

February - 23

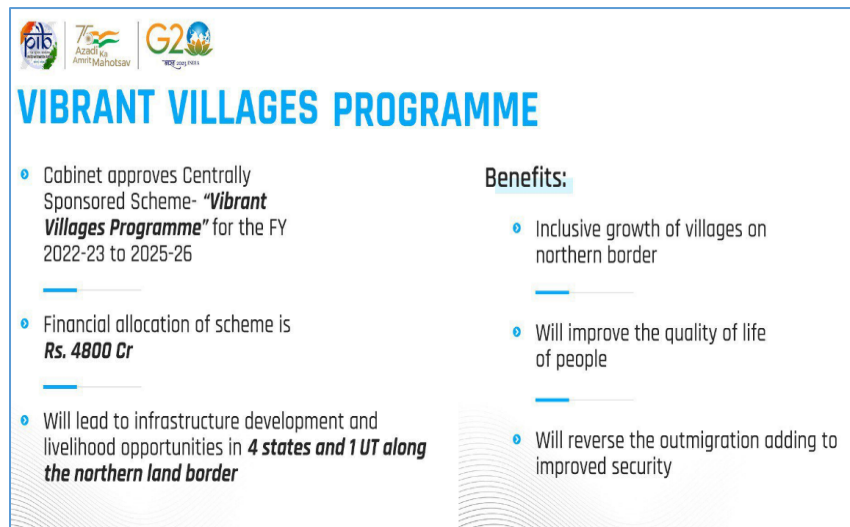
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indore hosted the first Agriculture Deputies Meeting (ADM) of the agriculture working group under India's G20 Presidency.

NATIONAL

Vibrant Villages Program

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the 'Vibrant Village Programme' for financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- ❖ This is the centrally-sponsored scheme.
- ❖ The programme will cover 662 villages in the first phase.
- ❖ Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats.
- ❖ New job opportunities will be created to curb migration of local population and sustainable economic activities will be encouraged.



The infographic features logos for the Ministry of Panchayats, 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, and G20 India 2023 at the top. The title 'VIBRANT VILLAGES PROGRAMME' is in large blue letters. The main text is organized into two columns. The left column lists key facts: the scheme is centrally sponsored for FY 2022-23 to 2025-26, has a financial allocation of Rs. 4800 Cr, and aims for infrastructure and livelihood opportunities in 4 states and 1 UT along the northern land border. The right column, titled 'Benefits:', lists three points: inclusive growth on the northern border, improved quality of life, and reversing outmigration for better security.

VIBRANT VILLAGES PROGRAMME

- Cabinet approves Centrally Sponsored Scheme- "**Vibrant Villages Programme**" for the FY 2022-23 to 2025-26
- Financial allocation of scheme is **Rs. 4800 Cr**
- Will lead to infrastructure development and livelihood opportunities in **4 states and 1 UT along the northern land border**

Benefits:

- Inclusive growth of villages on northern border
- Will improve the quality of life of people
- Will reverse the outmigration adding to improved security

High Domestic air travel

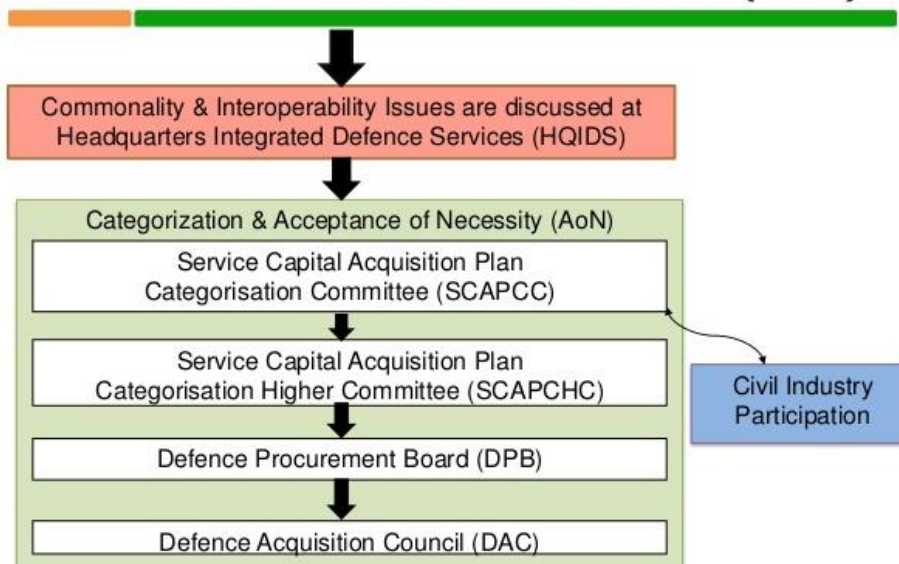
- ❖ The aviation sector is bringing people closer and boosting national progress with more airports and better connectivity.
- ❖ The domestic air passenger nearly 4.45 lakh on February 19.
- ❖ This is the highest movement after Covid.

