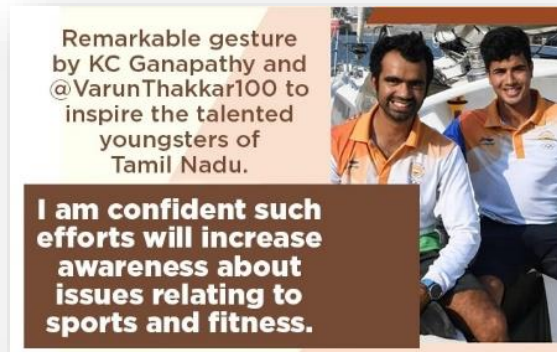


## 7 January, 2022 Current Affairs

### 1. PM Modi appreciates KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar for inspiring youngsters of Tamil Nadu regarding sports and fitness



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appreciated KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar for inspiring the youngsters of Tamil Nadu regarding sports and fitness under "the Meet the Champions program".
- The Prime Minister said Remarkable gesture by KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar to inspire the talented youngsters of Tamil Nadu.
- Mr Modi expressed confidence that such efforts will increase awareness about issues relating to sports and fitness.
- Prime minister earlier urged India's Olympians, who recently returned from Tokyo, to visit 75 schools each by the 2023 Independence Day and spread awareness against malnutrition and also play a sport with schoolchildren.

## 2. Centre announces 3rd National Water Awards 2020



- Uttar Pradesh has been awarded first prize in the state category of 3rd National Water Awards 2020. This follows Rajasthan occupying the 2nd place, while Tamil Nadu secured 3rd place.
- Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 7 January 2022 declared the winners of the National Water Awards.
- The 57 awards were announced in 11 categories including Best States, District, Panchayat and Best Industries.
- India has more than 18 percent of the world's population, but has only four percent of the world's renewable water resources.
- National Water Awards were instituted to recognize and encourage exemplary work and efforts made by States, Districts, individuals and organizations across the country in attaining the government's vision of a Jal Samridh Bharat.

## 3. MEA signs agreement for second phase of PSP-V2.0 with Tata Consultancy Services Limited

- External Affairs Ministry on 7 January 2022 has signed an agreement for second phase of the Passport Seva Programme (PSP-V2.0) with M/s.Tata Consultancy Services Limited, appointing them as the Service Provider for the project.
- The PSP-V2.0 is a continuation and enhancement of PSP-V1.0, an e-Governance instrument, which introduced unprecedented transformation in delivery of passport-related services to citizens.

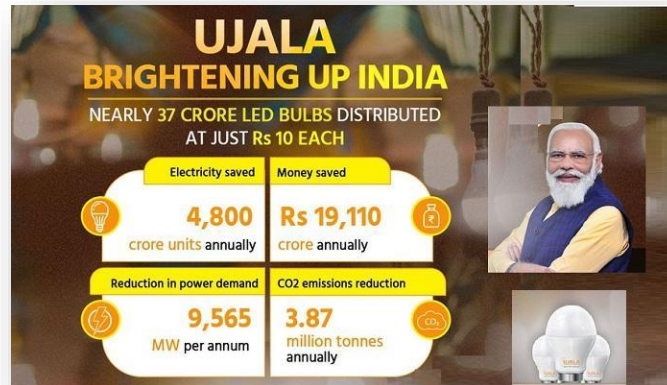
- The Ministry is working towards opening of a Seva Kendra in every Lok Sabha Constituency where there is no Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) or Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK). As on date 93 PSKs, 428 POPSKs and 36 Passport Offices are operational.
- Recognizing the need to continually improve the quality of Government to Citizen services and the mantra of Good Governance via IT and digital media, the Passport Seva Programme would be embarking on technology upgrade with the use of Biometrics, Artificial Intelligence, Advance Data Analytics, Chat-Bot, Auto-response, Natural Language Processing and Cloud Enablement.

#### **4. RBI cancels CoA of Muthoot Vehicle, Asset Finance, and Eko India Financial Services for non-compliance with regulatory requirements**



- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the authorisation certificates of Muthoot Vehicle and Asset Finance Ltd and Eko India Financial Services Private Ltd for non-compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Both the Payment System Operators (PSOs) had authorisation for the issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.
- The RBI said that following the cancellation of the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), these companies cannot transact the business of issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.
- However, it added that customers or merchants having a valid claim, if any, on these companies as PSOs, can approach them for settlement of their claims within three years from the date of cancellation.

## 5. GoI flagship UJALA scheme completed 7 years



- The flagship UJALA programme of the Ministry of Power has successfully completed seven years of distributing and selling LED lights on January 05, 2022.
- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme was launched by Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on 05 January 2015.
- UJALA initiative is the world's largest zero-subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 36.78 crore LEDs distributed across the country.

## 6. Omisure Kit



- Recently, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a 'Made-in-India' test kit named Omisure to detect the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.
- The kit currently used to detect Omicron in the country has been developed by Thermo Fisher, a US-based scientific instrument company.
- In India, this RT-PCR kit has been manufactured by Tata Medical and Diagnostics.

## 7. TS Tirumurti assumes Chair of UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee



- India's Permanent Representative to the UN, T S Tirumurti has been appointed as the Chair of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022.
- India has assumed the chairmanship of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNSC-CTC) for one year, beginning from January 01, 2022.

**8. Cabinet approves signing of MoU with Nepal for construction of bridge over Mahakali river at Dharchula in Uttarakhand**



- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, the CCEA has approved the Intra-State Transmission System - Green Energy Corridor Phase-II.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said, the scheme will add approximately 10 thousand 750 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and around 27 thousand 500 Mega Volt-Amperes transformation capacity of substations.
- The Minister informed that the transmission systems will be created over a period of five years from the Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.

## 9. Election Commission hikes expenditure limit for candidates in Parliamentary and Assembly polls



- The ceiling on parliamentary poll expenditure has been raised from 70 lakh to 95 lakh rupees in bigger states and 54 lakh to 75 lakhs in smaller states.
- The bigger states include Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka, and the smaller states include Goa, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and UTs. The ceiling on poll expenditure in UT of Jammu and Kashmir has been raised to 95 lakhs.
- For Assembly constituencies, expenditure limits have been enhanced from 28 lakh rupees to 40 lakh rupees in bigger states and from 20 lakhs to 28 lakhs in smaller states.