

## ➤ Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme

- On February 1, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched the Rs. 2,400 crore Perasiriyar Anbazhagan school development scheme at the inaugural function held in Katpadi government boys higher secondary school in Vellore.
- The new scheme, named after the late DMK leader K Anbazhagan, seeks to renovate government schools, construct new classrooms and other facilities across the state.

## ➤ Lab-Grown Diamonds (LGD)

- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras - has got a grant of Rs.242 crore for five years from the Union department of commerce to promote research and development on lab-grown diamonds (LGD).
- This is in line with the 2023-24 Union Budget recommendation, as announced by Union Finance Minister.
- The India Centre for Lab Grown Diamonds (InCent-LGD) at IIT Madras was identified for this prestigious project
- Lab-grown diamonds are chemically, physically, and optically the same as those found beneath the earth's surface.

## ➤ 'Pudumai Penn' Scheme – Phase 2

- Chief Minister – launched phase 2 of the 'Pudumai Penn' scheme on February 8.
- During the event, the CM announced that more than 1.16 lakh girl students benefited from the first phase of the state scheme 'Pudumai Penn'.
- This scheme has been designed to bring back girl students, who were unable to continue their higher studies, and prevent dropouts among them.
- Implemented by the social welfare and women empowerment department.
- The students would be paid Rs 1,000 monthly till they complete their graduation or diploma courses.

## ➤ Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicles Policy 2023

- The Tamil Nadu government - has unveiled a new electric vehicle (EV) policy to promote the growth of a strong EV ecosystem in the state.
- The 'Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicles Policy 2023' was released by Chief Minister M K Stalin on February 14, 2023.
- The new policy seeks to strengthen the EV manufacturing value chain, improve EV adoption across vehicle segments, improve green electricity value chain, and promote rapid EV infrastructure development.

## ➤ 'Maaperum Tamil Kanavu

- The Tamil Nadu Virtual Academy (TVA) - has jointly launched a programme, 'Maaperum Tamil Kanavu' (The Big Tamil Dream), in coordination with various government departments.
- The new programme seeks to create awareness among college students on Tamil culture and heritage and kindle their interest in the language as well as make them aware of various opportunities available in different fields.

## ➤ New Capital – Visakhapatnam

- Visakhapatnam, a port and industrial city brimming with cosmopolitan culture has been in the news ever since Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's government announced that it would be the new capital of the state.
- The announcement of Visakhapatnam, a new capital for Andhra comes nine years after the state of Telangana was carved out of its territory and given Hyderabad as its capital.

➤ India to be Theme Country

- India to be Theme Country at 2025 Madrid International Book Fair.
- India will be invited as the focal country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025, the Ambassador of Spain to India.
- Spain is the theme country at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair.
- The Madrid International Book Fair is an annual event held in the Buen Retiro Park in Madrid.

➤ Visit India Year 2023 Campaign

- Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy - recently launched the "Visit India Year 2023 campaign" to encourage inbound travel to the country on January 31.
- The minister also launched a logo of the campaign during the event.
- In the logo, elements of India's heritage, its monuments have been depicted, as also modern achievements of India in space and other sectors.
- The Visit India Year 2023 campaign is an initiative of the Tourism Ministry.

➤ World's 1st Living Heritage University

- Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, West Bengal founded by Rabindranath Tagore in 1921, is set to become the world's first "living heritage university".
- The university is expected to receive the heritage tag from UNESCO in April or May 2023.
- The institute was granted the status of a Central University in the year 1951 through a Central Act.
- It is the only university whose Chancellor is the PM of India.

➤ Save Wetlands Campaign

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav in February 2023, launched the 'Save Wetlands Campaign.'
- The campaign is based on a "whole of society" approach to wetland conservation.
- It provides an opportunity to sensitise people about the value of wetlands, increase the coverage of wetlands and citizen participation for wetland conservation.

