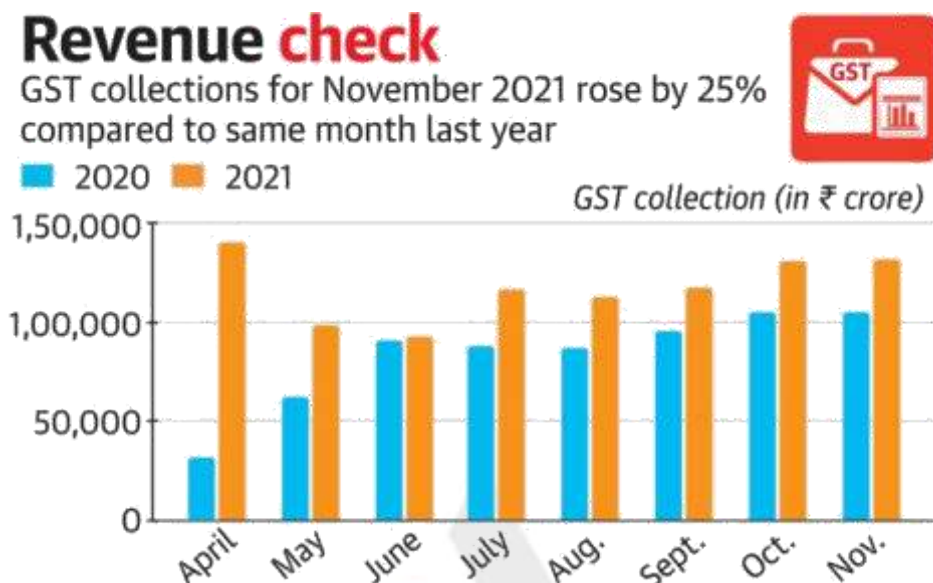
- Senior Indian diplomat **Pradeep Kumar Rawat**, who is well-versed in negotiating with Chinese diplomats, has been appointed as **India's next Ambassador to China**.
- Rawat's appointment comes amid the lingering border stand-off in eastern Ladakh. Rawat is currently the country's envoy to the Netherlands.

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu: Father of South Africa's 'rainbow nation'**



- South African anti-apartheid icon Archbishop Desmond Tutu, described as the country's moral compass, died recently.
- He was remembered for his easy humour and characteristic smile – and above all his tireless fight against injustices of all colours.
- The Archbishop won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for combating white minority rule in South Africa.
- He coined the term “Rainbow Nation” to describe South Africa when Nelson Mandela became the country's first black President in 1994.
- Former U.S. President Barack Obama, the country's first black leader, hailed Tutu as a “moral compass”.

**GST collections surge in November 2021**



- Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections in November (for sales in October) rose 25.3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,31,526 crore. This is the **second highest revenue collection under GST** ever since its rollout in July 2017, and has two specific triggers: a pickup in economic activity alongside multiple compliance measures and increased surveillance undertaken by the tax authorities. These compliance measures include auto-population of returns, blocking of e-way bills and passing of input tax credit for non-filers taken by tax authorities for curbing evasion. GST collections at Rs 1,41,384 crore in April this year, accounting for year-end sales, are the highest level so far in the indirect tax regime.
- Gross GST revenue collected in November is Rs 1,31,526 crore, out of which CGST – the tax levied on intra state supplies of both goods and services by the Central Government – is Rs 23,978 crore, SGST – the tax levied on intra state supplies of both goods and services by the states – is Rs 31,127 crore, IGST – tax levied on all inter-state supplies of goods and services – is Rs 66,815 crore (including Rs 32,165 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 9,606 crore (including Rs 653 crore collected on import of goods).
- The government has settled Rs 27,273 crore to CGST and Rs 22,655 crore to SGST from IGST as regular settlement. The total revenue of Centre and the states after regular settlements in the month of November 2021 is Rs 51,251 crore for CGST and Rs 53,782 crore for the SGST. Centre has also released Rs 17,000 crore to States/UTs towards GST compensation on November 3.
- For GST revenues collected in the respective regions, states such as Maharashtra posted a 24 per cent growth in GST revenues in November, Karnataka posted 31 per cent growth, Gujarat posted 26 per cent growth and Tamil Nadu posted 10 per cent growth.

**Fitch Ratings cuts India's GDP forecast for FY22 to 8.4%, RBI retains 9.5%**



- **Fitch Ratings** has slashed India's economic growth forecast in the **financial year 2021-22 (FY22)** to **8.4 per cent** and raised the growth projection to **10.3 per cent for FY23**, compared to October 2021 rating projections of **8.7 per cent (FY22)** and **10 per cent (FY23)**.
  - Fitch Ratings President: Ian Linnell;
  - Fitch Ratings Headquarters: New York, United States.

**Paytm Payments Bank gets RBI nod to function as scheduled payments bank**



- Paytm Payments Bank has been given the scheduled bank status by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The bank has been included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The approval will help it to bring more financial services and products.

## DBS Bank India clinches two awards at ET BFSI Excellence Awards 2021



### Live more, Bank less

- **DBS Bank India** has been awarded the **Economic Times Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance Excellence Awards 2021**.
- The awards are,
- **'DBS Rapid (Real-time API)** solution in the 'Innovative API/Open Banking model' category
- **'Intelligent Banking'** in the 'Best Digital Customer Experience initiative' category.
  - DBS Bank India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
  - DBS Bank India MD & CEO: Surojit Shome.

## Bank of Baroda launches bob World Wave



- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched a wearable payment solution called "bob World Wave".
- To develop the "bob world wave", the Bank of Baroda partnered with NPCI.
- It was developed by leveraging the existing NFC-based technology.
- This technology is witnessing the rise of tremendous interest worldwide.
- The lenders are using this opportunity for adopting more convenient and cashless digital payments systems.
  - Bank of Baroda Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India;
  - Bank of Baroda Chairman: Hasmukh Adhia;
  - Bank of Baroda MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha.

**RBI introduces tough PCA framework for large NBFCs, effective October 2022**

**TRIGGER THRESHOLDS FOR PCA**

**For NBFCs excluding core investment companies**

Indicator	RBI regulatory minimum	RISK		
		Threshold ①	Threshold ②	Threshold ③
CRAR	15%	12% to below 15%	Between 9% and 12%	Below 9%
Tier 1 capital ratio	10%	8% to 10%	Between 6% and 8%	Below 6%
Net NPA ratio	NA	6-9%	9-12%	Above 12%

Note: Based on current regulatory minimum  
PCA: Prompt corrective action; CRAR: Capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio

PCA actions	Specifications/ Mandatory action
<b>Risk threshold 1</b>	Restriction on dividend distribution/ remittance of profits; promoters/ shareholders to infuse equity and reduce leverage
<b>Risk threshold 2</b>	In addition to mandatory actions of threshold 1, restriction on branch expansion
<b>Risk threshold 3</b>	Besides mandatory actions of thresholds 1 & 2, appropriate restrictions on capital expenditure, other than for technological upgrade within board-approved limits; restrictions/reduction in variable operating costs

Note: There can be any number of other discretionary actions that the RBI can take

Source: RBI

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) under the ambit of prompt corrective action (PCA) framework.
- Under the PCA framework, NBFCs will face restrictions when parameters such as capital adequacy ratio, non-performing assets, and Tier 1 capital will fall below the stipulated levels.
- The Banks are already covered under the framework.
- This framework will be applicable for all deposit-taking NBFC.
- However, it will exclude government NBFCs, housing finance companies, primary dealers and other non-deposit taking NBFCs in the upper, middle, and top layers.
- The PCA framework for NBFCs will be implemented from October 1, 2022.
- This is done on the basis of the financial position of NBFCs on or after March 31, 2022.

## Wholesale inflation surges to 14.23% in November



- Annual wholesale price-based inflation in India had accelerated to a record high in November 2021.
- The wholesale price inflation is accelerated by increases in manufacturing and food prices.
- Thus, it raised concerns about rising inflationary pressure.
- Annual wholesale price-based inflation increased to 14.23% in November.
- It was highest since April 2005.

## CCI slaps ₹200 crore fine on Amazon, freezes Future deal

**Deal goes awry** | A brief look at the tussle between Amazon and Future Group

- In Aug. 2019, Amazon signed a **\$200 million deal** to acquire a **49% stake** in Future Coupons, which owns 7.3% equity in Future Retail, with the right to buy into Future Retail after a period of three to 10 years
- In August 2020, Reliance entered into a deal with Future Group to acquire its retail assets for **₹24,713 crore**

■ Amazon contested the deal, arguing that the terms agreed in its 2019 deal prevented Future Group from selling its retail business to certain rivals, including Reliance

A photograph showing the entrance of an Amazon store. The entrance is framed by a yellow archway with the Amazon logo. A person is walking through the glass doors into the store. The interior of the store is visible through the glass.

