

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

JANUARY 2022

The screenshot displays the YouTube channel interface for 'Success Mantra Digital'. At the top, there's a search bar with 'success mantra digital' entered. Below the channel banner, the channel name and a 'SUBSCRIBED' button are visible. The navigation menu includes 'HOME', 'VIDEOS', 'PLAYLISTS', 'COMMUNITY', 'CHANNELS', and 'ABOUT'. The 'VIDEOS' tab is selected, showing a grid of video uploads. The videos include 'AILET 2021 Paper Analysis | Success Mantra Coaching', 'NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis (English Section)', 'Why You Should Join The Legal Profession', and 'NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis | Success Mantra...'. Each video thumbnail shows a person and the video title, with view counts and upload dates below them.

Subscribe Our YouTube Channel
SUCCESS MANTRA DIGITAL
 And Ace Your Entrance!!



MISCELLANEOUS

#NEW COVID-19 VARIANT DISCOVERED IN FRANCE

- **Scientists in France** have identified a new and more mutated strain of SARS-CoV-2 virus, **causing covid-19 disease**.
- New virus was identified, when the world is still grappling with highly mutated strain of coronavirus, **called Omicron**.
- Omicron has already been leading to surge in **covid-19 cases worldwide**.
- First case with new variant was detected in December, 2021.
- **New variant of the coronavirus** has been named IHU or the B.1.640.2 variant. It was discovered by the academics at institute IHU Mediterranee Infection. It comprises of 46 mutations, more than Omicron, making it more resistant to vaccines and infectious.
- So far, 12 cases of the new variant have been reported near Marseilles. Cases are linked to travel to the African country Cameroon. Omicron variant is still the dominant strain in most of the countries.
- But the threat of **IHU variant** is rising rapidly. New variant has not been spotted in other countries and **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has not yet labelled it as a variant under investigation.
- The new variant comprises of 14 amino acid substitutions, including N501Y and E484K. Apart from that, 9 deletions are located in the spike protein.
- This genotype pattern led to creation of new **Pangolin lineage named B.1.640.2. it is a phylogenetic sister group to the old B.1.640 lineage**.



Variant of Interest (VOI)

- A variant with specific genetic markers that have been associated with changes to receptor binding, reduced neutralization by antibodies generated against previous infection or vaccination, reduced efficacy of treatments, potential diagnostic impact, or predicted increase in transmissibility or disease severity.
- **There are currently two:**
- **Mu (B.1.621)**, which emerged in Colombia in early 2021
- **Lambda (C.37)**, which emerged in Peru in late 2020

Variant of Concern (VOC)

- A variant for which there is evidence of an increase in transmissibility, more severe disease (e.g., increased hospitalizations or deaths), significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies generated during previous infection or vaccination, reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures.
- The B.1.1.7 (UK variant), B.1.351 (South Africa Variant), P.1 (Brazil Variant), B.1.427, and B.1.429 variants circulating in the US are classified as VOCs.

#RELATED: NEW VACCINES & DRUG OF COVID-19

Recently, India has approved two **Vaccines Corbevax and Covovax**, one pill **Molnupiravir** for treating Covid-19 patients.

Corbevax - Protein Subunit Vaccine:



- **About:** It is a **protein subunit vaccine**, which means that instead of the whole virus, it uses **fragments of it to trigger an immune response**.
- In this case, the subunit vaccine contains a **harmless Spike (S) protein**.
- The S protein is a **highly glycosylated and large type I transmembrane fusion protein that is made up of 1,160 to 1,400 amino acids**, depending upon the type of virus.
- The S protein plays a crucial role in penetrating host cells and initiating infection.
- Once the immune system recognises the protein, it **produces antibodies to fight a real infection** when it happens.
- **Efficacy:** Neutralising antibodies against **Delta strain** indicates a vaccine effectiveness of **more than 80 % for the prevention of symptomatic infections** based on published studies.
- In the pivotal Phase III study conducted with an endpoint of immunogenic superiority, it demonstrated **superior immune response in comparison with COVISHIELD vaccine** when **assessed for Neutralizing Antibody (nAb) Geometric Mean Titers (GMT)** against the Ancestral-Wuhan strain and the globally dominant Delta variant.
- **Covavax - Recombinant Nanoparticle Vaccine:**

▪ **About:** Manufactured by **Serum Institute of India (SII)**, is also a protein subunit vaccine, **but uses Recombinant Nanoparticle Technology (RNT)**. It has been developed by **US-based Novavax**.

