



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MARCH, 2022

Week-4

22-31 March, 2022

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

22nd MARCH 2022

Common University Entrance Test (CUET)

- **Context:** The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) or the Central University Common Entrance Test (CUCET) is an entrance exam that is computerized and is taken for admission to 45 central universities across the country.
- Under this exam, the Class 12 marks of a candidate won't matter. The Class 12 marks can be used by the universities only as a form of a criterion

Key highlights

- This exam will be conducted in the first week of July by the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- In the first week of April, the application window to apply for this exam will be opened.
- After the exams are conducted, the NTA will prepare a merit list based on which admissions will be given. There will be no common counselling sessions.
- This exam will be an MCQ-based computer-based test (CBT). The question standards will be based on the NCERT textbooks.
- Negative markings will be applicable for incorrect answers.
- **This test will be divided into three sections:**
 - Section A will be the language test under which a student has to select one language under the 13 languages.
 - Section B will be a domain-specific test and the candidates will have to pick 6 out of the 27 domains.
 - Section C is optional having two sub-sections. The sub-section 1 will have general aptitude while sub-section 2 will be a test of 19 uncommon languages which are not included in section A.
- Bengali, Marathi, Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati, Kannada, Telugu, Urdu, Malayalam, Punjabi, Assamese, English, and Odia are the languages offered.

Haryana Anti-Conversion Bill

- **Context:** The Assembly of Haryana has passed the "Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Bill, 2022." According to the government of Haryana, this Bill is aimed to prevent religious conversions through force.

Key highlights

- This bill looks to prevent the conversion of a person's religion through force, fraudulent methods, allurements or under the guise of marriage.
- According to this Bill, if the conversion is done by force, allurements, or fraudulent methods then the person responsible for such acts can be imprisoned for one to five years and a minimum fine of Rs 1 lakh will be made applicable.
- The Bill states that whoever attempts to convert a woman, a minor, or a person from the Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Castes, will be handed out a punishment that includes imprisonment for a term period of a minimum of four years and that can extend to 10 years. The person will also be liable to pay a fine of minimum Rs 3 lakh.

World Air Quality Report, 2021

- **Context:** In 2021, air pollution continued to reach unhealthy levels according to a report on World Air Quality which was prepared by "IQAir" a Swiss organization.

Key highlights

- 35 Indian cities have been listed by the index under the worst air quality tag for 2021.
- New Delhi remained to be the most polluted capital city in the world, for the fourth year running,
- Bhiwadi, Rajasthan topped this list and was followed Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- From Uttar Pradesh, 14 other cities have also been included in this list and they are Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Meerut, Kanpur, Amroha, Agra, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Greater Noida, and Noida. These cities exceeded the PM_{2.5} limit of 0-5 µg/m³ by more than 10 to 15 times.

- According to this report, not a single country from around the globe managed to meet the air quality standard of WHO in 2021.
- This report has been based on the data of PM2.5 air quality taken from 6,475 cities in 117 regions, countries, and territories from across the globe.
- The data that was used to create this newly released report was generated from thousands of low-cost and regulatory air quality monitoring stations that are operated by non-profit organizations, governments, educational facilities, research institutions, citizen scientists, and companies from all over the world.

23rd MARCH 2022

Shaheed Diwas

- **Context:** India observed Shaheed Diwas, also known as Martyrs' Day on 23rd March to honour the valour of the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation.
- On this day, in 1931, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru were hanged to death by the British who were then ruling over India.
- In India, Shaheed Diwas is observed on many occasions. Along with 23rd March, 30th January, the day Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated, is also observed as Shaheed Diwas.

Historical Significance

- Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev joined the nation's freedom struggle. They wanted to avenge Lala Lajpat Rai's death who was protesting against Simon Commission.
- Under various charges, the three revolutionaries were arrested including the murder of John Saunders a British police officer in 1928. Their primary target was James Scott, the Superintendent of Police, who had given the order to his men to lathi-charge protesters which lead to the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.

Sujalam 2.0 Campaign

- The Sujalam 2.0 campaign was launched by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Union Minister of Jal Shakti recently to greywater management.