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) fined US e-commerce giant, Amazon Rs 200 crore.
- The CCI has also suspended the 2019 Amazon deal with Future Coupons, a unit of Future Retail Ltd.
- Amazon was fined for concealing facts while obtaining approval for this deal.



## ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel to invest ₹1.02 lakh cr. in Odisha



- The Odisha government approved ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel's proposal to set up a 24 million tonne per annum integrated steel plant in Mahakalpara block of Kendrapara district at an estimated investment of ₹1.02 lakh crore.
- Touted to be the largest project in the country's manufacturing sector, the proposed facility of AM/NS (the Kendrapara complex), would produce various grades of steel with its latest 'green' steel making technology and also make 18.75 MTPA of cement.
- On completion, the steel and cement facilities would both be India's largest single location greenfield projects, respectively. The project is proposed to be completed in phases over seven years.

## Airtel prepays Rs 15,519 crore to DoT to clear all deferred liabilities for 2014 spectrum

- Telecom operator Bharti Airtel said it has paid Rs 15,519 crore to the government towards prepayment of its entire deferred liability pertaining to spectrum acquired in the 2014 auction.
- The company had acquired 128.4 MHz spectrum (including Telenor spectrum) for a consideration of Rs 19,051 crore in the 2014 auction, Airtel said in a statement.
- The company estimates that the prepayment to department of telecom (DoT) will likely result in interest cost savings of at least Rs 3,400 crore over the residual life for fully substituted capital.
- In a statement, Airtel said it has prepaid Rs 15,519 crore to clear all deferred liabilities for the spectrum acquired in 2014.



**DRDO test-fired air version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**



- **India** successfully test-fired the air version of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from the integrated test range of **Chandipur**, off the coast of **Odisha**.
- The air version of the missile was test-fired from supersonic fighter aircraft **Sukhoi 30 MK-I**.
- BrahMos is a joint venture between Defence Research and Development Organisation - **DRDO (India)** and **NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia)** for the development, production, and marketing of the supersonic cruise missile which has been inducted into the Indian Armed Forces.
  - Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
  - DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
  - DRDO Established: 1958.

**DRDO successfully tests indigenous missile-assisted torpedo system**



- India successfully launched Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo System (SMART) from Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast.
- The SMART system has been designed for enhancing anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of torpedoes.
- SMART carried a torpedo, release mechanisms, and parachute delivery system.
- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed the weapon for the Indian Navy.

## China launches Shijian-6 05 satellites for space exploration



- China successfully launched a new group of satellites **Shijian-6 05** into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China for space exploration and new technology tests.
- The satellites were launched by a **Long March-4B rocket** which marked the **400th** mission of Long March series carrier rockets.
  - China Capital: Beijing;
  - China Currency: Renminbi;
  - China President: Xi Jinping.

## TVS Motor and BMW Motorrad tie up to make electric vehicles



- India's TVS Motor Company will develop electric vehicles with BMW's motorcycle brand in India.
- The tie-up comes at a time when new-age start-ups like Ola Electric & Ather are ramping up investment in electric scooters.
  - TVS Motor Company CEO: K. N. Radhakrishnan;
  - TVS Motor Company Headquarters: Chennai;
  - TVS Motor Company Founder: T. V. Sundram Iyengar;
  - TVS Motor Company Founded: 1978.

## **New generation nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-P tested for second time**



- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the new generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile 'Agni P'.
- Agni P was launched from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha.
- It is a medium-range ballistic missile, developed by DRDO as the successor of Agni-I and Agni-II missiles.
- It is the sixth missile in the Agni series of ballistic missiles.

## **India earned \$35 million and 10 million euros from 2019-21 through foreign satellite launches: Govt**



- India has launched a total of 342 foreign satellites to 34 countries since 1999. These satellites have been commercially launched by various types of PSLV rockets of the Indian company ISRO.
- These were launched for Earth observation, science and technology demonstration purposes. The PSLV rocket has the highest number of US 226 satellites in these 34 countries. Other countries in the list include Canada (12), Britain (12), Jomani (11), Singapore (8), Korea (6) and Japan (5). In this regard, in the last three years (2019-2021) alone, India has received about Rs. 350 crore, the ministry said.

## NASA's Parker Solar Probe enters the Sun's upper atmosphere

**1 LAUNCH DATE**  
 ■ Between July 31 and August 19, 2018 from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida

**2 ARRIVING AT SUN 2024**  
 ■ The spacecraft will fly through the sun's atmosphere to within 3.7 million miles - seven times closer than any spacecraft has come before  
 ■ At its closest approach, it will hit 430,000 mph - travelling close to the distance from Nottingham to London (118 miles) every second

**THE PROBE**  
 Weight: 1,350lb  
 Length: 9ft 10in

Magnetometers will measure electric and magnetic fields, radio emissions and shock waves

High-gain antenna to transmit data via a radio signal

Electromagnetic wave antenna measures radio emissions of the sun and solar winds

Solar panels power the probe and retract when close to sun

Thermal shield to protect instruments is 8ft in diameter and made of 4.5in thick carbon-composite

A detector will gather solar wind particles

**SUN FACTS**  
 ■ The probe will experience temperatures of 1,400C. At its core the sun reaches 15million C  
 ■ Average diameter: 864,000 miles, about 109 times the size of the Earth  
 ■ Composition: Hydrogen, helium  
 ■ Sunlight takes 8 minutes to reach Earth

- Recently, a scientific paper revealed that NASA's Parker Solar Probe successfully entered the Sun's Corona on April 28, 2021.
- Corona is the outermost layer of the Sun's atmosphere
- Parker Solar Probe is the first spacecraft to fly into the low solar corona.

## 7. NATIONAL NEWS

Activities which held up in India during December 2021

### 1,160 elephants killed due to reasons other than natural causes: MoEFCC

## Big loss

Figures provided by the Union Environment and Forest Ministry on the deaths of elephants across the country

Cause of death	No. of elephants killed*
Electrocution	741
Train hits	186
Poaching	169
Poisoning	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,160</b>

(\*2009-10 to December 31, 2020)



**Death on the tracks:** The carcass of one of the two tuskers run over by a train at Moinajan in Kamrup (Metro) district of Assam on Wednesday. Local people say the elephants entered the village to feed on paddy. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

- A whopping 1,160 elephants were killed in the country due to reasons other than natural causes in the past 10 years up to December 31, 2020, according to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- While electrocution claimed the lives of 741 elephants, train hits led to the death of 186 pachyderms, followed by poaching - 169, and poisoning - 64, a document accessed from the Ministry through the Right to Information (RTI) Act revealed.
- Karnataka and Odisha lost 133 elephants each due to electrocution during the period and Assam reported 129 deaths.
- Among elephant casualties due to train hits, Assam stood first with 62 deaths, followed by West Bengal at 57.
- A total of 169 mammals were killed by poachers in the 10 years and Odisha reported the highest - 49 deaths, followed by Kerala 23.
- Assam reported the highest number of elephants poisoned - 32, and Odisha stood second with 15 deaths.
- Karnataka - 6,049, Assam - 5,719, Kerala - 5,706, and Tamil Nadu - 2,761 were the top four States that had the highest number of elephants as per the RTI reply from the Project Elephant Division of the MoEFCC.

## Rajya Sabha Passes the Landmark 'Dam Safety Bill (2019)'

Parliament Winter Session 2021



### Rajya Sabha passes landmark **DAM SAFETY BILL (2019)**



#### A New Era of Dam Safety

First-ever Dam safety legislation after 70 years

Will pave the way for enactment of the Dam Safety Act

Provide institutional mechanism at both Central & State levels for safe functioning of dams

Will ensure safety and security to thousands of people in and around the dam sites

Dated: 3 Dec, 2021

- The Rajya Sabha passed the landmark Dam Safety Bill (2019), paving the way for enactment of the Dam Safety Act in the country. The Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat had introduced the bill in Rajya Sabha on 1st December, 2021.
- The Rajya Sabha has passed the Dam Safety Bill, 2019.
- The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on 2 August 2019.
- The Bill provides for proper surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of all specified dams in the country to ensure their safe functioning.
- The Bill provides for the constitution of a National Committee on Dam Safety.
- That shall evolve dam safety policies and recommend necessary regulations as may be required for the purpose.
- The Bill provides for the establishment of the National Dam Safety Authority as a regulatory body that shall discharge functions to implement the policy, guidelines, and standards for dam safety in the country.
- The Bill provides for the constitution of a State Committee on Dam Safety by the State Government.