- Recombinant protein vaccine is another proven approach against Covid-19 virus. This technology teaches the body **how to develop immunity against the virus using spike protein**.
- **Harmless copies of the spike protein are grown** in insect cells; the protein is then extracted and assembled into virus-like nanoparticles.
- Novavax has used an immune-boosting compound (adjuvant). The same technology is used in HPV and the Hepatitis B vaccine.

▪ **Efficacy:** The vaccine has been evaluated in two Phase 3 trials: a trial in the UK that demonstrated **an efficacy of 96.4% against the original virus strain**, 86.3% against Alpha and 89.7% efficacy overall.

Molnupiravir - Oral Antiviral Drug:

- **About:** It works **by introducing errors into the virus's genetic code, which prevents replication**.
- Efficacy: The UK cleared molnupiravir as **"safe and effective"**.
- The US did not authorize it **for use for longer than five consecutive days, or in patients younger than 18** as it may affect bone and cartilage growth.

- In India, the recommendation is for **treatment of adult Covid patients with oxygen level over 93%**, and who have a high risk of progression of the disease, and that the drug be sold by retail only under prescription.

#WORLD HINDI DAY OBSERVED ON 10TH JANUARY

World Hindi Day (WHD) is celebrated every year on **10th January** to promote the Hindi language all around the world.

- This year (2022) on the occasion **UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC)** has agreed to **publish Hindi descriptions of India's world heritage sites** on WHC website.
- WHC was established in 1992 to coordinate all matters related to World Heritage. The Centre organises **the annual sessions of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau**, and provides advice to States Parties in the preparation of site nominations.



About:

- It was **first celebrated in 2006** to commemorate the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference which was held in Nagpur on 10th January, 1975. It is different from **Hindi Divas**(National Hindi Day).
- It is also celebrated by **Indian embassies located in various parts of the world**.
- The World Hindi Secretariat building was **inaugurated in Mauritius in 2018**.

National Hindi Day:

- Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, was adopted as **the official language of the Republic of India on 14th September, 1949**. Therefore Hindi Divas is celebrated on 14th September every year.
- Kaka Kalelkar, Maithili Sharan Gupta, Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Seth Govindadas **made important contributions to make Hindi the official language**.
- Hindi is also an **eighth schedule language**.
- Article 351 pertains to '**Directive for development of the Hindi language**'.

Government Initiatives to Promote Hindi:

- The **Central Hindi Directorate** was established in **1960** by the Government of India under the Ministry of Education.

- **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** has established 'Hindi Chairs' in various foreign universities/institutions abroad.
- **LILA-Rajbhasha** (Learn Indian Languages through Artificial Intelligence) is a multimedia based intelligent **self-tutoring application for learning Hindi**.
- **E-Saral Hindi VakyaKosh and E-Mahashabdkosh Mobile App**, both initiatives of the Department of Official Language, aim to harness information technology for the growth of Hindi.
- **Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar** and **Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar** recognise contributions to Hindi.

Hindi Language

- Hindi got its name from the **Persian word Hind**, meaning '**land of the Indus River**'. Turk invaders in the early 11th century named the language of the region Hindi, 'language of the land of the Indus River'.
- It is the official language of India, English being the other **official language**.
- Hindi is **also spoken in some countries outside India**, such as in Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago and Nepal.
- Hindi in its present form emerged through different stages, during which it was known by other names. The earliest form of **old Hindi was Apabhramsa**. In 400 AD Kalidas wrote a romantic play in **Apabhramsa called Vikramorvashiyam**.
- The modern **Devanagari script** came into existence in the 11th century.

#NATIONAL YOUTH DAY OBSERVED ON 12TH JANUARY

National Youth Day (NYD) is held every year on **12th January** to observe the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**.

- In 1999, the United Nations decided to commemorate **International Youth Day** every year on 12th August.



About NYD:

- In **1984**, the Indian Government first declared to **celebrate the birthday of Swami Vivekananda** as National Youth Day. Since then the day has been celebrated as **National Youth Day all over the country**.
- The day is celebrated to **highlight the youths who are the future of our country and to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda** who always motivated the youth of the country and spoke about the right use of the youth in the development of the country.
- **Theme 2022**: It's all in the mind.

