

25 January, 2022 Current Affairs

1. National Supercomputing Mission



- Recently, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru installed the supercomputer 'Param Pravega'. It has a supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops. It has been installed under the government's National Supercomputing Mission. The National Supercomputing Mission is intended to indigenise the development and manufacturing of powerful computers.
- A supercomputer is a computer that performs at or near the currently highest operational rate for computers. Generally, PETAFLOP is a measure of a Supercomputer's processing speed and can be expressed as a thousand trillion floating point operations per second. FLOPS (floating point operations per second) are typically used to measure the performance of a computer's processor.
- Using floating-point encoding, extremely long numbers can be handled relatively easily. Supercomputers are primarily designed to be used in enterprises and organizations that require massive computing power. For example: weather forecasting, scientific research, intelligence gathering and analysis, data mining etc.

2. Jordan: Discovery of 9000-year-old Shrine



- The ritual complex was discovered beside large structures which are known as desert kites or mass traps. These traps were thought to have been used to gather wild gazelles for killing in a Neolithic campground.
- These traps are made up of two or more long stone walls converging toward an enclosure and are found all over the Middle East's deserts.
- This site is unique because even being 9000 years old it is almost intact.
- Two carved standing stones with anthropomorphic figures, one with a representation of the desert kite as well as an altar, hearth, marine shells, and a miniature model of the gazelle trap, were found within the shrine.
- The site's proximity to the traps shows that the inhabitants were hunters and the traps that were laid out were at the heart of their symbolical, cultural, and economic life.
- Jordan is a country located in Western Asia just at the crossroads of Asia, Europe, and Africa. Jordan shares its border with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Israel, Palestinian West Bank, and the dead sea. The capital of Jordan is Amman and it is also the largest city in the country. Bisher Al-Khasawneh is the Prime Minister and Abdullah II is the Monarch of the country.

3. 'Milan' Multilateral Naval Exercise

- 'Milan' is the name of the multilateral naval exercise which is hosted by the Indian Navy. This is a biennial exercise and features seminars, sports, social events, and professional exercises among the participating nations. This exercise was started in the year 1995.
- Along with the Indian Navy, the navies of Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka had participated in the inaugural edition of this exercise.
- All editions of Milan were held in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, under the Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- The Navy, in 2020, announced that the next edition of Milan will be held at Visakhapatnam, under the Eastern Naval Command.
- This exercise is held under various themes like anti-submarine warfare, and other areas.
- Capacity building, training, marine domain awareness, technical assistance, hydrography, and operational exercises are among the areas of cooperation for the exercise.
- Through professional engagement with friendly navies, the exercise aims to hone operational abilities, instill best practices and procedures, and enable learning in the maritime environment.

About Milan Exercise 2022

- This year's Milan Exercise will be the largest edition of this exercise with 46 countries invited to participate. This year's Milan exercise will be held in Visakhapatnam in February 2022. The QUAD countries will also be participating.
- Milan 22 is being held in two phases over a nine-day period, with the harbor phase being held from February 25 to February 28, and the sea phase from March 1 to 4.
- The theme for this year's exercise is 'Camaraderie – Cohesion – Collaboration' through which India will be projected to the world as a responsible maritime power.

4. AIIB invests USD 150 million in data center development to serve emerging Asia_

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a multilateral development bank has committed USD 150 million to invest in the development of data centres that mostly serve emerging Asia.
- This project is being AIIB's 1st data centre project. India is a key founding member of AIIB.
- AIIB's investment of USD 100 million through a parallel fund structure and USD 50 million through co-investments mark the final close of KDCF II, a development fund making strategic investments in the fast-growing data center sector with a focus on the Asia Pacific.
- The project is aligned with AIIB's thematic priorities of Connectivity and Regional Cooperation, Green Infrastructure and Private Capital Mobilization.

5. India's Koozhangal gets the best film award at Dhaka International Film Festival

- P S Vinothraj directed film Koozhangal from India won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition section at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister of Bangladesh Hasan Mahmud gave away the awards as Chief Guest during the concluding session organised at the National Museum auditorium in Dhaka.
- The best actor award was given to Jayasurya for Ranjith Sankar-directed film Sunny.
- The Best Script Writer Award went to Indranil Roychowdhury and Sugata Sinha for Indranil Roychowdhury-directed India-Bangladesh film Mayar Jonjal.

6. National Tourism Day of India celebrated on 25 January



- The Indian government established January 25 as the National Tourism Day to raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the country's economy.
- The day is observed to cultivate awareness among the global community on the importance of tourism and its social, political, financial and cultural worth.
- The ministry of tourism is the nodal agency in India to form national policies for the promotion and development of tourism. It also coordinates with central, state agencies and the public sector.

7. India, Israel launch commemorative logo to mark 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties



- India and Israel have launched a commemorative logo to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.
- The logo was unveiled virtually yesterday at an online event in the presence of Ambassador of Israel to India Naor Gilon and Indian envoy to Israel, Sanjeev Singla.
- The logo features the Star of David and the Ashoka Chakra- the two symbols that adorn the national flags of both countries- and forms the numeral 30 depicting the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations.
- Israel and India established diplomatic relations on 29th of January 1992.
- The 30th anniversary of relations between Israel and India will be marked throughout the year with an elaborate array of cultural events.

8. Odisha: BSF to launch boat ambulance service in Malkangiri on Republic Day



- Border Security Force (BSF) will start boat ambulance service from Swabhiman Anchal zone in Malkangiri district of Odisha from tomorrow on the occasion of Republic Day.
- Addressing a press conference at Raipur in Chhattisgarh, the Additional Director General of BSF and Chief of Chhattisgarh-Odisha Region, RS Bhatti said that about thirty thousand people living in around 150 villages of the area will be benefited from this initiative.

9. CDRI Develops Omicron Testing Kit named “OM”

- CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) has developed an indigenous RT-PCR diagnostic kit, ‘Om’, for the testing of the Omicron variant of coronavirus.
- It is the first kit made by any government institution, and the third to be made indigenously, for specific testing of Omicron.
- Currently, two more such kits developed by private players are available in the market. The kit will give test results in around two hours.
- Om enables quick and cost-effective detection of omicron variants over genome sequencing for a large population. It was made within two months and will cost around Rs 150.