## 6.98 Lakh Employees Recruited Since 2014, Higher Than Previous 7 Years of UPA: Union Minister



- Union Minister Jitendra Singh said the Centre has recruited around 6.98 lakh employees for its various departments since 2014 as against 6.19 lakh in the previous seven years of the UPA government.
- In response to supplementary questions in the Rajya Sabha during the Question Hour, Mr Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pension, said the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not only expedited the recruitment process but at the same time made efforts to create new posts.
- Between 2007-08 to 2013-14, 6,19,027 posts were filled by three major recruiting agencies, the Staff Selection Commission, Union Public Service Commission, and the Railway Recruitment Board, he said.
- In comparison, he said the recruitment increased to 6,98,011 in the last seven years of the Modi government. The sanctioned strength has also increased to 40,04,941 in 2020 from 36,45,584 in 2014, the minister added.

## MGNREGA seeks ₹25,000 crore additional funding

- The Centre has sought ₹25,000 crore as additional funding for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme as part of the supplementary demand for grants submitted to Parliament, after the demand-driven rural jobs scheme ran out of funds midway through the year.
- Overall, ₹3.73 lakh crore of additional funding is planned for the current financial year, with an equity infusion into Air India Assets Holding Company, additional fertiliser subsidy, food storage and warehousing, and payment of pending export incentives being the big ticket items accounting for three-fourths of the total.
- With four months remaining in the financial year, MGNREGA has finished spending the ₹73,000 crore initially allocated in the budget, and its financial statement now shows a negative net balance of ₹10,244 crore, including payments due.





## India, Russia broaden ties and military cooperation



- The India – Russia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi.
- It was held by the defence ministers and external affairs ministers of the two countries.
- This is the first 2+2 Dialogue held between India and Russia.
- During this dialogue, the countries discussed the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.
- The dialogue expanded military cooperation and joint development between the countries.
- During the dialogue, India signed a contract with Russia to procure more than six lakh AK – 203 rifles.
  - “In an endeavour to provide a big boost to self-reliance in defence manufacturing in India, the government has approved the plan for production of over five lakh AK-203 assault rifles at Korwa, Amethi in U.P.,” a Government source said.

### India's focus

- India aims at greater engagements in central Asia.
- To achieve self-reliance
- Free and open Indo – Pacific region.

### Parliament approves bills on ART, surrogacy

- The bill aims to provide for the regulation of ART (Assisted Reproduction Technology).
- ART is used to treat infertility.
- In ART, the eggs are removed from a woman's body, mixed with sperm to form embryos.
- The bill was recently passed in both Sabha.

#### Regulating ART



Illustration of in vitro fertilisation

- The Bill establishes the National Board, the State Boards, and the National Registry to

regulate and supervise Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics. It establishes ART banks to promote ethical practices

- It proposes stringent punishment for those who attempt to control the offspring's sex, sell embryos or gametes
- As of Feb. 20, there are 517 ART clinics under the National Registry of ART clinics and banks in India, according to the ICMR

## Union Cabinet clears Ken-Betwa river interlinking project



- The Union Cabinet approved the Ken-Betwa River interlinking project.
- This project promises to address the issue of water scarcity in the Bundelkhand region, spreading across Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- This project is expected to benefit several poverty-stricken regions in MP and UP.
- At 2020-21 price levels, the overall cost of the Ken-Betwa link project has been estimated at **Rs. 44,605 crore**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved central support for the project in the amount of Rs. 39,317 crore, which includes a grant of Rs. 36,290 crore and a loan of Rs. 3,027 crore.

## Bhasha Sangam mobile app launched with 22 languages

MHRD | Government of India  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
Department of Technical Education & Skills



- A mobile app known as 'Bhasha Sangam' has been launched by the Ministry of Education.
- The app will help individuals in acquiring basic conversation abilities in languages other than one's own mother tongue.
- The initiative by the Government has been taken under Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat Programme.
- The app has **100+ sentences**, designed on different themes that allow people to learn basic conversation in **22 Indian languages**, test themselves and generate online certificates.

## Maharashtra tops the list of Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana beneficiaries



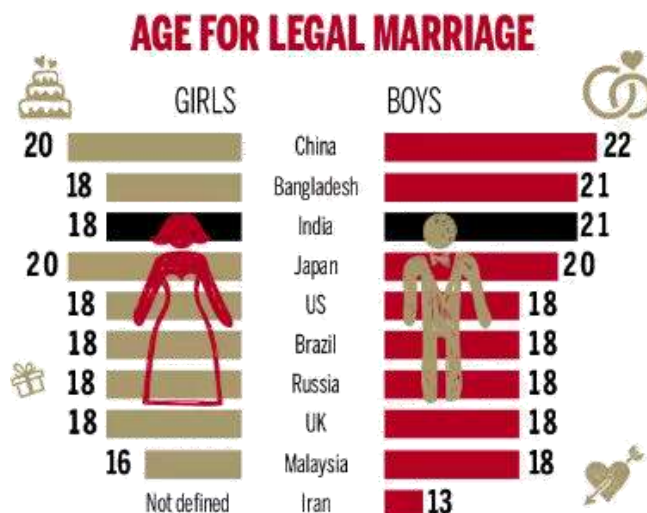
- Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana was rolled out during the covid-19 pandemic for generating jobs.
- Maharashtra has topped the list of states with the highest number of beneficiaries.
- Maharashtra is followed by Gujarat and Karnataka.
- As many as 6,49,560 beneficiaries were recorded in Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu (5,35,615), Gujarat (4,44,741) and Karnataka (3,07,164). In Maharashtra, the beneficiaries have been provided with a total of Rs 409.72 crore under the scheme to new employees of 17,524 establishments.

## 7th edition of India International Science festival begins in Panaji



- Union Minister of State Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the seventh edition of the India International Science Festival at Panaji, Goa.
- The theme of the 4-day science festival is 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' – "Celebrating Creativity, Science, Technology, and Innovation for a prosperous India".
- The First India International Science Festival was held in 2015 at IIT Delhi.
- The main aim of the Science Festival is to bring into use the innovations by the people and develop technology that is affordable to the masses.

## Minimum legal age of marriage for women being raised to 21 years



- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of increasing the marriage age for women from 18 years to 21 years.
- Currently, the minimum age of marriage for men is 21 while for women it is 18.
- The government will now look to introduce amendments to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act of 2006, Special Marriage Act of 1954, and the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 to bring the plan into action.

## Private hospitals to be tagged for being breastfeeding-friendly



- A new initiative will now help mothers identify “breastfeeding-friendly” hospitals before they give birth.
- The Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) in collaboration with Association of Healthcare Providers of India (AHPI), which comprises more than 12,000 private hospitals, has launched an accreditation programme that will enable hospitals to get a “breastfeeding-friendly” tag. This programme is called “Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI)”.
- The certification process involves two stages – the first stage includes self-assessment by a hospital, followed by an external assessment by an authorised appraiser who interviews doctors, nurses and patients as well as reviews different practices and training of staff. The accreditation process costs ₹17,000 per hospital.

## Heated winter session of Parliament concludes a day early



- Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die on 22nd December, a day ahead of its original schedule.
- It was marking the end of the Winter Session of Parliament.
- The Winter Session in Lok Sabha had 18 sittings and witnessed the passage of key legislation such as the Farm Laws Repeal Bill and the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill.
- The Upper House witnessed several disruptions during the session following the suspension of 12 opposition party members for their “unruly” conduct in the previous session in August.
- The Winter Session, which started on November 29, was scheduled to conclude on December 23.

## 31-member Panel to examine bill on raising legal age of marriage

### TO OVERRIDE ALL OTHER LAWS & CUSTOMS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 proposes to raise legal age for women to marry from 18 to 21, on a par with men</li> <li>➤ Seeks to amend other laws for uniformity in age of marriage – Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872; Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936; Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937; Special Marriage Act, 1954.</li> </ul>	<p>Hindu Marriage Act, 1955; Foreign Marriage Act, 1969</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Anyone married before the age of 21 can seek annulment up to 5 years instead of the current 2 from the time of attaining majority</li> <li>➤ Amendments to override all other laws, customs, usage or practice</li> <li>➤ Bill to come into force 2 years from the date it receives President's assent</li> </ul>
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- The parliamentary standing committee was constituted to examine “the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021”.
- Out of the total 31 members, **TMC MP Sushmita Dev** is the sole woman representative on the committee.
- The Bill seeks to raise the legal age of marriage for women in India from 18 to 21 to bring it at par with men.
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2021 seeks to amend the “Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006” and seven personal laws.
- They are,
  - Indian Christian Marriage Act
  - Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act
  - Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act
  - Special Marriage Act
  - Hindu Marriage Act
  - Foreign Marriage Act.