Key highlights

- The launch event was held virtually by the Ministry of Jal Shakti's Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS).
- 9 Ministries signed a joint advisory to look into how greywater management can be planned based on the convergence model along with those who are associated directly in the implementation of this programme.
- The theme of the campaign is 'Groundwater: making the invisible visible'.
- The Sujlam 2.0 campaign was launched with the objective of managing greywater through the participation of the people.
- Under this campaign, there are plans to mobilize communities such as schools, panchayats, and anganwadis to help in greywater management.
- Funds for greywater management will be provided from the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin Phase II or through grants under the 15th Finance Commission as well as the MGNREGS or through the convergence between all of them.

About Greywater

Greywater refers to the domestic wastewater that is generated in households, office buildings, etc. and is without faecal contamination. Sources of greywater include showers, sinks, washing machines, baths, etc. Since greywater contains less pathogens compared to domestic wastewater, it is safer to treat, handle, and reuse for the purpose of landscape, toilet flushing, crop irrigation, etc.

24th MARCH 2022

Abel Prize, 2022

- Dennis Parnell Sullivan, an American mathematician, has been awarded with the Abel Prize 2022. This award also includes prize money which amounts to 7 Million NOK (Norwegian Krone).
- He received this award for his contributions to topology, especially its geometric, algebraic, and dynamical aspects.
- Topology is a field of mathematics that considers two things of different forms to be equivalent only if they can be deformed into each other. Topology is important in maths and various other fields like data science, economics, and physics.

About Abel Prize

- The Abel Prize is given annually to an individual who has done a remarkable job in the mathematics field. This prize has been named after Niels Henrik Abel who was a famous Norwegian mathematician.
- This award took inspiration from the famous Nobel Prize. Nobel Prize doesn't have a section for mathematics, though some mathematicians have won this prestigious prize in other fields.
- The Abel Prize was first awarded in 2003 to Jean-Pierre Serre, a French mathematician, for his contribution to algebraic geometry, topology, and number theory.
- In 2007, S. R. Srinivasa Varadhan, who is an Indian-American citizen had won the Abel Prize for his contribution in probability theory and for creating a unified large deviation theory.

BrahMos Missile

- **Context:** Recently, the surface-to-surface BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Key highlights

- The test-firing of this missile was witnessed by VR Chaudhari, India's Air Chief Marshal along with other defence officials. The missile that was test-fired hit its target with exact precision.
- Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari was in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to review the forces' operational preparedness.

About BrahMos

- It is a mid-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that has been developed by India's DRDO and the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya.
- This missile has been named after two major rivers of Russia and India. i.e, the Brahmaputra and the Moskva.
- This missile can be launched from Surface Warship, Submarine, Aircraft and also from Land.
- It is one of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile.

25th MARCH 2022

India TB Report 2022

- **Context:** Union Health Minister recently released India TB Report 2022, according to which, in 2021, tuberculosis cases in India increased by 19 percent compared to the previous year.

Key highlights

- During 2021, the total number of TB patients was 19,33,381. In 2020 it was 16,28,161.
- In India, the mortality rate due to all kinds of tuberculosis increased by 11% between 2019 and 2020.
- The total number of estimated TB-related deaths, for the year 2020 was 4.93 lakh, which is 13 percent higher than the estimates of 2019.
- In 2020, the TB-related cases dipped by 38 percent after two months of the pandemic as compared to the months of January and February.

- By the end of 2020 TB cases started rising and a total of 1.8 million cases were registered.
- The report states that the country faced setbacks during the pandemic to fight against TB.
- Malnutrition, HIV, diabetes, alcohol, and tobacco smoking are the comorbidities that impact a person suffering from TB.
- Among the 21,35,830 patients who were diagnosed in 2021, 20,30,509 patients were put on TB-related treatment.
- In India, for the year 2021, the prevalence of all forms of TB was 312 per one lakh population. The highest prevalence was in Delhi with 747 per one lakh while the lowest was in Gujarat with 137 per lakh one population.
- The latest edition of the index has highlighted that most of the country's coastal states are among the best performers.
- The index's second edition will act as a catalyst for the promotion of competitive federalism.
- This index provides a comprehensive analysis of the country's export achievements. It can also be used by the UTs and the states to compare their respective performance with their peers.

