



CURRENT AFFAIRS

≡ 27 DECEMBER, 2021 ≡

1. COVID-19 vaccination

Why in news?

- COVID-19 vaccination for children between 15 and 18 years of age will start from 3rd of next month.
 - The government has also decided that it will begin precaution doses for the healthcare workers and frontline workers from 10th of January.
 - Citizens above 60 years of age with co-morbidities will also have the option of precaution dose of the vaccine on the advice of their doctor from 10th January onwards.
 - Earlier, Bharat Biotech's COVID-19 vaccine 'Covaxin' received approval for Emergency use in children between 12 and 18 years of age.
 - Covaxin is formulated uniquely such that the same dosage can be administered to adults and children.
- It has established a proven record for

safety and efficacy in adults for the original variant and subsequent variants.

2. Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya

Why in news?

His 160th Birth Anniversary was celebrated on 26th december.

About:

- He was born on December 25, 1861, in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- He is known for his contribution to India's education system and his role in the Indian Independence movement.
- He founded the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1916.
- Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya was also one of the founders of Scout and Guide in India.
- In 2014, Pandit Malviya was posthumously conferred with Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award.

- He was given the title of 'Mahamana' or great soul by Mahatma Gandhi, who considered him as an elder brother.
- One of the most famous slogans, 'Satyamev Jayate' was said by Pandia Malviya in the session of 1918 when he was the President of the Indian National Congress.
- Pandit Malviya is known for his contributions to journalism.
- He was the chairman of the Hindustan Times from 1924 to 1946, and he also founded many Hindi and English newspapers, namely: The Leader, Hindustan Dainik, Maryada, etc.
- He was the President of the Indian National Congress for four sessions (1909, 1913, 1919, and 1932).

3. Sixth biggest economy

News:

India looks set to overtake France next year and then Britain in 2023 to regain its place as the world's sixth biggest economy, according to a report released by the British consultancy CEBR.

Findings:

- The world's economic output will exceed 100 trillion dollar for the

first time next year.

- It will take China a little longer than previously thought to overtake the United States as the No.1 economy.
- CEBR predicted China will become the world's top economy in dollar terms in 2030, two years later than forecast in last year's World Economic League Table report.
- The important issue for the 2020s is how the world economies cope with inflation, which has now reached 6.8 per cent in the U.S.
- The report showed Germany was on track to overtake Japan in terms of economic output in 2033. Russia could become a Top 10 economy by 2036 and Indonesia looks on track for ninth place in 2034.

4. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

Why in news?

- Ministry of Rural Development organised Job Fairs under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.
- Industry leaders from across 30 major sectors participated in job fairs organised across the country.
- Lakhs of job seekers participated in

the fairs.

- Job seekers in the age groups of 18 to 35 years having completed basic schooling between 5th to 10th standards and senior secondary or ITI, were provided free counselling at the venues.

About:

- It is a centrally-sponsored scheme announced in 2014.
- It is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
- The scheme is under the Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Its two major objectives are:**
 - (1) Incorporating diversity to the incomes of rural poor families
 - (2) Catering to the career aspirations of rural youth
- The focus of the scheme is on rural poor youth between the ages of 15 and 35.
- It is a demand-driven skills training program that is placement-linked.
- It supports the social and economic programs of the government such as Digital India, Make in India, Smart Cities, Start-up India and Stand-up India, as part of the Skill India

campaign.

5. Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)

Why in news?

- The Centre has formed a committee to look into the withdrawal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland.
- The move comes after representatives of the Nagaland government held a meeting with Union Home Minister in Delhi on Thursday.
- The panel will submit its report in 45 days.
- Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Vivek Joshi will head the five-member committee and Additional Secretary in the Union Home Ministry will be its Member-Secretary.
- The Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of Nagaland and the DGP of Assam Rifles will be the other members of the committee.
- The Centre formed the high-level committee three weeks after six civilians were killed in an Army ambush on December 4, and eight more in violence triggered by the incident in Nagaland's Mon district.

6. Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Why in news?

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate who helped end apartheid in South Africa, has died aged 90.
- A contemporary of anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, he was one of the driving forces behind the movement to end the policy of racial segregation and discrimination enforced by the white minority government against the black majority in South Africa from 1948 until 1991.
- The outspoken Tutu was considered the nation's conscience by both, the black majority and the white minority, an enduring testament to his faith and spirit of reconciliation in a divided nation.
- He was awarded the Nobel prize in 1984 for his role in the struggle to abolish the apartheid system.

7. PM-YUVA Mentorship Scheme

Why in news?