## 8. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Activities which held up out of Nation

#### Barbados becomes the world's newest republic



- Barbados has become the World's newest republic, around 400 years after it became a British colony.
- Barbados, the Caribbean Island nation, removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of the state.
- Dame Sandra Prunella Mason took over as the President of Barbados.
- Barbados is said to have been made a slave society by the British.
- It first became an English colony in 1625.
- It gained its independence in 1966.

#### Sri Lankan government appoints ex-Navy chief as governor



- A former Sri Lanka navy chief previously charged over a spate of killings during the island's long civil war was named a provincial governor.
- The investigation into Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda cast a spotlight on extrajudicial murders during the 37-year conflict, which ended in 2009.
- He was one of 14 people accused of abducting the teenaged children of wealthy families and killing them after extorting money.
- Authorities dropped the charges in October, prompting an outcry from human rights groups.

## New Zealand to ban cigarette sales for future generations



- The proposal from New Zealand's health officials would effectively ban anyone 14 years or younger from purchasing cigarettes for their entire lifetime.
- It would raise the minimum age to buy cigarettes every year beginning in 2023.

## Dubai 1st govt to go 100 percent paperless



- **Dubai** became the world's first government to turn **100% paperless**, the announcement was made by the United Arab Emirate (UAE) Crown Prince, **Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**.
- It will save around 3 billion Dirham (USD 350 million) and 14-million-man hours.



## U.S. tests laser weapon in West Asia



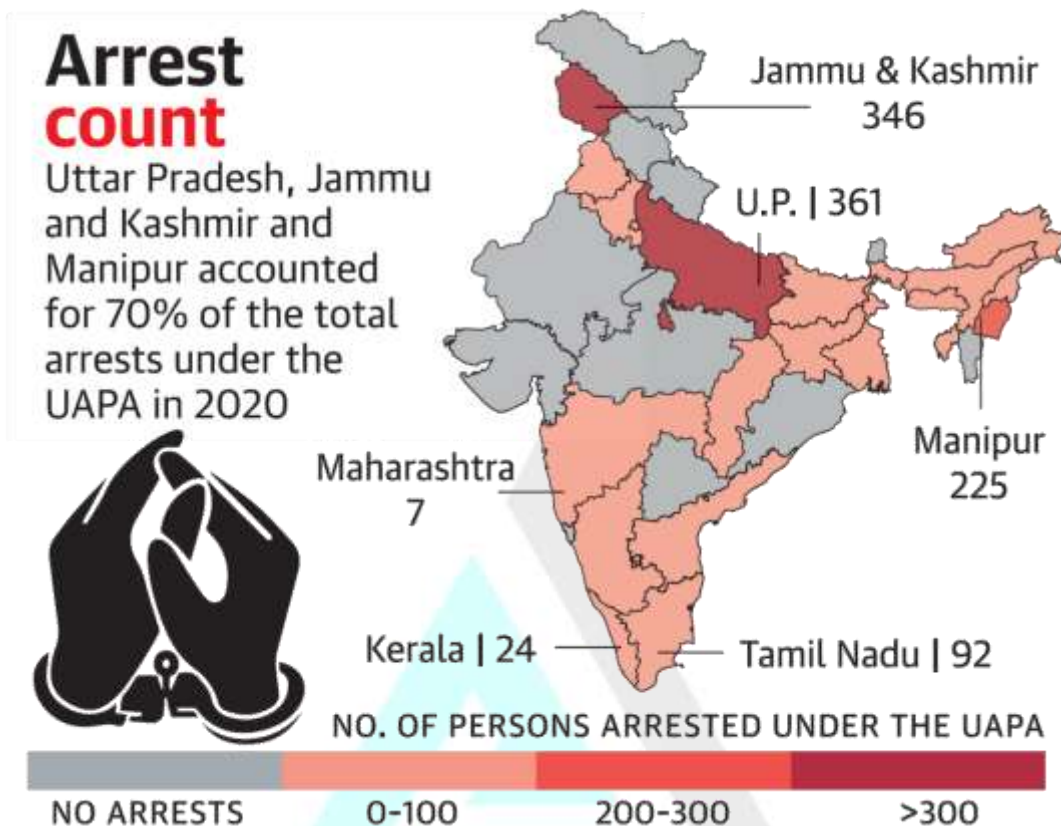
- The U.S. Navy announced it tested a laser weapon and destroyed a floating target in West Asia, a system that could be used to counter bomb-laden drone boats deployed by Yemen's Houthi rebels in the Red Sea.
- The test saw the *USS Portland* test-fire its Laser Weapon System Demonstrator at the target in the Gulf of Aden, the body of water separating East Africa from the Arabian Peninsula.
- The Navy's West Asia-based 5th Fleet described the laser as having "successfully engaged" the target in a statement. Previously, the *Portland* used the laser to bring down a flying drone in May 2020.

ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## 9. OTHER STATE NEWS

Activities which held up in other states of India

### U.P. reports most UAPA arrests



- Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of arrests under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, followed by Jammu and Kashmir, and Manipur, according to data tabled by the Government in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.
- Uttar Pradesh recorded 361 UAPA arrests, Jammu and Kashmir 346 arrests, and Manipur 225 arrests in the year 2020 alone.
- Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply that as per the National Crime Record Bureau's report, "the number of persons arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the years 2019 and 2020 are 1,948 and 1,321 respectively."
- In another reply, Mr. Rai said that since 2016, 7,243 persons were arrested under UAPA and during the same period 212 persons were convicted. As many as 286 cases ended in acquittal, 25 cases were abated and 42 cases were discharged by courts, it said.

### Cyclone Jawad

- A cyclonic storm, named Cyclone Jawad is hits Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal.
- The name is as per the suggestion from Saudi Arabia and means generous or merciful in Arabic.

## Bihar won Gold Medal Award at 40th edition India International Trade Fair



- Bihar bagged a gold medal in the 40th India International Trade Fair held at Pragati Maidan in Delhi.
- It was awarded for “excellence in display” in the state government/union territory pavilion category.
- Assam Pavilion has been awarded, Silver Medal.

## Madhya Pradesh government organises first drone fair at Gwalior



- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the first drone fair in the country was organised at **Gwalior**.
- **Gwalior Drone Mela** was organised jointly by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Government of India, the Government of Madhya Pradesh, and the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)**.
  - Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal;
  - Madhya Pradesh Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel;
  - Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

## Nagaland resolution seeks repeal of AFSPA



- The Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio demanded to repeal the AFSPA.
- It was in the aftermath of security forces' killing of 14 civilians in Mon district of Nagaland.
- In June 2021, Ministry of Home Affairs had declared the entire State of Nagaland as a "disturbed area" for six more months in accordance with the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA).
- AFSPA provides power to the armed forces to maintain public order in disturbed areas.

## Mission Shakti Living Lab Launched In Odisha



- Odisha inked an agreement with United Nations Capital Development Fund to launch "Mission Shakti Living Lab" for the financial empowerment of women.
- It will address the barriers related to the autonomy and financial freedom of women.
- Mission Shakti was launched in 2001 to enhance the holistic development of women.
  - UN Capital Development Fund Founded: 1966;
  - UN Capital Development Fund Headquarters: New York, United States;
  - UN Capital Development Fund Executive Secretary: Preeti Sinha.

## UNESCO recognises Kolkata's Durga Puja as Intangible Cultural Heritage

### INDIAN ELEMENTS ON UNESCO'S LISTS

<p><b>INTANGIBLE LIST</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Kumbh Mela, Allahabad</li> <li>➤ Navroz</li> <li>➤ Sankirtana, drumming and dance, Manipur</li> <li>➤ Buddhist chanting, Ladakh</li> <li>➤ Chhau dance, West Bengal</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Taj Mahal in Agra</li> <li>➤ Darjeeling Himalayan Railways, West Bengal</li> <li>➤ Sunderbans</li> </ul>	<p><b>HERITAGE SITES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ mangroves, West Bengal</li> <li>➤ Churches and convents, Goa</li> <li>➤ Sun temple, Odisha</li> </ul>	<p><b>TOI   FEB 19, 2019</b></p> <p>State to pitch Durga Puja for Unesco World Heritage tag</p>

- UNESCO has added Durga Puja in Kolkata to its 2021 list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- This gives international recognition to the biggest religious festival of the 331-year-old city and the state of West Bengal.
- With the inclusion of Durga Puja, the number of elements in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage from India has increased to 14.

