

NATIONAL

1. Samudrayaan Mission

Why in news – Samudrayaan Mission is to be undertaken by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Key Points –

- 3 people to be sent 6,000 meters below sea level as a part of the mission.
- Vehicle name for exploration – MATSYA 6000.
- MATSYA 6000 is being designed and developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- Aim - Exploring mineral resources rich in nickel, cobalt, rare earths, manganese etc.
- Project cost - Rs. 4,077 crore for 5 years.

2. 8th Vande Bharat Express

Why in news – PM Modi virtually flagged off the 8th Vande Bharat Express on Jan 15, 2023.

Key Points –

- It would connect Telangana's Secunderabad and Andhra Pradesh's port city of Visakhapatnam.

3. First 5G-enabled drone

Why in news – Startup firm IG Drones has developed a 5G-enabled drone that is capable of vertical take-off and landing.

Key Points –

- The drone named Skyhawk is India's first 5G-enabled drone.

Key Points –

- It said that Indian authorities had “intensified and broadened” their crackdown on activist groups and the media throughout year 2022.

About Human Rights Watch –

- Helsinki Accords (1975) - 35 signatory nations pledge to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Human Rights Watch (HRW) is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1978 as “Helsinki Watch”.
- Headquarters - New York City.

2. ‘Survival of the Richest’ report

Why in news - The report titled ‘Survival of the Richest’ was released by Oxfam International.

Key Points –

- The richest 1% in India now own more than 40% of the country's total wealth.
- The bottom half of the population together share just 3% of the wealth.
- Since the pandemic began in Nov 2022, billionaires in India have seen their wealth surge by 121% or Rs 3,608 crore per day in real terms.
- The total number of billionaires in India increased from 102 in 2020 to 166 in 2022.
- Combined wealth of India's 100 richest - USD 660 billion (Rs 54.12 lakh crore).
- Female workers earned only 63 paise for every 1 rupee a male worker earned.
- Oxfam India CEO - Amitabh Behar.

ECONOMY

1. Equity Capital Market (ECM)

Why in news – Funds to the tune of \$16.4 billion were transacted via ECM activity in India in 2022.

Key Points –

- The report was released by Kotak Investment Banking.
- This made India among the top five markets, globally, in terms of equity fundraising.

RANKS & INDICES

1. 33rd World Report 2023

Why in news - Recently, the 33rd edition of World Report was released by Human Rights Watch.

FESTIVALS

1. Makar Sankranti 2023

Why in news - The harvest festival of Makar Sankranti is celebrated all over India, and is known by various names across the country.

Key Points –

- It is celebrated as per the solar calendar. Hence, it falls on the same day every year — January 14.
- It marks the end of winter, and the beginning of a new harvest season.
- It marks Sun's transit into Makara Raashi, or Capricorn zodiac.

- It is viewed as a date from when the sun starts to move north from the southern hemisphere.
- Other names –
 - National - Bihu (AS), Pongal (TN), Sakrat (HR), Uttarayan (RJ and GJ) and Lohri (Punjab).
 - International - Maghe Sankranti (Nepal), Songkran (Thailand) and Thingyan (Myanmar).

AWARDS & HONOURS

1. Miss Universe 2022

Why in news - R'Bonney Gabriel (USA) was crowned 71st Miss Universe 2022 in a ceremony held in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

Key Points –

- 1st runner-up - Miss Venezuela Amanda Dudamel.
- 2nd runner-up - Miss Dominican Republic Andreina Martinez.
- India's Divita Rai reached the top 16 stage of the competition.
- R'Bonney was Miss USA 2022.
- Miss Universe 2021 - Harnaaz Sandhu of India.

SCIENCE – TECH

1. New dust control technology

Why in news - Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), Ranchi has invented the technology.

Key Points –

- Technology name - "System and Method for Controlling Generation and Movement of Fugitive Dust".
- This system can be used in mines, thermal power plants, railway sidings, ports and

construction sites.

- The present invention relates to the synchronized application of windbreak (WB) and vertical greenery system (VGS) for reducing generation and dispersion of fugitive dust.

SPORTS

1. Second highest score in Ranji

Why in news - The right-handed Mumbai Prithvi Shaw slammed a record breaking 379 runs from 382 balls.

Key Points –

- He scored against Assam in the Amingaon Cricket Ground in Guwahati.
- It was his maiden triple hundred in first-class cricket and scored the highest score by a Mumbai batsman in Ranji Trophy cricket.
- Bhausaheb Nimbalkar (443 runs) has the highest individual score in Ranji Trophy against his name.

2. Biggest win margin

Why in news - India became the first team in the history of ODI cricket to beat an opposition by a margin of more than 300 runs.

Key Points –

- India defeated Sri Lanka by 317 runs in Thiruvananthapuram on January 15, 2023.
- India broke the record held by New Zealand, who had beaten Ireland by 290 runs in 2008.
- Sri Lanka were bundled out for 73 in just 22 overs after India posted 390.
- Virat Kohli hit his second-highest score in ODI cricket (166 not out).

3. Smriti Mandhana

Why in news - Herbalife Nutrition India roped in Smriti Mandhana as brand ambassador.



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POINTERS

- Which state government has launched “Saharsh” special education programme – **Tripura.**
- Who is author of the recently launched book “Jadunama” - **Javed Akhtar.**
- Who has been chosen to receive Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for his contribution towards community welfare - **Thiru Kumar Nadesan.**
- What are the mascots of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)-2022 - **Asha and Mowgli.**
- WHO has issued an alert not to give two cough syrups made by which drug company to children - **Marion Biotech.**
- Which Indian-American has been sworn in as a senator in the US state of Kansas - **Usha Reddy.**
- Who has been appointed by Meta as the head of global business in India - **Vikas Purohit.**
- Which state has registered its name in the Guinness Book of World Records by taking 4500 penalty kicks within 12 hours at Payyanad Stadium – **Kerala.**
- Who has inaugurated “Jai Hind: The New Light and Sound Program” at Red Fort in Delhi - **Amit Shah.**
- Which organization has developed an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to carry out logistics operations in the Himalayan range - **DRDO.**



NEW UPSC ENGLISH MEDIUM BATCH STARTING FROM 8TH FEBRUARY 2023

📍 103, Kumar Tower, Boring Rd. Crossing, Patna 📞 9155087930, 8340325079, 8271411177