25th National Youth Festival:

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the 25th National Youth Festival **which is a five-day festival**.
- The main purpose to celebrate the festival is **to increase bonding between the diverse cultures of the country to strengthen the unity** of the nation.
- The festival is organized by **National Service Scheme (NSS)** and **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)** under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Related Initiatives:

- National Youth Policy-2014
- **Generation Unlimited in India (YuWaah)**
- **YUVA: Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors**
- **World Programme of Action for Youth**
- **Global Youth Summit**
- **Global youth skills day**

Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902)

- He was born as **Narendranath Datta** on **12th January, 1863**.
- Introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of **Vedanta and Yoga**.
- He was the chief disciple of the **19th-century mystic Ramakrishna Paramhansa**.
- Laid the greatest **emphasis on education for the regeneration of our motherland**. He advocated a man-making character-building education.
- Established the **Ramakrishna Mission in 1897**. It is an organization which works in the area of value-based education, culture, health, women's empowerment, youth and tribal welfare and relief and rehabilitation.
- He died at **Belur Math in 1902**. **Belur Math, located in West Bengal**, is the headquarters of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission.

#NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY OBSERVED ON 24TH JAN

- **National Girl Child Day is observed every year on January 24th**. The day is observed to spread awareness regarding the inequalities faced by girl children in Indian society and also to promote the rights of the girl child and the importance of female education, health and nutrition.

- **National Girl Child Day** is an initiative taken by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development. The day is commemorated by different ministries and organisations by organising different events to raise awareness on the **inequalities faced by girls and importance of their empowerment**.



- The National Girl Child Day 2022 theme is yet to be announced. The National Girl Child Day **2021 Theme** was **'Digital Generation, Our Generation'** and the **2020 theme** was **'My voice, our common future'**.
- National Girl Child Day 2022 celebration will be observed under the **'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'**.

National Girl Child Day History

- The **National Girl Child Day** was first observed on January 24, 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was decided to observe the day to tackle issues related to inequalities that girls face in society.

- The day is in line with all the campaigns and programmes launched by the Indian government for female children like **BetiBachaoBetiPadhao, Save the Girl Child** and other programmes like free and subsidised education and reservation in colleges and universities.

RELATED TOPICS TO BE READ:

International Day of the Girl Child 2021:

- **International Girl Child Day** is observed every year on October 11. It is an observance day by the United Nations that aims at amplifying the voices of the young girls all **around the world as well as increase awareness about the issues that are faced by them.**
- **Girl Child Day** provides an opportunity to take note of day-to-day discrimination and how it impacts the growth of young girls, particularly in underdeveloped and developing nations.
- **World Girl Child Day 2021** supports more opportunities for the girls as well as increases awareness about gender equality in various areas including, nutrition, education, medical care, legal rights, and protection from discrimination.
- **The theme for international Girls Day 2021 is 'Digital Generation, Our Generation'.** The theme for Girl Child Day focuses on the gender digital divide in devices, connectivity, and their skills, use, and jobs.

International Girls Child Day History

- At the **World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995**, the countries unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which was the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing the rights of not only women but girls.
- The Beijing Declaration is known to be the first to specifically call out the girls' rights.
- Later, **the United Nations General Assembly on December 19, 2011, adopted the resolution to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girls Child** in order to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges that the girls face all around the world.

About Gender Digital Divide

- The **theme of International Day of the Girl Child 2021** highlights the gender digital divide which has been affecting the major population of young girls all over the world.
- As per the United Nations, while the pandemic has accelerated the digital platforms for learning, connecting, and earning, **some 2.2 billion people below 25 still do not have internet access at home.**
- However, **the gender digital divide is much more about connectivity. According to the UN, girls are also less likely than boys to use their own devices as well as gain access to tech-related jobs and skills.**

Young Girls changing the world

- **Malala Yousafzai**-Shot in the head on a school bus by the Taliban, Malala Yousafzai was just 15-years old when she faced the tragic incident. Raising the voice for supporting young girls' education in Pakistan, Malala came on Taliban's radar after daring to speak against the ban on girl education. Her story is known

across the world.

- **Great Thunberg-** A teenage climate activist from Sweden, Greta Thunberg is known for not mincing her words and opinions on world leaders and their take on climate change. She came into the limelight after starting a school strike for the climate outside the Swedish Parliament and eventually became a global phenomenon which further helped in bringing the problem of climate change and global warming to the UN table.
- **Thandiwe Abdullah-** Thandiwe Abdullah, by her 17th birthday, already had an impressive list of achievements. She co-founded the Black Lives Matter Youth Vanguard and helped in creating the Black Lives Matter in-school program, which was subsequently adopted by the National Education Association.
- **LicpriyaKangujam-** She is a child environment activist from India and is one of the youngest climate activists globally. LicpriyaKangujam addressed the World Leaders at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2019 and asked them to take immediate climate action.