➤ Lithium Reserves

- On February 9, the government – announced that lithium reserves have been found for the first time in the country in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified availability of lithium-inferred resources of 5.9 million tonnes in Salal-Haimana area of Reasi in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Lithium is a non-ferrous metal and is a key component of lithium-ion batteries in electric vehicles (EVs) and other chargeable instruments.

➤ 7.8 Magnitude Earthquake

- A powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake - hit southern Turkey and northern Syria early on February 6, killing more than 2,600 people and injuring thousands.
- The earthquake struck at a depth of about 18 kilometres near the Turkish city of Gaziantep, which is about 60 km from the Syrian border, causing extensive damage to properties and significant casualties.

➤ India-France-UAE Trilateral Cooperation Initiative

- In recent times, India has been increasing its bilateral trade with UAE. With CEPA and the Golden Visa program (extension) of UAE, business relations have increased exponentially.
- On the other hand, India has strong defence relations with France. From fighter jets to drones, the Indian military is using French-made goods. Extending the ties further, India is launching Trilateral Cooperation Initiative with the countries.

## ➤ PM VIKAS - PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman

- PM VIKAS is a package of assistance for traditional artisans and craftspeople.
- The scheme will enable them to improve the quality, scale and reach of their products, integrating them with the MSME value chain.
- Components of scheme include financial support, skill training, knowledge of modern digital techniques, promotion, market linkage, digital payments, and social security.

## ➤ Indian Rice Congress 2023

- The second edition of the Indian Rice Congress was recently inaugurated by President Murmu at National Rice Research Institute at Cuttack, Odisha.
- The 2023 congress was held on the theme "Transforming Rice Research".
- The congress focused on the global food crisis and the recent scientific developments that will help in increasing the production and yield of paddy crops.

## ➤ World Hindi Conference

- Foreign minister S Jaishankar - will join Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka in inaugurating the 12th World Hindi Conference at Nadi in Fiji on February 15.
- The main theme of the conference is 'Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence'.
- A 270-member delegation will travel to Fiji for the conference.

## ➤ The World Government Summit 2023 The World Government Summit 2023 - is set to begin on February 13 in Dubai.

- The Summit will be held under the theme of "Shaping Future Governments".
- It will bring together global thought leaders, global experts, and decision makers.
- India is to announce its partners of "India Stack" at this year's World Government Summit.

## ➤ Operation Dost

- As part of "Operation Dost," India is deploying a field hospital, supplies, and rescue personnel to the earthquake-stricken countries of Turkey and Syria.
- A 7.8-magnitude earthquake that occurred while people were asleep destroyed thousands of buildings, trapped an undetermined number of people, and may have affected millions of people.

## ➤ Tapas-BH

- India's first indigenous advanced unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for strategic reconnaissance and surveillance "Tapas-BH" - will be unveiled next week.
- The Tapas-BH (Tactical Aerial Platform for Advanced Surveillance-beyond horizon) drone was developed by DRDO.
- The medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) Tapas-BH is developed for ISTAR (intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance) requirements of the Army, IAF and Navy.

## ➤ TARKASH

1. The National Security Guard (NSG) and US Special Operations Forces (SOF) – are currently conducting an exercise named Operation TARKASH in Chennai.
2. This marks the sixth edition of the exercise, which started on January 16 and will conclude on February 14.
3. This is the first joint military exercise between India and USA in 2023.

## ➤ Lifetime Achievement Honour

- Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh - was recently announced as the winner of Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honours in London for his contribution to economic and political life.
- The award acknowledges Dr Singh's academic achievements at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

#### ➤ Prestigious Space Foundation Award

- The James Webb Telescope is an infrared space telescope orbiting the sun.
- The telescope was jointly developed by European Space Agency, NASA, and Canadian Space Agency.
- The James Webb Telescope has been discovering many new facts and making extraordinary explorations since its launch.
- Recently, the James Webb Telescope won the Space Foundation Award.

#### ➤ Repo Rate

- On February 8, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) - hiked the repo rate by 25 basis points.
- The sixth consecutive rise since the RBI started hiking rates in May 2022 has resulted in a 250-basis-point increase in interest rates.
- The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate will stand revised to 6.25% and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate will now be 6.75%.
- The RBI has also projected a GDP growth for the next fiscal at 6.4%.