26th MARCH 2022

National Dolphin Day

- **Context:** The National Board for Wildlife's (NBWL) standing committee took this decision to designate October 5 as National Dolphin Day.

Key facts

- The day will focus on generating awareness as it is an integral part of dolphin conservation including the Gangetic Dolphin. Focus will also be given to improving the Ganga and its tributaries' water quality and flow so that Gangetic dolphins can survive.
- Dolphins act as a perfect indicator of a healthy aquatic ecosystem, thus the conservation of dolphins is of utmost importance.
- Doing so will not only benefit the survival of the species but will also help the people who are dependent on the aquatic system for their daily livelihood.

About Global TB Report 2021

- According to this report, the estimated TB cases of all forms in India for 2020 stood at 188 per 1 lakh population. TB during childhood remains a huge problem in India. It contributes to around 31 percent of the planet's burden.
- Children constitute 6 to 7 percent of all treated patients who have been treated under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) annually, in the last decade.

Export Preparedness Index

- **Context:** The Second Edition of Export Preparedness Index has been released by NITI Aayog. This report was released in association with the Institute of Competitiveness.

Key highlights

- In this index Gujarat has topped for the second time in a row. It is followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Haryana.
- This index is date-driven and looks to identify the key areas which are critical for subnational export promotion.

About Gangetic Dolphins

- Gangetic Dolphins have been categorized as endangered species under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- The Gangetic Dolphins are threatened due to water diversion, pollution, habitat fragmentation, etc.

Wildlife Conservation Bond

- The world's first wildlife bond has been issued by the World Bank, raising USD 150 million that will partly be used for the conservation of South Africa's black rhinos.

Key facts

- The Wildlife Conservation Bond is the world's first-of-its-kind financial instrument that is outcome-based and will be channeling investments to conserve black rhino populations.
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of the World Bank has announced that the returns paid by the five-year bond will be determined by the rate of population growth of animals in two reserves of South Africa, the Great Fish River Nature Reserve and the Addo Elephant National Park.
- The issuer, instead of paying a coupon, will be making contributions towards the conservation of the animals. The buyers will be receiving a payment from the Global Environment Facility which will be based on targets that are pre-set for the growth of the animals' population.
- The bond has been structured by Credit Suisse Group AG and it also acted as a joint bookrunner along with Citigroup Inc.
- This bond was sold for 94.8 per cent of its nominal aggregate amount, with a USD 13.8 million maximum success payout.
- The programme's success, as well as its payments, will be determined by Conservation Alpha. Zoological Society of London is the verification agent.

27th MARCH 2022

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022

- **Context:** The 2022 Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) was recently inaugurated under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav in Andhra Pradesh.

Key facts

- In 2015, the first Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was held. After the first Mahotsav held in 2015 received a positive response from the general public and the

media, the organization of this festival on a regular basis was started.

- Under this Mahotsav, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is offered to all to see all of the nation's traditional, folk, classical, tribal, and popular art forms under a single roof. More than 1000 artists perform at this festival.
- To represent the various regional cultures of the country aangans are set up.
- The country's traditional Arts & Crafts are also showcased with various craftsmen setting up stalls to sell and demonstrate their items. Special efforts are made under this festival to select musicians who will be able to demonstrate the region of the host state's traditional music.

PMGKAY Scheme

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the extension of 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)' for a time period of six months till September 2022.

Key facts

- This scheme's phase-5 was scheduled to end in March 2022.
- Around Rs 2.60 lakh crore has been spent by the government so far on the scheme, with an additional Rs 80,000 crore earmarked to be spent till September 2022.
- Under this extended scheme, each beneficiary will receive a 5 kg free ration per person per month along with the normal food grains quota under the National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA).
- This scheme will be looking to cover around 80 crore beneficiaries across the nation, and like before, it will be fully funded by the central government.