BetiBachao, BetiPadhao scheme

- It was **launched in January 2015** with the aim to address **sex selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio** which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.
- This is a **joint initiative** of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The programme is being **implemented across 405 districts in the country**.

Main Objectives:

- Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination.
- Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child.
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
- Protecting rights of Girl children.

Other Initiatives for Girl Children

- **UJJAWALA:** To tackle the problem of trafficking, it is a Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation.
- **Kishore Health Card:** To record the information about the weight, height, Body Mass Index (BMI) of Adolescent Girls (AGs). These health cards for AGs are maintained at the AnganWadacentres (AWCs).
- **Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG).**
- **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana**, etc.

#NATIONAL TOURISM DAY IN INDIA

- The **National Tourism Day in India** is observed on January 25 every year by the Ministry of Tourism.
- Tourism Day is celebrated to make people aware of the significance of tourism for the country's economy. Every year the **National Tourism Day in India is observed on January 25 by the Ministry of Tourism**.

National Tourism Day History

- The Government of India in 1958 realized the significance of tourism traffic coming towards India and a separate department of tourism was created in the country.
- The **objective was to preserve the cultural heritage** and to look after the tourist destinations to keep their beauty intact while also making them tourist-friendly.
- The theme of National Tourism Day 2022 is '**Rural and Community Centric Tourism**'.
- The National Tourism Day 2022 will be observed by the Ministry of Tourism under the **aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- It is a 75-week grand celebration that marks 75 years of India's Independence. The Ministry of Tourism on National Tourism Day organizes cultural events, seminars, as well as other programs.



RELATED TOPICS TO BE READ: PRASHAD SCHEME

- **Launch:** The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)' was **launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15** with the objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations.
- The **name of the scheme was changed** from PRASAD to "National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)" in October 2017.
- **Implementing Agency:** The projects identified under this scheme shall be implemented through the identified agencies by the respective State/ Union Territory Government.

Swadesh Darshan scheme

- Swadesh Darshan, a **Central Sector Scheme**, was **launched in 2014 -15** for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.
- This scheme is envisioned to synergise with other schemes like **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India** etc.
- Under the scheme, the **Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA)** to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of circuits.
- One of the objectives of the scheme is to **develop theme-based tourist circuits** on the principles of **high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability** in an integrated manner.

Other Related Initiatives:

- Iconic Tourist Sites: **Buddhist Sites at Bodhgaya, Ajanta & Ellora have been identified to be developed as Iconic Tourist Sites (aimed at enhancing India's soft power).**
- Buddhist Conclave: Buddhist Conclave is **organised every alternate year with the objective of promoting India as a Buddhist Destination and major markets around the globe.**

- Dekho Apna Desh' Initiative: **It was** launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2020 **to encourage the citizens to travel widely within the country thus enabling the development of Domestic Tourism tourist facilities and infrastructure.**
- "Adopt a Heritage Project" **plans to entrust heritage sites/monuments and other tourist sites to private sector companies, public sector companies and individuals for the development of various tourist amenities.**

#INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION: 24TH JAN

- The **International Day of Education** is observed on January 24, annually. Year 2022 marked the fourth year of celebration.
- The day was observed with the **theme– 'Changing Course, Transforming Education'.**

- History of the day: The International Education Day was proclaimed by "United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)" in December 2018. **It was proclaimed to mark the significance of education in ensuring peace and development.**



- UNGA resolution: **The resolution to observe 'International Day of Education'** was authored by 59 member states. It demonstrated the unwavering political will for supporting transformative actions for equitable, inclusive, and quality education for all.

National Education Day

- It has been observed every year on **11th November**, since 2008 to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Maulana AbulKalam Azad.**
- **Maulana AbulKalam Azad** was the **first Union Education Minister** of India.
- He was a freedom fighter, scholar and eminent educationist.
- He was a key architect of Independent India who was responsible for setting up apex education bodies like **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** and **University Grants Commission (UGC).**
- He was posthumously awarded **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award in 1992.
- Azad **supported the Non-Cooperation Movement** (1920-22) started by Gandhiji and **entered the Indian National Congress in 1920.**
- In **1923**, he was **elected as the president of Indian National Congress.** At an age of 35, he **became the youngest person** to serve as the President of the Indian National Congress.
- In 1947, he became the **first education minister of free India and remained at this post till his death in 1958.** In his tenure, he did tremendous work for the upliftment of the country.
- The first **IIT, IISc, School of Planning and Architecture and the University Grants Commission** were established under his tenure as the education minister.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):

- UNGA is one among the six principal organs of United Nations (UN), serving as the main policymaking, and representative organ of the UN.
- The powers, composition, procedures and functions of UNGA are set out in Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter. It is responsible for the UN budget. UNGA is the only UN organ, where all the member states have equal representation.
- **Members of UNGA:** All the **193 members of UN are members of UNGA**, besides Holy See and Palestine as observer states. UNGA may grant observer status to an entity or international organization. Observer status entitles them to participate in work of UNGA, though with limitations.