## Supreme Court allows bullock cart races in Maharashtra



- The Supreme Court gave the nod to resume bullock cart races in Maharashtra.
- The races were prohibited since 2017.

## Karnataka Assembly passes anti-conversion bill amidst protests



- “Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021” was passed in the Karnataka State legislative Assembly.
- The bill is popularly known as anti-conversion bill.
- The bill is being opposed, tagging it as “anti-people”, “inhuman”, “unconstitutional”, “anti poor” and “draconian”.
- This Bill was passed by a voice vote.
- This bill provides for protection of the right to freedom of religion.
- It also prohibits unlawful conversion from one religion to another by force, mis representation, coercion, undue influence, allurements or by any fraudulent means.

ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## 10. SPORTS NEWS

Its about sports and gaming

### 'Perfect-10' by Ajaz on an imperfect day for New Zealand



## All by himself

Ajaz is the third bowler to take 10 wickets in an innings in 2439\* games since Test cricket began in 1877

	Figures	Opponent	Venue	Year
Jim Laker (Eng)	51.2-23-53-10	Australia	Manchester	1956
Anil Kumble (Ind)	26.3-9-74-10	Pakistan	Delhi	1999
Ajaz Patel (NZ)	47.5-12-119-10	India	Mumbai	2021

**Frozen in history:** Anil Kumble dismisses Wasim Akram to complete his 10-for at the Ferozeshah Kotla in 1999

■ Laker took nine for 37 in the first innings before returning to scalp all 10 in the second. His 19 for 90 remains the best bowling figures in a Test match



Ajaz is the first to come up with a 10-wicket haul in the first innings of a Test. Laker and Kumble performed their feats in the second innings

The Kiwi left-arm spinner is also the first to do it in an away Test

Ajaz's 10-119 is the best by a New Zealander in Tests, bettering Richard Hadlee's 9-52 (vs Aus, 1985, Brisbane)

His figures are the best by a bowler in his place of birth, eclipsing Muttiah Muralitharan's 9-51 (vs Zim, Kandy, 2002) and Abdul Qadir's 9-56 (vs Eng, Lahore, 1987)

\* includes the ongoing Tests between India-New Zealand and Pakistan-Bangladesh

- Ajaz Patel is the third player to take 10 wickets in a Test inning.
- Ajaz is the first New Zealand bowler to achieve the feat.
- Mumbai-born New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel achieved this feat at the Wankhede Stadium of Mumbai against India.
- He became the third cricketer to claim 10 wickets in a single inning of a Test match after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble.
- India was bowled out for 325.

## WTA suspends events in China over Peng Shuai concerns



- The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) has taken the unprecedented step of immediately suspending all of its events in China, citing the failure of the authorities to take up Chinese star Peng Shuai's allegations of sexual abuse by a former senior Communist Party leader.
- The WTA and a number of stars expressed concerns about Ms. Peng's whereabouts after she disappeared from public view for two weeks after the statement and had her account on Sina Weibo, a Chinese Twitter equivalent, blocked from public view.

## Argentina beat six-time champions Germany to lift Junior hockey world cup



- Argentina lifted the coveted trophy of the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup after defeating Germany 4-2 in the final match at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- India suffered a defeat against France in the bronze medal match.



**PV Sindhu settles for silver in BWF World Tour Finals**



- The BWF World Tour 2021 finals was held between PV Sindhu of India and Seyoung of Korea at Bali in Indonesia.
- Seyoung won the cup and Sindhu settled in for a silver medal.
- In Men’s Singles of the BWF World Tour 2021, Viktor Axelsen won the cup.
- The BWF World Tour is a Grade 2 Badminton tournament series.
- It is held by the BWF, Badminton World Federation.
- It is held among the top world-ranked players in singles (men and women) and doubles (men, women, and mixed).

Category	Winner	Runner-up
<b>Women’s Singles title</b>	An Se Young (South Korea)	PV Sindhu (India)
<b>Men’s Single title</b>	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)	Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand)
<b>Men’s double Title</b>	Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi (Japan)	Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo. (Indonesia)
<b>Women’s Double Title</b>	Kim So-yeong and Kong Hee-yong (South Korea)	Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida. (Japan)

**Lewis Hamilton #SaudiArabianGP**



- Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton (Britain)** won the inaugural edition of the **Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP)**, by surpassing **Max Verstappen (Netherlands)** in the event held at the 30-kilometre (18.6-mile) coastal resort area in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

**BWF: Viktor Axelsen, Tai Tzu Ying named 2021 BWF Player of the Year**



- Denmark's Viktor Axelsen and China's Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying were named Male and Female player of the year 2021 respectively by the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- Viktor Axelsen is the Olympic champion.
- Tai Tzu Ying is the silver medallist in Tokyo Games.
  - Badminton World Federation Founded:1934;
  - Badminton World Federation Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
  - Badminton World Federation President: Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen.

## Ashes series

**All for the Ashes** When the 72nd chapter of the most storied rivalry unfolds at the Gabba on Wednesday, it's time to rekindle memories of battles past

### SERIES

● Played ● England ● Australia ● Drawn



### TESTS



### AUSTRALIA CURRENTLY OWNS THE URN

- The 2019 series in England ended in a draw (2-2), the first time since 1972 the two shared the honours. Australia retained the Ashes as it had won in 2017-18
- England last triumphed in 2015 (at home)

### THE ASHES HIGHS

#### BATTING

**MOST RUNS: Don Bradman**  
Australia (5028, 63 inns)

**HIGHEST: Len Hutton**  
England (364, The Oval, 1938)

#### BOWLING

**MOST WICKETS: Shane Warne**  
Australia (195, 72 inns)

**BEST BOWLING (INNINGS): Jim Laker**  
England (10/53, Manchester, 1956)



**MOST MATCHES**  
Syd Gregory  
Australia (52)

**HIGHEST TOTAL**  
England  
903/7 decl.,  
The Oval, 1938

**MOST MATCHES AS CAPTAIN**  
Allan Border, Australia  
(28 - W 13 L 6 D 9)

**LOWEST TOTAL**  
Australia 36,  
Birmingham,  
1902

### SKIPPER'S ASHES STORY

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	50s/100s
Joe Root	24	46	1694	180	40.33	13/3
	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	SR	5W
Pat Cummins	10	19	52	4/32	47.0	0

### THE SCHEDULE

- Dec. 8-12:** Brisbane, 5.30 a.m.
  - Dec. 16-20:** Adelaide (Day-Night), 9.30 a.m.
  - Dec. 26-30:** Melbourne, 5 a.m.
  - Jan. 5-9:** Sydney, 5 a.m.
  - Jan. 14-18:** Melbourne or Hobart
- All times IST



GRAPHIC: A. GANESHAN  
COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD  
SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

## Women's National Football Championship: Manipur beats Railways, claims 21st title



- **Manipur** successfully defended their **Senior Women's National Football Championship** crown after a dramatic penalty shootout win over **Railways in the final** at the EMS Stadium in **Kozhikode, Kerala**.
- After a dearth of goal-scoring chances in regulation and extra time, the match went to penalties with the scores at 0-0.
- Manipur goalkeeper Okram Roshini Devi produced three saves to give her side their 21st title at this level.

## National Shooting Championship: Ankur Mittal wins trap gold



- Ankur Mittal, the reigning world champion in double trap, won the trap gold at the 64th National Shooting Championship at the New Moti Bagh Gun Club in Patiala.
- In a very competitive field of 221 that had all the best shooters, past and present fighting for honours, the 29-year-old Ankur topped the 'single barrel' final with a score of 43. He beat Aditya Bhardwaj by three points.
- Qualification topper Zoravar Singh Sandhu was pipped to the bronze by Rayyan Rizvi, while Aakash Kushwaha and Danish Ahmad finished fifth and sixth respectively.
- A regular in the national team, Prithviraj Tondaiman shot 115 and missed the final by one point. Olympian Kynan Chenai and Asian Games silver medallist Lakshay Sheoran shot 114 and finished 10th and 11th respectively.



## Verstappen snatches title from Hamilton in a dramatic final lap

- Max Verstappen has won his first "Formula One (F1) world title", leaving behind Lewis Hamilton, at Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.
- Max Emilian Verstappen is a Belgian racing driver.