#### ➤ Digital India Mobile Van launched.

- It was launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in New Delhi.
- The objective is to spread awareness of Digital India initiatives and also to spread the word about the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG).
- Lucknow is the first destination of the van where G20 DEWG's first meet is being held. It will tour various other cities in the country as well.

#### ➤ Gaganyaan Astronauts

- Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and IIT M – have recently signed an MoU for the training of Gaganyaan astronauts.
- Indian astronauts on India's first human space flight mission Gaganyaan will undergo training with modules developed by IIT-Madras using extended reality (XR), which includes immersive technologies like augmented reality, virtual reality and mixed reality.

#### ➤ Jupiter - Planet with Most Moons

- Jupiter is the biggest planet in the sun's family. Scientists believed that Saturn had the maximum number of moons, 82 moons have been discovered around Saturn so far.
- On the other hand, it was believed that Jupiter had 80 moons. However, the latest discovery revealed Jupiter has 12 more moons. With this, the count of Jupiter's moons increased to 92.

#### ➤ SSLV-D2

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - successfully launched its second developmental flight of a Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, SSLV-D2.
- Isro's smallest and latest commercial rocket, SSLV-D2 lifted off from the first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre-SHAR, Sriharikota on February 10.



- The SSLV-D2 placed three satellites - ISRO's Earth Observation Satellite – EOS 07, U.S.-based firm Antaris' Janus-1 and Chennai-based space start-up SpaceKidz's AzaadiSAT-2 - developed by start-ups in a 450-km circular orbit around the Earth.

#### ➤ Snapdragon Satellite

- Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. - has introduced the world's first satellite-based two-way capable messaging solution called 'Snapdragon Satellite' for premium smartphones.
- The Snapdragon Satellite will offer global connectivity using mobile messaging from around the world.
- The first devices to get this technology will be those that are based on the flagship Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 Mobile platform.

#### ➤ World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

- On February 14, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) - said that rise in sea level has been 4.5mm per year during 2013-22.
- According to the WMO, the rise could continue through this century, recording a total rise of 0.6 metre by 2100, as compared to 1995-2014 level, even under the low greenhouse gas (GHG) emission scenario.
- The danger is especially acute for 900 million people who live in coastal zones at low elevations and also for assets worth up to \$14. 2 trillion by 2100 within the coastal floodplains.

#### ➤ World Happiness Index 2023

- The World Happiness Index 2023 Report will mark its tenth anniversary with this year's Globe Happiness Reflect, which uses data from international surveys to show how people rank their lives in more than 150 countries.
- In these dark times, there is a glimmer of optimism revealed by the World Happiness Index 2023. The pandemic not only caused anguish and suffering, but it also led to a rise in social assistance and charitable giving.
- Finland was named the world's happiest country for the fifth year in a row, according to the World Happiness Report.
- India ranked 136th out of 150 in the World Happiness Report 2023.

#### ➤ Largest Milk Producer In The World - India

- India is the largest milk producer in the world. It contributed to 24% of the global milk production in the year 2021-22.
- India's milk production has registered a growth of 51% during the last eight years - 2014-15 and 2021-22. Production has increased to 220 million tonnes in 2021-22.
- The data was released by Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistics Database (FAOSTAT).

#### ➤ Organ Donation - 2022

- Tamil Nadu – is ranked at second place in organ donation in 2022 with 156 donations.
- Telangana, which was far behind Tamil Nadu till a few years ago, is now at the top of the table with 194 donations.
- The state has been the leader in organ donations till 2018.
- Tamil Nadu was among the first states to make it mandatory for all government hospitals to declare brain deaths.

#### ➤ Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021

- India - has been placed at the fifth position out of 184 countries in terms of its accreditation system, as per the recently released Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021.
- Germany topped the list, followed by China and the US.