Government Initiatives for Smooth Conduct of E-Learning

- **Several initiatives have been taken to enable online education in India, such as:**
- **E-PG Pathshala:** An initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to provide e-content for studies.
- **SWAYAM:** it provides for an integrated platform for online courses.
- **NEAT:** It aims to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner
- **Other initiatives include:** National Project on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), National Knowledge Network, (NKN), and National Academic Depository (NAD), among others.
- **PRAGYATA:** The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) released guidelines on digital education titled PRAGYATA.
- **Under the PRAGYATA guidelines, only 30 minutes of screen time per day for interacting with parents is recommended for kindergarten, nursery and pre-school.**
- **Schools can hold live online classes for a maximum of 1.5 hours per day for Classes 1-8, and 3 hours per day for Classes 9-12.**

Education in India: Constitutional Provisions:

- Part IV of Indian Constitution, **Article 45 and Article 39 (f)** of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), has a provision for **state-funded as well as equitable and accessible education**.
- The **42nd Amendment** to the Constitution in 1976 moved education from the State to **the Concurrent List**.
- The education policies by the Central government provide a broad direction and state governments are expected to follow it. However, it is **not mandatory**, for instance Tamil Nadu does not follow the three-language formula prescribed by the first education policy in 1968.
- The **86th Amendment in 2002** made education an enforceable right under **Article 21-A**.

Related Laws:

- **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009** aims to provide primary education to all children **aged 6 to 14 years** and enforces education as a Fundamental Right.
- It also mandates **25% reservation** for disadvantaged sections of the society where disadvantaged groups.

#NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY OBSERVED ON 25TH JANUARY

- The **National Voters Day** is celebrated every year on January 25th to commemorate the foundation day of the Election Commission of India. This year, the Election Commission of India is celebrating the 12th National Voters Day.
- National Voters Day is observed to create awareness about the need to participate electoral process. The day aims to encourage especially the new voters to register themselves as voters.



National Voters Day 2022 Theme

- The **National Voters Day 2022 theme is 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'**. The theme envisages focusing on the ECI's commitment to facilitate active participation of voters during the elections and to make the complete process hassle-free and memorable for all voters.
- **National Voters Day Objective:** National Voters Day is celebrated to facilitate and encourage enrolment, especially by the new voters. The day is dedicated to the voters of the country and **aims to spread awareness among voters and promote informed participation in the electoral process.**

National Voters Day History

- National Voters Day is celebrated every year on January 25 since 2011. **It aims to commemorate the day the ECI was founded, which is January 25, 1950.**
- The National Voters Day began as an initiative by the **Election Commission of India.**
- **A Union Council of Ministers meeting had taken place under the then PM Dr. Manmohan Singh** and it was noticed that young people who had attained the age of 18 years and above were reluctant to register themselves as voters.
- This paved the way for the founding of the National Voters' Day to identify such youth and enroll them in the electoral process and provide them with their **Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC).**

Election Commission of India (ECI)?

- The **Election Commission of India** is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.

Background

- Part XV of the Indian constitution deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters.
- The Election Commission was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950.

- **Article 324 to 329 of the constitution** deals with powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and the member.

Articles related to Elections

324	Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.
325	No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
326	Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.
327	Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.
328	Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.
329	Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.

Universal Adult Suffrage

- Universal adult suffrage is the right to vote of all adult citizens, regardless of wealth, income, gender, social status, race, or ethnicity, subject only to minor exceptions.

Delimitation Commission

- Under **Article 82** of the Constitution, the Parliament by law enacts a **Delimitation Act after every census**.
- After coming into force the commencement of the Act, the Central Government constitutes a **Delimitation Commission**.
- This Delimitation Commission demarcates the boundaries of the Parliamentary Constituencies as per provisions of the Delimitation Act.
- The **present delimitation** of constituencies has been done on the basis of the **2001 census** figures under the provisions of **Delimitation Act, 2002**.
- Notwithstanding the above, the Constitution of India was specifically amended in 2002 **not to have delimitation of constituencies till the first census after 2026**. Thus, the present Constituencies carved out on the basis of the 2001 census shall continue to be in operation till the first census after 2026.