National Book Trust today announced the results of the all-India contest organized on the theme 'National Movement of India'

under PM-YUVA Mentorship Scheme.

About:

- As per the Scheme, 75 Authors were to be selected through this contest for a Scholarship-cum-Mentorship Scheme for young authors below the age of 30 years.
- The All-India Contest was organized from 1st June to 31st July through MyGov and National Book Trust platforms.
- Nearly 16 thousand entries in 22 Official languages and English were received from all across the country including some from Indian diaspora community.
- All the book proposals were read by multiple panels of experts and went through three layers of scrutiny.
- Prime Minister had called upon the youth to write about freedom fighters, and tales of valour during freedom struggle from their areas. Out of the 75 selected authors, 38 are males and 37 are females.
- The selected authors will undergo six-months of Mentorship in which they would be provided research and editorial support under the

guidance of eminent authors and the Editorial Team of National Book Trust.

- Their published books will be later translated into other Indian languages as well.
- During mentorship, the selected authors will receive a scholarship of 50 thousand rupees per month for a period of six months.
- A royalty of 10 percent will be payable to the authors on successful publications of their books.

8. TRIFED Van Dhan

Why in news?

Union Tribal Affairs Minister launched 'TRIFED Van Dhan', a Pictorial Chronicle of Tribal grit and enterprise.

About:

- It documents the work done for the promotion of tribal enterprise in the country and the achievements of tribal entrepreneurs under the Van Dhan Vikas Yojana.
- The chronicle gives an in-depth illustration of the activities undertaken by TRIFED which has impacted the life of almost 16 lakh tribals; including the introduction of

Minimum Support Price (MSP) for select forest produces.

- Over the past two years, The 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' has impacted the tribal ecosystem in a major way.
- He also launched the formation of 14 Honey Farmer Producer Organizations, MIS Portal for MSP for Minor Forest Produces, communication campaign SAMVAAD and promotional videos for promoting TRIBES INDIA.

9. Taste the TV (TTTV)

Why in news?

A Japanese professor has developed a prototype lickable TV screen that can imitate food flavours, another step towards creating a multi-sensory viewing experience.

About:

- The device, called Taste the TV (TTTV), uses a carousel of 10 flavour canisters that spray in combination to create the taste of a particular food.
- The flavour sample then rolls on

hygienic film over a flat TV screen for the viewer to try.

- Potential applications include distance learning for sommeliers and cooks, and tasting games and quizzes.

10. Good Governance Index 2021

News:

Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, released the Good Governance Index 2021 prepared by DARPG on Good Governance Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

About:

- Good Governance Index, GGI 2021 Framework covered ten sectors and 58 indicators.
- The sectors of GGI 2020-21 are 1) Agriculture and Allied Sectors, 2) Commerce & Industries, 3) Human Resource Development, 4) Public Health, 5.) Public Infrastructure & Utilities, 6) Economic Governance, 7) Social Welfare & Development, 8) Judicial & Public Security, 9) Environment, and 10) Citizen-Centric Governance.
- The GGI 2020-21 categorises States and UTs into four categories, i.e., (i)

Other States – Group A; (ii) Other States – Group B; (iii) North-East and Hill States; and (iv) Union Territories.

Results:

- 20 States have improved their composite GGI scores in 2021
- Gujarat topped the composite ranking in the 58 indicator index followed by Maharashtra and Goa.
- Uttar Pradesh registers 8.9 percent improvement in GGI indicators in the period 2019 to 2021.
- In the North-East and Hill States category, Mizoram and Jammu and Kashmir have registered an overall increase of 10.4% and 3.7% respectively over GGI 2019.
- Delhi topped the Union Territories category composite ranking

11. Magnetar

News:

An international group of researchers has succeeded in measuring for the first time the characteristics of a flare on a distant magnetar.

About:

- A magnetar is a rare compact type of

neutron star teeming with energy and magnetism.

- The magnetar they have studied is about 13 million light years away, in the direction of the NGC 253, a prominent galaxy in the Sculptor group of galaxies.
- The flare, which spewed within a few tenths of a second as much energy as the Sun would shed in 100,000 years, was captured accidentally on April 15, 2020, by the Atmosphere-Space Interactions Monitor instrument (ASIM) of the International Space Station.

Significance:

- This data was then analysed by the researchers over the period of a year to throw light into the structure of

the flare, and thereby, into the nature of such magnetars.

- This is the first study to characterise such a flare from so distant a magnetar.
- Magnetars are relatively rare objects, with only about thirty having been spotted within the Milky Way so far.
- The present magnetar is only the second one to be studied which is located outside the galaxy and is also the furthest.