About PMGKAY

- In March 2020, during the initial phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, the central government had announced the PMGKAY welfare scheme.

- This scheme looked to provide every individual covered under the NFSA with an additional 5 kg of grains (rice or wheat) free of cost, along with the 5 kg of subsidized food grain that is already being provided through the country's Public Distribution System (PDS).

P.V. Sindhu

- **Context:** P.V. Sindhu won the Swiss Open 2022 by defeating Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand in the finals of the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament held in Basel, Switzerland.

Key facts

- This is her second title this season as she had earlier in January won the Syed Modi India International.
- She is the second Indian woman to win this tournament, following Saina Nehwal who had earlier won in 2011 and 2012.
- PV Sindhu is a two times Olympics medal winner having won the silver in the 2016 Rio Olympics and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

28th MARCH 2022

Stockholm Water Prize 2022

- The Stockholm Water Prize 2022 has been awarded to Professor Wilfried Brutsaert for his innovative work in evaluating environmental evaporation. The award was given by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).
- This prize is widely considered to be the Nobel Prize for Water.

Key highlights

- Professor Wilfried Brutsaert was awarded this prize as he has developed methods for quantifying evaporation and the role it plays in the Earth's energy balance that allows for accurate estimations of how precipitation can evolve. This method is of utmost importance to the exposed local communities across

the world as they will be needing to predict daily water levels as well as water levels available in the future.

- The prize will be presented to Professor Brutsaert by Sweden's King on 31st August in Stockholm during the World Water Week (23rd August to 1st September). He will be receiving a glass statue along with 1 million Swedish krona which is equivalent to around USD 104,000.

About Stockholm International Water Institute

- SIWI is a not-for-profit, independent organization that aims to strengthen freshwater governance regionally, globally, locally, and nationally.
- This organization was founded in 1991 and is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden. Torgny Holmgren is the current Executive Director.
- This organization performs research, provides advisory services, and builds institutional capacity in five areas of transboundary water management, water governance, the water-energy-food nexus, water and climate change, and water economics.

TEJAS Skilling Project

- Recently, Minister Anurag Thakur launched Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills (TEJAS) in Dubai. This is an initiative under the Skill India International Project to train Indians so that they can get employed overseas.

Key highlights

- This programme has the objective of skilling, providing certification, and employment of Indians overseas. TEJAS is also aiming to create pathways so that the Indian workforce can get equipped for the various skills and market requirements in the UAE. Under this project, 10,000 strong Indian workforces will be created in the UAE during the initial phase of implementation.
- This project will be looking to skill the Indian population overseas thus providing the world with a large workforce from India who is skilled.

- TEJAS project will create a pathway between UAE and India. Through this project's implementation pathways will be created between India and the UAE enabling the Indian workforce according to the needs of the UAE market.

Oscar Awards 2022

- The Oscars 2022 or the 94th Academy Awards ceremony which is presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) was held recently at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.
- This event honoured the best films that were released between 1st March to 31st December 2021.
- On 1st February 2022, the voting for nominations concluded and on 8th February 2022, the nominations were announced.

Winners

- **Best Picture:** CODA
- **Best Actress:** Jessica Chastain for the movie The Eyes Of Tammy Faye
- **Best Director** was won by Jane Campion for The Power Of The Dog.
- **Best Actor:** Will Smith for the movie King Richard
- **Best Supporting Actress** went to Ariana DeBose for the movie West Side Story.
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Troy Kotsur for the movie CODA
- **Best Original Screenplay:** Belfast
- **Best Adapted Screenplay:** CODA
- **Best International Feature Film:** Drive My Car (Country-Japan)
- **Best Documentary Feature:** Summer Of Soul
- **Best Animated Feature Film:** Encanto
- **Best Animated Short:** The Windshield Wiper
- **Best Original Score:** Dune
- **Best Live Action Short:** The Long Goodbye
- **Best Cinematography:** Dune
- **The Queen of Basketball** received the award for **Best Documentary (Short)**

- **Best Original Song:** No Time To Die (Movie- No Time To Die)
- **Best Production Design:** Dune
- **Best Costume Design:** Cruella
- **Best Sound:** Dune
- **Best Makeup and Hair** went to the movie The Eyes of Tammy Faye
- **Best Visual Effects:** Dune
- **Best Film Editing:** Dune

29th MARCH 2022

Vinaya Samarasya Yojana

- Vinaya Samarasya Yojana, an awareness programme has been announced by the government of Karnataka. This programme aims to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats located across the state.