#TATA TO REPLACE VIVO AS IPL SPONSOR

- The **Chairman of the Indian Premier League (IPL)** Brijesh Patel confirmed on January 11, 2022, that Tata will replace Vivo as the title



sponsor of ipl 2022 which will be an upcoming edition of the tournament.

- Vivo still has two years left in its sponsorship deal with IPL and as a result, during this period, Tata Group will remain the main sponsor.
- However, in 2021, Vivo was back as IPL title sponsor even as speculation **began that the group was looking to transfer the rights to a suitable bidder.** The move was approved by BCCI.

Vivo as IPL title sponsor: Background

- The rights of IPL title sponsorship were transferred to Vivo, **the Chinese Smartphone manufacturer**, for Rs. 200 crores in 2016 after Pepsi terminated its deal of sponsorship with BCCI in October 2015.
- In June 2017, Vivo retained the rights for the next five seasons of the IPL tournament (2018-2022) with a **winning bid of Rs. 2,199 crores** making it a deal more expensive than **Barclay's Premier League title sponsorship contract between 2013 and 2016.**
- In 2020, Vivo got out of the sponsorship rights because of the military standoff between India and China. In 2021, **Vivo bagged the sponsorship rights of IPL again for Rs. 439.8 crores.**

IPL Sponsors List

Sponsor	Period	Sponsorship Fee (Per Year)
DLF	2008-2012	Rs. 40 Crores
Pepsi	2013-2015	Rs. 79.4 crores
Vivo	2016-2017	Rs. 100 crores
Vivo	2018-2019	Rs. 439.8 crores
Dream 11	2020	Rs. 222 crores
Vivo	2021	Rs. 439.8 crores
TATA	TATA	

Two new teams of IPL receive formal clearance

- The two new teams of the Indian Premier League- **CVC Capital's Ahmedabad Team and Sanjiv Goenka's RPSG Group for the Lucknow Franchise** on January 11, 2022, received formal clearance from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- The formal clearance to the two new IPL teams was given after a meeting of the IPL Governing Council.

2022 Indian Premier League

- IPL 2022 will be the **15th season of the Indian Premier League.** It is a professional Twenty20 Cricket league that was established by the BCCI in 2007.
- IPL 15 will see the expansion of the league with an addition of two new franchises which will make it the second season to have 10 teams, after the 2011 tournament. **Chennai Super Kings (CSK) are the defending Champions having won their fourth title in IPL 2021.**

#GLOBAL RISKS REPORT 2022 BY WEF

- The **World Economic Forum** recently released the Global Risks Report 2022. Cybersecurity, pandemic, climate change and space advancements are the emerging risks to global economy.
- The global economy is to shrink by 2.3% by 2024. However, in developing countries this is to be 5.5%. In rich countries, it will be 0.9%



- **Digital security:** The online platforms have increased tremendously during the pandemic. The COVID has brought in major work shift. People are now attending classes online. This has increased the security risks.
- **Cyber Threats:** The cyber threats are growing at humnely uncontrollable rates. The criminals are using tougher tactics and therefore, the cyber threats are becoming more aggressive day by day.
- Cryptocurrencies are creating easy path of escape for the cyber criminals. Today 90% of the ransomware attacks are paid in cryptocurrencies.
- **Space:** The costs of rocket launching technologies are falling. This has led a new space race, not between countries, but between government and private companies.
- While private launchers such as Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos are launching satellites and astronauts, governments are focusing on military satellites. This is creating friction in the orbit. The risks of debris collision, congestion are increasing.

Climate change

- The **three top climate risks** are loss of biodiversity, extreme weather and failure to act on climate change.
- While economies are **trying to move towards zero emissions, rapid actions are required.**
- The report calls the climate actions by world countries as “Disorderly”. Faster shift from the intense carbon polluters is the need of the moment.
- In the past two years, during the pandemic, the world top 20% (the richest) has recovered their losses. On the other hand, the bottom 20% has lost 5% more.
- Perception of the people: Less than 16% of the people (**participated in the survey**) were **optimistic about the economic outlook of the world.**
- Predictions: Environmental risks are to dominate for long term and short term. **The climate change risks are to increase exponentially in the next ten years.**

#HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2022

India has been ranked **83rd** in the most powerful passport report ‘**Henley Passport Index 2022**’.



- India's passport power has improved this quarter compared to 2021 climbing seven places from 90th rank last year.
- The current rankings are for the **first quarter of 2022**.