### The Max file

- Age: 24
- Debut: Australian GP 2015
- Teams: Toro Rosso (2015-2016 Russian GP); Red Bull 2016 Spanish GP-

Race starts	Race wins
<b>141</b>	<b>20</b>
Pole positions	Podiums
<b>13</b>	<b>60</b>

**34**  
Verstappen becomes the 34th Formula 1 World champion

**FIRST WIN** **2016** SPANISH GP

**FASTEST LAPS** **16**

What a race! Congrats to Max for becoming the World Champion for the first time. My heart goes out to Lewis. If not for the safety car, the trophy would've

been his  
SACHIN TENDULKAR

One ball six required and Max hits it. Unbelievable

ROHIT SHARMA

Congratulations to Max and to his team. But I'm so proud of my own team and we gave it absolutely everything

LEWIS HAMILTON

My goal when I was little was to be a Formula One driver. You dream of podiums and victories. But when they tell you that you are the world champion, it's incredible. Lewis is an amazing driver and made it really hard for us

VERSTAPPEN

### FAST FACTS

**1** Verstappen is the first non-Mercedes driver to win the title in the V6 hybrid era. He is also the first non-British or German driver to win the title since Kimi Raikkonen in 2007

**2** For the first time since 2008, the drivers' and constructors' championships have been won by different teams

**15** The Netherlands is the 15th country to have a Formula 1 World champion

**18** The Dutchman's podium finishes this season is a new record

**24** Verstappen is Formula 1's fourth-youngest champion at the age of 24, behind only Vettel, Hamilton and Alonso

**75** Red Bull recorded its 75th GP victory, becoming only the sixth team to reach that milestone

**349** Raikkonen retired from the sport as the driver with the most number of race starts in F1 history

GRAPHIC: A. GANESHAN

## Norway's Magnus Carlsen wins FIDE World Chess Championship



- World chess champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway defended his title and won the FIDE World Championship in Dubai.
- He beat Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia.
- Carlsen clinched his fifth world championship title.

## Olympics India inducts 148 athletes in list of TOPS athletes for 2024



- A total of 148 athletes have been identified for support under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme at a meeting of the Mission Olympic Cell of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The 148 athletes include 20 new inductees and other athletes in seven Olympic disciplines and six Paralympic disciplines.
- The TOP scheme is an attempt to provide assistance to India's top athletes.
- This scheme was started in 2014.

**Simone Biles named Time's 2021 Athlete of the Year**



- Simone Biles of USA was named Time magazine's 2021 Athlete of the Year.
- The world's most decorated gymnast, a four-time Olympic medallist, was hailed for putting her mental health first when she withdrew from four event finals at the Tokyo Olympics.
- Despite the setback, the 24-year-old managed to earn a team all-around silver and a bronze in balance beam at the Tokyo Games.

**Sunil Gavaskar honoured with SJFI Medal 2021**



- The Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) has decided to honour former Indian Cricketer and cricket commentator Sunil Manohar Gavaskar with its prestigious 'SJFI Medal 2021'.
- SJFI Medal is the highest honour of SJFI.
- SJFI was founded on 27th February 1976 at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal.

Award	Winner
SJFI Sportsman of the year 2021	Neeraj Chopra (Javelin)
SJFI Sportswoman of the year 2021	Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting)
SJFI Team of the Year 2021	Indian Men's Hockey team
SJFI Parathletes of the year 2021(Men)	Pramod Bhagat (Badminton) and Sumit Antil (Javelin)
SJFI Parathletes of the year 2021(Women)	Avani Lekhara (rifle shooter)
SJFI Special Recognition Award	Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ)

## Calendar of Events 2022

- ATP Cup | **Jan. 1-9** | Sydney
- 2022 Dakar Rally | **Jan. 1-14** | Saudi Arabia
- African Cup of Nations | **Jan. 9-Feb. 6** | Cameroon
- Indian Open Badminton | **Jan. 11-16** | New Delhi
- ICC U19 World Cup | **Jan. 14-Feb. 5** | West Indies



- Australian Open | **Jan. 17-30**
- Tata Open ATP 250 | **Jan. 31-Feb. 6** | Pune

- Winter Olympics | **Feb. 4-20** | Beijing
- ICC Women's World Cup | **March 4-April 3** | New Zealand

- All England Open Badminton | **March 16-20** | Birmingham
- Formula One season opener - Bahrain Grand Prix | **March 20**
- Masters Tournament | **April 4-10** | Augusta, USA



- Indian Premier League | **April-May**
- World Swimming Championships | **May 13-29** | Fukuoka, Japan
- PGA Championship | **May 19-22** | Oklahoma, USA



- French Open | **May 16-June 5**
- US Open (golf) | **June 16-19** | Brookline, USA
- Wimbledon | **June 27-July 10**
- Tour de France | **July 1-24**
- FIH Women's Hockey World Cup | **July 1-17** | Spain-Netherlands
- The Open (golf) | **July 10-17** | St. Andrews, Scotland
- World Athletics Championships | **July 15-24** | Oregon, USA

- Commonwealth Games | **July 28-Aug. 8** | Birmingham
- Badminton World Championships | **Aug. 21-28** | Tokyo
- US Open (tennis) | **Aug. 29-Sept. 11**



- Asian Games | **Sept. 10-25** | Hangzhou, China
- ICC Men's T20 World Cup | **Oct. 16-Nov. 13** | Australia
- Davis Cup & Billie Jean King Cup | **November**



- FIFA Men's World Cup | **Nov. 21-Dec. 18** | Qatar
- Badminton World Tour Finals | **Dec. 14-18** | Guangzhou, China



## 11. IMPORTANT DAYS

Its about significance of special days

### World AIDS Day - December 1



## WORLD AIDS DAY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

World AIDS Day, designated on 1 December every year since 1988, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease.

[WWW.ARULIASACADEMY.COM](http://WWW.ARULIASACADEMY.COM)

- The day aims to show support for people living with HIV and the ones who have lost their lives because of AIDS.
- The theme for the year 2021 is 'End inequalities. End AIDS.'
- The day was first marked in 1988.

### International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - December 2



- The day commemorates the brutal history of slavery practised by colonial rulers of past centuries.
- It aims to eradicate modern forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.

## National Pollution Control Day - December 2



NATIONAL  
**POLLUTION CONTROL**  
DAY  
DECEMBER 02

- The day is observed in the memory of the people who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
- The day is celebrated in India to make the citizens aware of laws that exist in India that help to contain pollution.
- The Bhopal gas tragedy occurred on December 2nd and 3rd, 1984.
- During the accident poisonous chemical methyl isocyanate leaked from a pesticide plant union carbide India Limited in Bhopal.
- It was considered the biggest industrial disaster in the world.

## International Day of Persons with Disabilities - December 3



- Every year, the day is celebrated by the United Nations and several other organizations spread all over the world.
- This year the theme is - "Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19"
- The International Day of Persons with Disability was first proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992.

## Indian Navy Day- December 4



- Every year the Indian Navy Day is celebrated to commemorate Operation Trident.
- The operation was launched by the Indian Navy during the India-Pakistan war of 1971 to attack Karachi Harbour.
- The theme for this year is “Indian Navy - Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive”.

## International Anti-Corruption Day - December 9



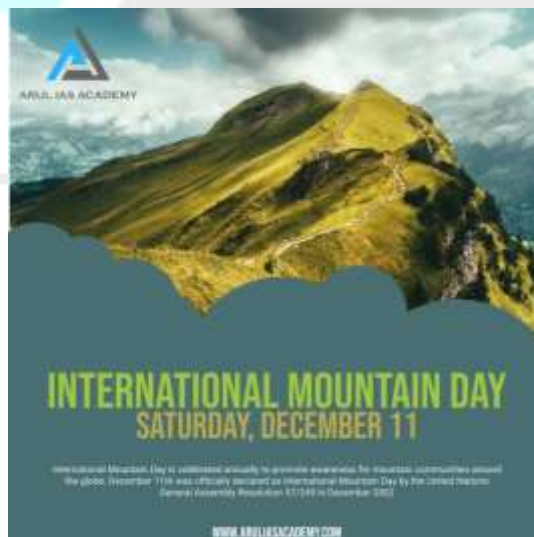
- The day is observed globally to raise awareness about corruption and the ways to combat this global ill.
- As per reports, the global cost of corruption is about five percent of the world’s Gross Domestic Product or \$2.6 trillion.
- The theme for this year’s International Anti-Corruption Day is “Your right, your role: Say no to corruption”.