- ❖ The average daily domestic air passenger number pre-Covid was below 4 lakh-mark.
- ❖ At present, as many as 147 airports are operational in the country.



Defense procurement from local industries

Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)



- ❖ India will spend 75 per cent of its defence capital in 2023-24 on procurement from the domestic industry.
- ❖ The same stood 68 per cent in 2022-23.
- ❖ The overall Defence budget earmarked for 2023-24 is Rs 5.94 lakh crore

- ❖ Of this, the capital outlay has been earmarked at Rs1.63 lakh crore.

Startup 20 Engagement Group

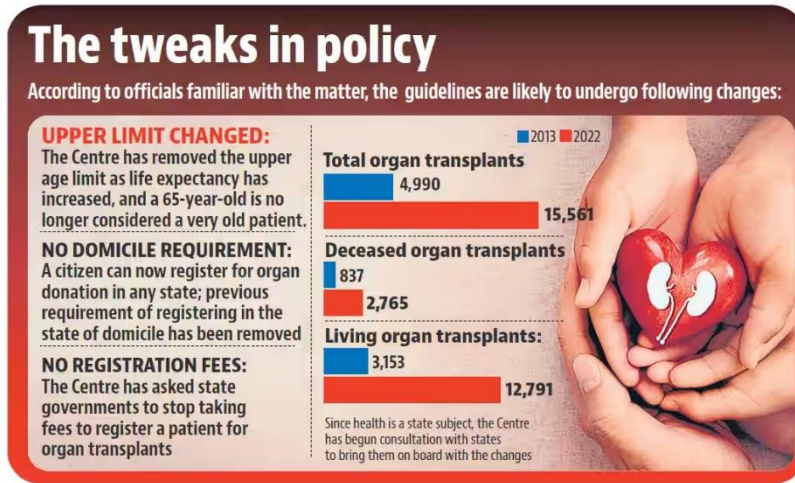


- ❖ Startup 20 Engagement Group was set up under India's G20 presidency.
- ❖ It deliberates on policy recommendations on entrepreneurship and innovation during its meeting.
- ❖ The meeting aims at creating a global narrative for supporting startups and fostering synergies between startups, corporates, investors, innovation agencies, and other stakeholders.
- ❖ The Startup20 has three taskforces - foundation and alliances; Finance; and inclusion and sustainability.

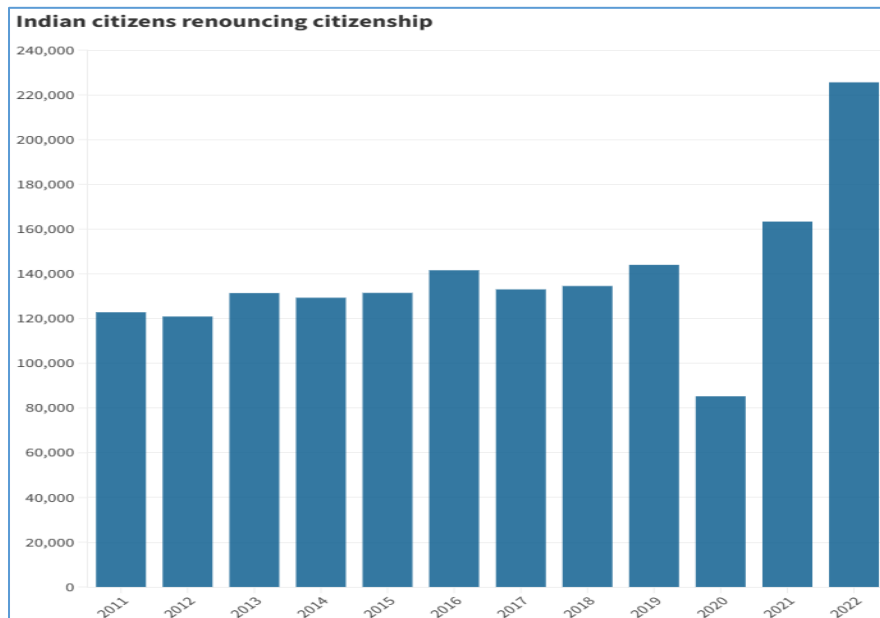
Changes in Organ transplant rules

- ❖ New rules remove the 65-year age cap for recipients.
- ❖ The removal of domicile-related restrictions is another much-needed move to make organs accessible for timely transplants.
- ❖ This is the move towards one nation one waiting list for cadaver organs.
- ❖ Current rules require prospective organ recipients to register for organs only in the state in which they reside.

- ❖ Another important change is that we are doing away with the registration fee that states used to charge for this purpose.
- ❖ India conducts the third highest number of transplants in the world every year.