About the Index:

- The Henley Passport Index is the original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- Originally created by Dr. Christian H. Kaelin (chairman of Henley & Partners), the ranking is based on exclusive data from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**, which maintains the world's largest and most accurate database of travel information.
- It was launched in 2006 and includes 199 different passports.
- It is updated in real time throughout the year as and when visa policy changes come into effect.

Global Rankings:

- Japan and Singapore top the index**
- Germany and South Korea held onto the joint second spot on the latest ranking, while Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Spain shared third place.
- Afghanistan and Iraq continue to be in the 'worst passports to hold' category.

India's Performance:

- In 2020, **India stood at 84 while in 2016**, India was ranked 85th along with Mali and Uzbekistan.
- India (83rd in 2022)** shares the position with Sao Tome and Principe in Central Africa, behind Rwanda and Uganda.
- India now has visa-free access to 60 destinations worldwide with **Oman and Armenia being the latest additions**. India has added 35 more destinations since 2006.

#CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX (CPI) 2021

Recently, the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021** was released by **Transparency International**.

- Overall, the CPI shows that control of corruption has stagnated or **worsened in 86% of countries over the last decade**.

Transparency International

- It is an **international non-governmental organisation** founded in 1993 based in **Berlin, Germany**
- Its non-profit purpose is to take action to **combat global Corruption with civil societal anti-corruption measures** and to prevent criminal activities arising from corruption.



About:

- The Index **ranks 180 countries and territories** by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople.
- It **relies on 13 independent data sources** and uses a **scale of zero to 100**, where **zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean**.
- More than two-thirds of countries (68%) score below 50 and the **average global score remains static at 43**. Since 2012, 25 countries significantly improved their scores, but in the same period 23 countries significantly declined.

Top performers:

- This year, the top countries are **Denmark, Finland and New Zealand**, each with a score of 88. **Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany** (80) complete the top 10.

Bottom Performers:

- **South Sudan** (11), **Syria** (13) and **Somalia** (13) remain at the bottom of the index. Countries experiencing armed conflict or authoritarianism tend to earn the lowest scores, including **Venezuela, Afghanistan, North Korea, and Yemen**.

India's Performance:

- **India ranked 85 among 180 countries** in the current index (86 in 2020 and 80 in 2019). Transparency International gave India a **CPI score of 40**.
- Except Bhutan, all of India's neighbours are ranked below it. Pakistan dropped 16 spots in the index and was ranked at 140.
- The **country's score has remained stagnant over the past decade**, some of the mechanisms that could help reign in corruption are weakening.

Related Indian Initiatives

- **The Indian Penal Code, 1860**
- **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**
- **The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002**
- **The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**
- **The Companies Act, 2013**
- **The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**
- **Central Vigilance Commission**

#VIRAT KOHLI STEPPED DOWN AS TEST CAPTAIN

- Virat Kohli stepped down as the Test Captain of the Indian Cricket team on January 15, 2022, after the series



defeat in South Africa. Kohli announced his decision via a social media post. With 40 wins in 68 matches, Virat Kohli has ended his captaincy stint as the most successful Indian Test Captain.

- **Virat Kohli had replaced MS Dhoni** as the full-time Captain of the Indian Cricket Team in the 2014/2015 season.
- In 2021, the former skipper had decided to step down as the Captain of the T20I, **and later he was also removed as the Captain of the One Day Internationals (ODIs)** as the selectors wanted only one captain for the white ball format.

Virat Kohli steps down as Test Captain after India lost series against SA

- Virat Kohli's decision of stepping down as the Captain of the Indian Test team has come a day after India lost the three-match Test Series against South Africa on January 14, 2022.
- **Notably, Virat Kohli** has also not registered a single century in International Cricket since November 2019. Kohli had **last scored a ton against Bangladesh in the day-night Test at the Eden Gardens.**

Virat Kohli as Captain of Indian Cricket team

- Virat Kohli's first stint as Captain of the Indian Cricket Team was against Australia during the 2014/15 series, where he led the team in the absence of MS Dhoni, who had missed out because of a finger injury,
- With MS Dhoni announcing his retirement in January 2015, the Virat Kohli era had arrived. His first **assignment as the full-time Captain of the Indian Cricket Team** was in August 2015 where he led India to their first away series win in four years, beating Sri Lanka 2-1.

#INDIAN & RUSSIAN NAVY CONDUCTED PASSEX EXERCISE

Recently, **India's INS Kochi** and Russian ships engaged in the international Passage Exercise (PASSEX).