## Human Rights Day - December 10



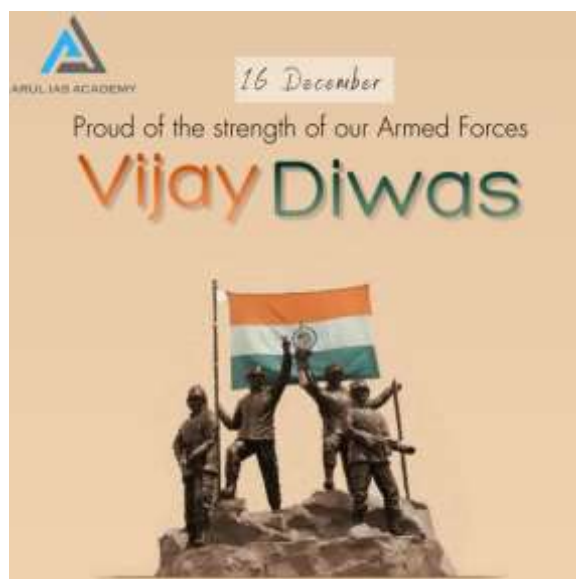
- This Day came into existence on December 10, 1948, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations.
- This day is observed every year across the world, as it empowers us all.
- The day also acknowledges the advocates and defenders of human rights around the world.
- The theme for Human Rights Day 2021 is “EQUALITY - Reducing Inequalities, Advancing Human Rights.”
- This year’s Human Rights Day theme relates to ‘Equality’ and Article 1 of the UDHR - “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

## International Mountain Day - December 11



- The day is celebrated to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life.
- It also highlights the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and building alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and environments around the world.
- The theme of this year is “sustainable mountain tourism”.

## Vijay Diwas - December 16



- The country is celebrating the 50th Vijay Diwas in 2021.
- Vijay Diwas is observed to commemorate the service, valour, and sacrifices of the gallant men of the Indian Armed Forces' victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.
- The Indo-Pakistan war of 1971 which began on December 3 lasted for 13 days and officially ended on December 16.

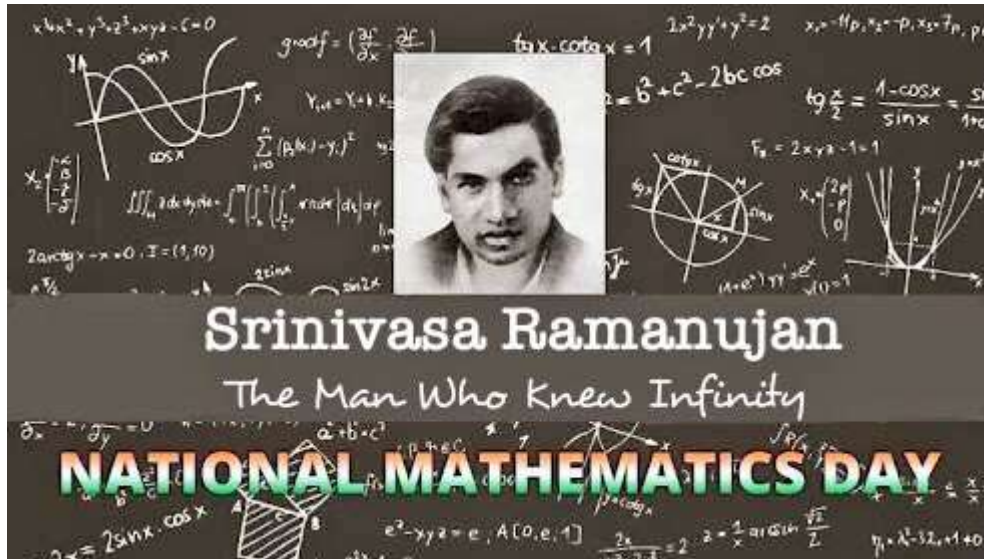
## International Human Solidarity - December 20



- The day is observed every year to celebrate unity in diversity and raise awareness about the importance of solidarity.
- According to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, solidarity is among the fundamental values that are essential to international relations.



## National Mathematics Day - December 22



- The day marks the birth anniversary of famous mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- The day was announced on 26 February 2012 by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of the Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan (22 Dec 1887- 26 Apr 1920).
- In India, 2012 was also observed as National Mathematics Year.

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## TEST SCHEDULE FOR TNPSC

### GROUP – II MAINS

### BASED ON REVISED SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

**PAPER – I (S.S.L.C. Standard)**

**(Duration: 1 hours 30minutes)**

S.NO	TITLE	NO.OF QUES	MARKS	TOTAL MARKS	REMARKS
1.	Tamil to English Translation	2	25	50	Total Marks -100 Minimum Qualifying Marks – 25 (Answer sheets of the candidates who do not secure minimum qualifying marks in Paper-I will not be considered for the evaluation of Paper-II)
2.	English to Tamil Translation	2	25	50	

**PAPER – II (Degree Standard)**

**(Duration: 3 Hours)**

S.NO	TITLE	NO.OF QUES	MARKS	TOTAL MARKS	REMARKS
1.	Precis Writing	3	20	60	Total Marks – 300 (This part has to be answered fully in Tamil or in English alone) (Marks secured in Paper-I will Not be considered for selection. Marks secured in Paper-II alone will be considered for Selection.)
2.	Comprehension	3	20	60	
3.	Hints Development	3	20	60	
4.	Essay Writing on 'Thirukkural'	3	20	60	
5.	Letter writing (Official)	3	20	60	

**NOTE : ALL TEST BASED ON NEW SYLLABUS**

**SYLLABUS :** <http://www.tnpsc.gov.in/Syllabus/CCSE II Syllabus 23 10 2019.pdf>

## TEST BATCH DETAILS

▲ PAPER 1 (20 TEST ) & PAPER 2 (20 TEST)

▲ TEST BASED ON REVISED SYLLABUS

TEST SCHEDULE FOR TNPSC GROUP – II MAINS

### PAPER 1 - MODULE 1

S.NO DATE	TEST TOPICS	PAPER / MARKS TIME
TEST NO.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Origin and Development of Tamil Civilization - From classical antiquity to modernity.</li><li>▲ Sangam Period Literature along with the historical events related to Language Development.</li></ul>	PAPER 1 Total Marks -100 Duration: 1hours 30minutes
TEST NO.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Musical Tradition of Tamil Nadu - Folklore - music, dance, Musical instruments and folk drama - From classical age to post-modern age with its modifications.</li><li>▲ Dramatic Art Form - Street Theatre - Folk Theatre - Conventional Theatrical techniques.</li></ul>	PAPER 1 Total Marks -100 Duration: 1hours 30minutes
TEST NO.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Socio-Economic History - Overseas trade - evidence from classical literature like "Pattinapalai".</li><li>▲ Rationalist Movements - Dravidian Movement and Self Respect Movement.</li></ul>	PAPER 1 Total Marks -100 Duration: 1hours 30minutes
TEST NO.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Contribution of Social Reform Movements in the implementation of Social Welfare Measures and Socio-Economic Development of Tamil Nadu - Reservation Policy and its Benefits - Contribution of Social Justice and Social Harmony in the Socio Economic Development of Tamil Nadu</li></ul>	PAPER 1 Total Marks -100 Duration: 1hours 30minutes
TEST NO.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Feminism - Socio - feminism, Literary feminism - Different Concepts and Perceptions.</li><li>▲ Contemporary Tamil Language - Computer Tamil Diction - Legal Tamil - Tamil as Administrative Language - New genres.</li></ul>	PAPER 1 Total Marks -100 Duration: 1hours 30minutes



# TEST SCHEDULE FOR TNPSC GROUP – II MAINS

## MODULE 2: TEST NO.6 TO 10 ON PAPER 2

### PAPER 2 - MODULE 2

S.NO	TEST TOPICS	PAPER / MARKS TIME
TEST NO.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Preci Writing</li><li>▲ Comprehension</li><li>▲ Hints Development</li><li>▲ Essay Writing on 'Thirukkural'</li><li>▲ Letter writing (Official)</li></ul>	PAPER 2 Total Marks -300 Duration: 3hours
TEST NO.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Preci Writing</li><li>▲ Comprehension</li><li>▲ Hints Development</li><li>▲ Essay Writing on 'Thirukkural'</li><li>▲ Letter writing (Official)</li></ul>	PAPER 2 Total Marks -300 Duration: 3hours
TEST NO.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Preci Writing</li><li>▲ Comprehension</li><li>▲ Hints Development</li><li>▲ Essay Writing on 'Thirukkural'</li><li>▲ Letter writing (Official)</li></ul>	PAPER 2 Total Marks -300 Duration: 3hours
TEST NO.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Preci Writing</li><li>▲ Comprehension</li><li>▲ Hints Development</li><li>▲ Essay Writing on 'Thirukkural'</li><li>▲ Letter writing (Official)</li></ul>	PAPER 2 Total Marks -300 Duration: 3hours
TEST NO.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Preci Writing</li><li>▲ Comprehension</li><li>▲ Hints Development</li><li>▲ Essay Writing on 'Thirukkural'</li><li>▲ Letter writing (Official)</li></ul>	PAPER 2 Total Marks -300 Duration: 3hours