- The ranking is based on the 184 economies' infrastructure quality.
- The country's overall ranking is 10th in the GQII index. In terms of metrology and standardization, India was ranked 21st and ninth, respectively, in the world.

➤ Indian Coast Guard Day - February 01

- Indian Coast Guard was originally established on February 1, 1977.
- It aims to prevent the sea-borne smuggling of goods that hampered India's domestic economy.
- On August 18, 1978, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Day was officially established by the Parliament to be celebrated on February 1.

➤ World Wetlands Day - February 02

- World Wetlands Day is observed annually on 2 February to raise awareness about wetlands.
- The theme of World Wetlands Day 2023 is "It's Time for Wetlands Restoration".
- Wetland is an area of land that is either covered with water or saturated with water.

➤ World Cancer Day – February 04

- The day is observed every year to build global awareness of the dangers of cancer and its symptoms and prevention.
- Cancer has become the second leading disease that causes death globally.
- The theme for World Cancer day for the last three years - 2022, 2023 and 2024 – is "Close The Care Gap".
- The official colours of World Cancer Day are blue and orange.

➤ International Day of Human Fraternity: February 04

- International Day of Human Fraternity was instituted to celebrate the historic document titled "Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together", being signed by the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, and Pope Francis on Feb 4, 2019.
- Motto: Harmony in difference.

➤ International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation – February 06

- International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed on February 6.
- The primary objective behind observing this day is to amplify and direct efforts on the elimination of this cruel practice and to promote the elimination of female genital mutilation, coordinated, and systematic efforts are needed.

➤ Safer Internet Day 2023 – February 07

- This year's Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday, 7 February 2023. Significantly, it was the 20th edition of the campaign.
- Safer Internet Day is marked to help the younger generation understand safe practices on the Internet.
- The theme for Safer Internet Day 2023 is 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.'

➤ World Pulses Day - February 10

- The day is observed every year to spread awareness about the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses.
- Theme 2022 - Pulses for a sustainable future.
- As per the United Nations, this year's World Pulses Day celebration will have its key focus on the contribution of pulses to improving soil productivity and increasing the resilience of farming systems.

## ➤ World Unani Day – February 11

- World Unani Day is observed every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of social reformer and renowned Unani scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan.
- Hakim Ajmal Khan, who was born on February 11, 1868, was an educator, a
- Unani physician, and the founder of scientific study in the Unani system of medicine.

## ➤ International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2023: February 11

- International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed every year on 11 February to promote the full and equal access and participation of females in Science, Technology
- The theme for 2023 is 'IDEAS (Innovate, Demonstrate, Elevate, Advance, Sustain).'

## ➤ India celebrates National Productivity Day - February 12

- The annual celebration of National Productivity Day is observed on February 12, coordinated by the National Productivity Council (NPC).
- The NPC's mission is to promote awareness towards increasing the productivity of the country.
- This year's National Productivity Day theme is "Productivity, Green Growth, and Sustainability: Celebrating India's G20 Presidency."

## ➤ National Women's Day - February 13

- The day is observed every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, popularly known as the nightingale of India.
- The National Women's Day celebrates the unparalleled contribution made by Sarojini Naidu for establishing women's rights in the patriarchal Indian society and recognizes the cultural, political, and economic contributions of women in India.

## ➤ International Epilepsy Day – February 13

- International Epilepsy Day is observed on the second Monday of February every year.
- Epilepsy is a neurological disorder caused by abnormal electrical activity in the brain. The day is celebrated every year to raise awareness about this disease.
- Theme 2023 – 'Stigma'.

## ➤ World Radio Day – February 13

- World Radio Day is celebrated every year to mark the important role that radio plays in our lives and in society.
- The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012
- The radio was invented in 1895 by Italian physicist and inventor Guglielmo Marconi.
- Theme 2023 - "Radio and Peace".

## ➤ International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD): February 15

- The day is observed on February 15 every year.
- The day was created by Childhood Cancer International, an umbrella organisation of various child cancer support groups created by parents.
- Theme for the three-year (2021- 2023) campaign for ICCD is 'Better Survival'A