Renouncing citizenship of Indians



- ❖ In 2022, over 2.25 lakh Indians renounced Indian citizenship.
- ❖ This is the highest ever since 2011.
- ❖ The data reflects how Indians, especially high net worth individuals (HNIs) are moving westward with new passports, in search of better opportunities, healthcare, quality of life, and education, among several other factors.
- ❖ HNIs are those who have wealth of over \$1 million or ₹8.2 crore.

- ❖ According to the Henley Global Citizens Report, there were 3.47 lakh such people in India in December 2021.
- ❖ Of these, 1.49 lakh HNIs were found in just nine cities: Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai, Gurgaon, and Ahmedabad.
- ❖ India ranked fourth in the world in terms of privately-held wealth, after the U.S., China, and Japan.

ECONOMY

Top Performer in Terms of Loan Growth



- ❖ The Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the best performer among state-owned lenders in terms of loan growth percentage during the third quarter of 2022–23.
- ❖ The lender saw year-over-year growth in gross advances of 21.67%.
- ❖ Union Bank of India, which experienced growth of 19.80%, came in second to BoM.
- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) took fourth place with a 16.91% increase in advances.

STATES

High court orders in Malayalam

- ❖ Two judgments of the Kerala High Court were recently translated into Malayalam and published on the court website.
- ❖ This was making the court the first such in the country to publish its orders in a regional language.

- ❖ The Supreme Court also had been campaigning for making court orders available in regional languages.



B20 conference



- ❖ The State of Manipur hosted the Business 20 (B20) conference.
- ❖ This is the official G20 dialogue forum for the global business community.
- ❖ The theme of the conference was 'Sustainable Growth and Development'.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

India's 80th Grandmaster

- ❖ India's chess player Vignesh NR of Chennai has become India's 80th Grandmaster.

- ❖ He won the 24th NordWest Cup 2023 at Bad Zwischenahn in Germany.
- ❖ Vignesh's elder brother Visakh NR had also become India's 59th GM in 2019.
- ❖ Thus, Visakh and Vignesh become India's first brothers who are Grandmasters.



International Khajuraho Dance Festival 2023

- ❖ The 49th Khajuraho Dance Festival 2023 inaugurated at the world-famous tourist destination Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

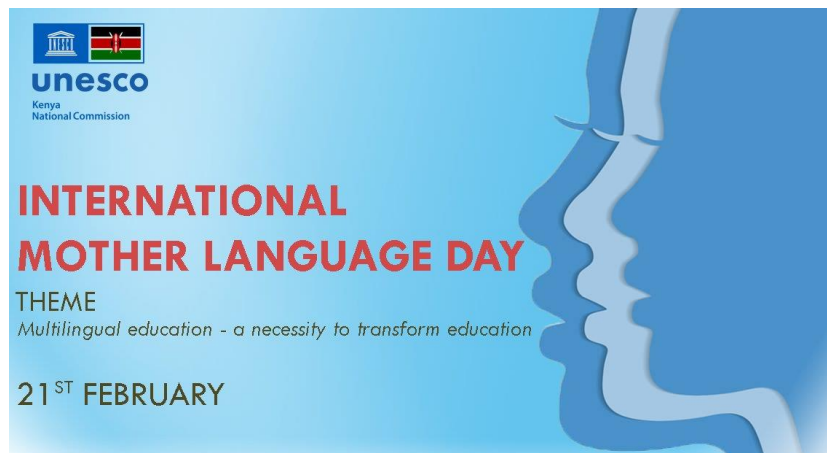


- ❖ It is the country's premier festival focusing on Indian classical dance forms, which is renowned nationally and internationally.
- ❖ Khajuraho Dance Festival was started in 1975.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mother Language Day - February 21

- ❖ It aims to promote linguistic and cultural diversity, as well as multilingualism.
- ❖ In 1999, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approved the idea of celebrating this day.
- ❖ The day was established on the initiative of Bangladesh and has been observed worldwide since 1999.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Multilingual education – a necessity to transform education".



MISCELLANEOUS

Asian Rhino Range Countries Meeting

- ❖ The 2nd meeting of Asian Rhino Range Countries took place in New Delhi Recently.
- ❖ It was organized by the Union Ministry of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and IUCN, Asian Rhino Specialist Group along with World Wildlife Fund-India (WWF), International Rhino Foundation and Aaranyak, an NGO.

- ❖ The meeting is a catalyst for sharing best practices and promoting collaboration on key issues impacting rhinos such as poaching, illegal wildlife trade, habitat loss and fragmentation of populations.
- ❖ There are three species of rhino in Asia - greater one-horned, Javan and Sumatran.
- ❖ Javan and Sumatran Rhino are critically endangered but the greater one-horned (or Indian) rhino vulnerable.
- ❖ 1st Asian Rhino Range States meeting was held at Bandar Lampung, Indonesia in October 2013.
- ❖ Asian Rhino Range Countries include Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Nepal.



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