▲ **MODULE 1 : PAPER 1 (5 TEST )**

▲ **MODULE 2 : PAPER 2 (5 TEST )**

▲ **MODULE 3 TEST SCHEDULE (30 TEST) WILL BE GIVEN AFTER COMPLETION OF (MODULE 1 & 2)**

▲ **MODULE 3 : PAPER 1 AND PAPER 2 (30 TEST)**

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**ARUL IAS ACADEMY**



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY

**BASED ON REVISED SCHEME OF EXAMINATION**

**TEST SCHEDULE FOR TNPSC**

**GROUP - II/IIA PRELIMS**

- ▲ SCHOOL BOOK TEST : 10
- ▲ SYLLABUS BASED : 10
- ▲ TOTAL TEST : 20

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## **MODULE 1: SCHOOL BOOK MANDATORY TEST SCHEDULE**

<b>S.NO</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NO.OF QUES</b>
3.	<b>CIVICS 6<sup>TH</sup> -8<sup>TH</sup> STD</b>	<b>100</b>
4.	<b>CIVICS 9<sup>TH</sup> -10<sup>TH</sup> STD</b>	<b>100</b>
5.	<b>POLITICAL SCIENCE 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>150</b>
6.	<b>GEOGRAPHY 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 10<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>150</b>
7.	<b>GEOGRAPHY 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>100</b>
8.	<b>ECONOMICS 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>150</b>
9.	<b>HISTORY 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup> STD</b>	<b>150</b>
10.	<b>HISTORY 9<sup>TH</sup> TO 12<sup>TH</sup> STD</b>	<b>150</b>
11.	<b>SCIENCE 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 10<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>200</b>
12.	<b>SCIENCE 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>150</b>

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## MODULE 2: SYLLABUS BASED TEST

**DATE OF EXAM:** Will Be Given Individually For Students Joining Test Batch

TEST NO	TITLE	NO.OF QUES
13.	<b>UNIT-VI: INDIAN ECONOMY</b> (i) Nature of Indian economy - Five year plan models - an assessment - Planning Commission and Niti Ayog. (ii) Sources of revenue - Reserve Bank of India - Fiscal Policy and Monetary Policy - Finance Commission - Resource sharing between Union and State Governments - Goods and Services Tax. (iii) Structure of Indian Economy and Employment Generation, Land reforms and Agriculture - Application of Science and Technology in agriculture - Industrial growth - Rural welfare oriented programmes - Social problems - Population, education, health, employment, poverty. <b>APTITUDE</b> ✓ Highest Common Factor (HCF) ✓ Lowest Common Multiple (LCM) <b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b> ✓ 2020 CURRENT AFFAIRS	200 QUES
14.	<b>UNIT- III: GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA</b> (i) Location - Physical features - Monsoon, rainfall, weather and climate - Water resources - Rivers in India - Soil, minerals and natural resources - Forest and wildlife - Agricultural pattern. (ii) Transport - Communication. (iii) Social geography - Population density and distribution - Racial, linguistic groups and major tribes. (iv) Natural calamity - Disaster Management - Environmental pollution: Reasons and preventive measures - Climate change - Green energy. <b>APTITUDE</b> ✓ SIMPLIFICATION AND PERCENTAGE <b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b> ✓ JAN&FEB 2020	150 QUES
15.	<b>UNIT-VII: INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT</b> (i) National renaissance - Early uprising against British rule - Indian National Congress - Emergence of leaders - B.R.Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh, Bharathiar, V.O.Chidambaranar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kamarajar,	150 QUES

	<p>Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Thanthai Periyar, Rajaji, Subash Chandra Bose and others.</p> <p>(ii) Different modes of Agitation: Growth of Satyagraha and Militant movements.</p> <p>(iii) Communalism and partition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ RATIO and PROPORTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ MAR&amp;APRIL&amp;MAY 2020</p>	
16.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT-V: INDIAN POLITY</b></p> <p>(i) Constitution of India - Preamble to the Constitution - Salient features of the Constitution - Union, State and Union Territory.</p> <p>(ii) Citizenship, Fundamental rights, Fundamental duties, Directive Principles of State Policy.</p> <p>(iii) Union Executive, Union legislature - State Executive, State Legislature - Local governments, Panchayat Raj.</p> <p>(iv) Spirit of Federalism: Centre - State Relationships.</p> <p>(v) Election - Judiciary in India - Rule of law.</p> <p>(vi) Corruption in public life - Anti-corruption measures - Lokpal and LokAyukta - Right to Information - Empowerment of women - Consumer protection forums, Human rights charter.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ SIMPLE and COMPOUND INTEREST</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ JUNE TO SEPT 2020</p>	200 QUES
17.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT - IV: HISTORY AND CULTURE OF INDIA</b></p> <p>(i) Indus valley civilization - Guptas, Delhi Sultans, Mughals and Marathas - Age of Vijayanagaram and Bahmani Kingdoms - South Indian history.</p> <p>(ii) Change and Continuity in the Socio - Cultural History of India.</p> <p>(iii) Characteristics of Indian culture, Unity in diversity - Race, language, custom.</p> <p>(iv) India as a Secular State, Social Harmony.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT- VIII : History, Culture, Heritage and Socio - Political Movements in Tamil Nadu</b></p> <p>(i) History of Tamil Society, related Archaeological discoveries, Tamil Literature from Sangam age till contemporary times.</p> <p>(ii) Thirukkural :</p>	175 QUES

	<p>(a) Significance as a Secular literature  (b) Relevance to Everyday Life  (c) Impact of Thirukkural on Humanity  (d) Thirukkural and Universal Values - Equality, Humanism, etc  (e) Relevance to Socio - Politico - Economic affairs  (f) Philosophical content in Thirukkural  <b>(iii)</b> Role of Tamil Nadu in freedom struggle - Early agitations against British Rule - Role of women in freedom struggle.  <b>(iv)</b> Evolution of 19th and 20th Century Socio-Political movements in Tamil Nadu - Justice Party, Growth of Rationalism - Self Respect Movement, Dravidian movement and Principles underlying both these movements, Contributions of Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ TIME AND WORK</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ OCT TO DEC 2020</p>	
18.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT - IX : Development Administration in Tamil Nadu</b></p> <p><b>(i)</b> Human Development Indicators in Tamil Nadu and a comparative assessment across the Country - Impact of Social Reform movements in the Socio - Economic Development of Tamil Nadu.  <b>(ii)</b> Political parties and Welfare schemes for various sections of people - Rationale behind Reservation Policy and access to Social Resources - Economic trends in Tamil Nadu - Role and impact of social welfare schemes in the Socio - economic development of Tamil Nadu.  <b>(iii)</b> Social Justice and Social Harmony as the Cornerstones of Socio - Economic development.  <b>(iv)</b> Education and Health systems in Tamil Nadu.  <b>(v)</b> Geography of Tamil Nadu and its impact on Economic growth.  <b>(vi)</b> Achievements of Tamil Nadu in various fields.  <b>(vii)</b> e-governance in Tamil Nadu.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ AREA AND VOLUME</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ JAN TO FEB 2021</p>	150 QUES

19.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT-I : GENERAL SCIENCE</b></p> <p>(i) Scientific Knowledge and Scientific temper - Power of Reasoning - Rote Learning Vs Conceptual Learning - Science as a tool to understand the past, present and future.</p> <p>(ii) Nature of Universe - General Scientific Laws - Mechanics - Properties of Matter, Force, Motion and Energy - Everyday application of the basic principles of Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism, Light, Sound, Heat, Nuclear Physics, Laser, Electronics and Communications.</p> <p>(iii) Elements and Compounds, Acids, Bases, Salts, Petroleum Products, Fertilizers, Pesticides.</p> <p>(iv) Main concepts of Life Science, Classification of Living Organisms, Evolution, Genetics, Physiology, Nutrition, Health and Hygiene, Human diseases.</p> <p>(v) Environment and Ecology.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ REASONING</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ MARCH AND APRIL &amp; MAY - 2021</p>	150 QUES
20.	<b>MOCK TEST NO.1</b>	200 QUES
21.	<b>MOCK TEST NO.2</b>	200 QUES
22.	<b>MOCK TEST NO.3</b>	200 QUES

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