- A passage exercise is normally undertaken whenever an opportunity arises, in contrast to pre-planned maritime drills.
- Earlier, Indian Naval ships conducted **PASSEX with the US Navy also.**

Russia's Importance for India:

- **In Indian Ocean Region:** Russia's inclusion as a dialogue partner of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** has opened up a plethora of opportunities for collaboration with India including possible maritime security architecture to create balance in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and on scientific and research endeavors.
- **In the Arctic Region:** India has scientific, environmental, commercial and strategic interests in the **Arctic region**, and the Russian Arctic can potentially address India's energy security objectives.
- **Hydrocarbons:** Russia has the largest proven natural gas reserves in the world, enough to last for about 80 years at current production rates.

- **Strategic Minerals:** The Russian Arctic also has vast deposits of cobalt, copper, diamonds, gold, iron, nickel, platinum, high-value rare earth elements, titanium, vanadium and zirconium.
- The Arctic accounts for 90% of Russia's nickel and cobalt production, 60% of copper, and over 96% of platinum metals.
- **Indian** rare earth reserves are **richer in lighter fractions and deficient in heavier ones**.
- Most of the rare earth products used in strategic industries viz. Defence, fibre optic communications, space and nuclear energy are also critical to various clean energy technologies, including wind turbines and electric vehicles.
- **The Russian Arctic, therefore, has the potential to mitigate India's critical deficiencies in rare earth and strategic minerals.**
- **Northern Sea Route:** For Indian ports, the **Northern Sea Route or NSR** does not offer any benefits and is longer than the current route, for Rotterdam.
- However, there are other avenues for cooperation on the NSR.
- Russia has **announced its intention, inter alia, to ensure year-round, safe, uninterrupted and cost-effective navigation in the waters of the NSR.**
- India has indicated its **willingness to partner with Russia**, stating that "India and Russia will also be partners in opening of the NSR for international trade and commerce". In response, President Putin has stated that Russia welcomes India's interests in the NSR.
- **Russian Far East:** The Russian Far East or RFE is rich in natural resources.
- About **one-third of all coal reserves and hydro-engineering resources of the country are available here**. Forests of the region comprise about 30% of Russia's total forest area.
- **India's cooperation in the development of RFE including NSR has been endorsed** by the two countries.
- Addressing the **Eastern Economic Forum (EEF)** in 2019, India announced a USD 1 billion line of credit to further contribute to the development of RFE.

Other Exercises of India and Russia:

- Exercise TSENTR 2019 (**Multilateral Military Exercise**).
- Indra Exercises - **Joint Tri-Services (Army, Navy, Air Force) Exercises**.
- ZAPAD 2021 (**Multilateral Military Exercise**).

INS Kochi

- It is an **indigenously designed second ship of the Kolkata-class stealth guided-missile destroyers**, was built under the code name of **Project 15A** for the Indian Navy.
- It was **constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)** in Mumbai and was later commissioned to the **Indian Navy** services in 2015, after undergoing extensive sea trials.
- Earlier, it **took part in many other naval services** including:
- **'Zayed Talwar':** It is a bilateral naval exercise between the Indian and UAE Navy.
- **'Al-Mohed Al-Hindi':** India and Saudi Arabia started their first-ever naval joint exercise.
- **India- US PASSEX**

The screenshot displays the YouTube channel interface for 'Success Mantra Digital'. At the top, the channel banner shows a group of people in front of a backdrop that reads 'ACADEMIA - 2018'. Below the banner is the channel's profile picture, a yellow circle with the text 'SUCCESS MANTRA DIGITAL'. The channel name 'Success Mantra Digital - Leading Institute in Test Preparation' is prominently displayed, followed by a 'SUBSCRIBED' button and a notification bell icon. The navigation bar includes links for HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, COMMUNITY, CHANNELS, and ABOUT. The 'VIDEOS' tab is selected, showing a grid of video uploads. The videos are categorized by 'PLAY ALL' and 'SORT BY'. The visible videos include:

- AILET 2021 Paper Analysis | Success Mantra Coaching**: 187 views, Streamed 6 days ago, duration 49:46.
- NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis (English Section) ...**: 266 views, Streamed 1 week ago, duration 40:00.
- Why You Should Join The Legal Profession |...**: 356 views, Streamed 2 weeks ago, duration 1:11:35.
- NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis | Success Mantra...**: 163 views, Streamed 2 weeks ago, duration 16:10.

Other video thumbnails visible include 'NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis', 'IMPORTANCE OF VOCABULARY', 'POLITY मंथन 1500+', and 'LEGAL मंथन 1000+ Questions'.

Subscribe Our YouTube Channel
SUCCESS MANTRA DIGITAL
And Ace Your Entrance!!