Key facts

- This scheme has been named after a three-year-old Dalit boy named Vinay. His family were residents of Koppal District's Miyapur village. They were fined Rs 25,000 by the leaders of the village in September 2021 for the "offence" caused by the boy for straying into a local temple.
- The Vinaya Samarasya Yojana will be launched on 14th April on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.
- In Karnataka, the conviction rate in the cases of atrocities done against the Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs) stands at only 7 percent. Out of 23,095 such cases that have been registered in Karnataka since 2019, 19,057 cases are still pending.

Varnika

- Reserve Bank of India's wholly-owned subsidiary Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) has set up an Ink Manufacturing Unit named "Varnika" at Mysuru, Karnataka.

Key facts

- This new unit has been set up to enhance the security of banknotes of the country. It has a capacity of 1,500 MT.
- This unit will provide a boost to the 'Make in India' initiative of the government. It will ensure that the ink that is required for the printing of banknotes is entirely produced in-house.

About BRBNMPL

- BRBNMPL mints all the Indian banknotes and was established in 1995 with the aim of addressing the increased demand for coins and banknotes.
- Most of the country's banknote requirements are supplied by BRBNMPL while the remaining requirements are met through Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) which is a wholly-owned government agency of the Government of India.
- BRBNMPL's headquarter is located in Bengaluru.
- The presses of BRBNMPL are in in Salboni, West Bengal and Mysuru, Karnataka.

Gilbert F. Hougbo

- **Context:** Gilbert F. Hougbo has recently been elected as the International Labour Organization's 11th Director-General. He is the former Prime Minister of Togo and will be assuming office in October 2022.



Key facts

- He will be the first African to have been elected to this post.
- Since 2017, he is serving as the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- From 2008 to 2012, he served as Togo's Prime Minister. Following the massive internal conflict due to the 2005 Togolese presidential election, Hougbo

was elected to this post and he oversaw political, economic, and social reforms in the country.

30th MARCH 2022

Assam-Meghalaya Border Pact

- A border agreement was recently signed between Assam and Meghalaya. With this newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Meghalaya will be gaining 18.33 square kilometers and Assam will be gaining 18.46 sq km out of the total of 36.79 sq km in 6 out of 12 areas of differences that were resolved between the two states.

Key highlights

- This MoU was signed between the Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma, and Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah was also present during this signing.
- The boundary dispute has been going on between both states for a long period of time and over the years 50 meetings have been conducted to resolve this issue.
- The MoU will be considered to be a full and final agreement in respect of the six areas of difference.
- The total 12 areas of difference are Gizang, Tarabari, Langpoh (Lumpi), Hahim, Boklapara, Borduar, Khanapara-Pillangkata, Nongwah-Mawtamur (Garbhanga) Block-I & Block-II, Deshdoomreah, Khanduli and Psiar, and Ratacherra
- Gizang, Tarabari, Boklapara, Hahim, Ratacherra, and Khanapara-Pillangkata are the 6 areas of difference that have been taken into consideration in the first phase.

5th BIMSTEC Summit

- **Context:** The 5th BIMSTEC Summit was held recently in Sri Lanka in a hybrid mode.

Key highlights

- The main outcome of BIMSTEC Summit 2022 was the BIMSTEC Charter's adoption and signing. This charter formalizes the BIMSTEC grouping into an organization that will have a flag, an emblem, and formally listed principles that are to be adhered to by the member nations.
- The BIMSTEC leaders also oversaw the signing of 3 different BIMSTEC agreements that represent the progress being achieved by the group in the ongoing cooperation activities.
- India will provide USD 1 million to the BIMSTEC secretariat for increasing its operational budget. The scope of the BIMSTEC scholarship program that is offered by the Nalanda International University is also being expanded.
- The theme of the summit was "Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People".
- The agreements that were signed are:
 - A BIMSTEC MoU on mutual cooperation for diplomatic training
 - A BIMSTEC convention on mutual legal assistance related to criminal matters
 - A MoA on the establishment of the BIMSTEC technology transfer facility.

NOTE:

India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Nepal are member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

Rajasthan Diwas

- Rajasthan Foundation Day or Rajasthan Diwas was observed on 30th March to commemorate the state's formation. On 30th March 1949, Rajasthan was formed after the merging of Rajputana into the Indian Union.

Key facts about Rajasthan

- The 73rd foundation day of Rajasthan was celebrated

on Rajasthan Day 2022.

- Rajasthan is the largest state by area in India is Rajasthan and 4 percent of the country's geographical area is covered by Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan is India's seventh-largest state by population.
- Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert is a prominent part of Rajasthan.
- Jaipur is its largest city and other major cities are Jodhpur, Udaipur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Kota, and Ajmer.
- The state has three national tiger reserves which are Ranthambore National Park (Sawai Madhopur), Sariska Tiger Reserve (Alwar), and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (Kota).

31st MARCH 2022

Business Blasters Programme

- **Context:** The Delhi government has announced the extension of its Business Blasters programme to the private schools of Delhi.

Key facts

- The Business Blasters programme was launched in 2021.
- Under this programme, students who are studying in classes 11 and 12 are mentored and then provided a financial capital of Rs 2,000 as seed money so that their business ideas can be financed.
- This programme is a part of the Entrepreneur Mindset Curriculum (EMC) that has been developed by the Delhi government for high school students.
- The students of the government school of Delhi have already developed around 52,000 business ideas since the start of this programme.
- The selected students are provided with business-related help by the government.
- This programme is also being implemented so that the government can nurture all the future CEOs and entrepreneurs from an early age.

Desh ke Mentor Programme

- **Context:** National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) raised certain concerns regarding Desh ke Mentor programme, like assigning children a mentor of the same gender does not assure their safety from any kind of abuse.

About the programme

- The Desh ke Mentor programme was launched in October 2021 by the Delhi government. This programme was launched with the aim of connecting students who are studying in classes 9 to 11 with voluntary mentors.
- The people who are aged between 18 to 35 can sign up to be mentors under this programme through an app. This app connects students based on their mutual interests.
- Under this mentorship programme regular phone calls will be carried out for a minimum of two months period and it can be further extended for another four months.
- The idea of this programme was that young mentors will be able to guide students regarding matters related to career options, higher education, higher education entrance exams preparation, and dealing with pressure.
- 44,000 people have signed up on this platform as mentors and have been working with 1.76 lakh children from the state.

IONS Maritime Exercise 2022

- **Context:** The inaugurating edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was recently conducted in the Arabian Sea and at Goa.

Key highlights

- This exercise was conducted with the aim of enhancing the interoperability of the participating nations in the area of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- This exercise comprised of a Harbour Phase that was conducted at the Mormugao port in Goa from 26th to 27th March. This was followed by a Sea Phase that was conducted at the Arabian Sea from 28th to 30th March.

- The Navies of India, Australia, France, Bangladesh, Maldives, Indonesia, Mozambique, Mauritius, Qatar, Oman, Sri Lanka, Singapore, UAE, Thailand, and the UK participated in this exercise.

About Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

- Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was established in 2007 and the first symposium was held in 2008. It is a forum for collaboration as well as cooperation among the navies of the Indian Ocean Region's countries. This forum promotes friendly relationships and also looks to improve maritime security.
- Member States: India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Seychelles, Pakistan, Iran, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Oman, France, UAE, Mauritius, Kenya, South Africa, Mozambique, Eritrea, Tanzania, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Myanmar, Timor Leste, and Thailand.

