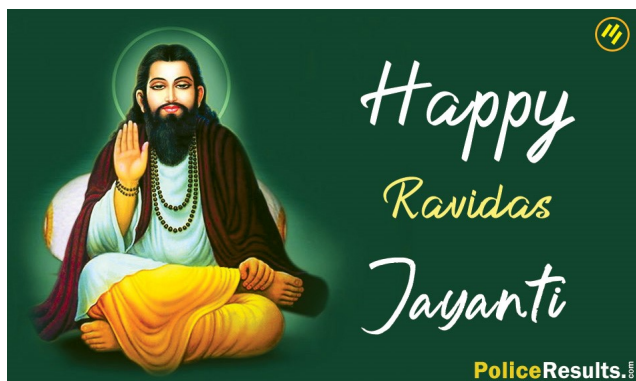## Guru Ravidas Jayanti being celebrated today



- Guru Ravidas Jayanti is being celebrated all across the country today.

- His influence on Indian culture is immense, especially in North India.

- Bhakti movement saint Guru Ravidas is well-known for making efforts in eradicating caste system.

- He was contemporary to Kabirdas and Mirabai was a disciple of Ravidas.

- Ravidas Jayanti has a special significance among the people following Ravidassia religion, a religion founded on the principles of Ravidas.

- His importance in Sikhism is denoted by the fact that 40 of his poems were included in the sacred ure of the religion, the Adi Granth.

## Myanmar permanent representative to UN condemns military government



- In a major embarrassment to the military government of Myanmar, its permanent representative to the UN on Friday denounced the military coup during an informal briefing by the special envoy of the Secretary General to the UN General Assembly.

- Permanent Representative of Myanmar Ambassador U Kyaw Moe also gave the three finger salute during his speech.

- The three finger salute has become the trademark symbol of the protestors in Myanmar since the military takeover of the government in the country.
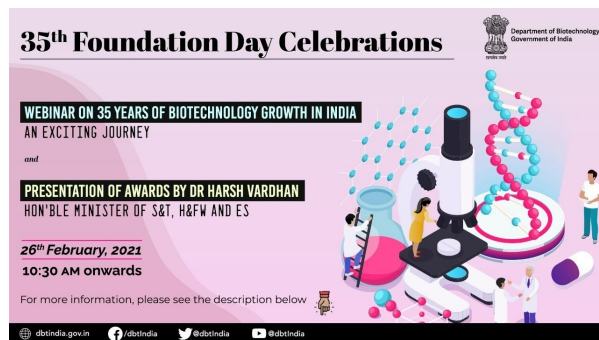
## Lantern Festival



- China is celebrating its traditional Lantern festival today. Celebrated on the 15th day of the first Chinese lunar month, the Lantern Festival traditionally marks the end of the Chinese New Year also known as 'Spring Festival' period.

- In 2021, China ushered into Lunar New Year - the 'Year of the Ox' on 12th February.

- The Lantern Festival is also the first full moon night in the Chinese calendar, marking the return of spring and symbolizing the reunion of family.

- According to China's various folk customs, people get together on the night of the Lantern Festival to celebrate with different activities.

- Lantern Festival customs and activities vary regionally including lighting and enjoying lanterns, appreciating the bright full moon, setting off fireworks, flying drones, guessing riddles written on lanterns, eating tangyuan or dumplings, lion dances, dragon dances, and walking on stilts.

- People will go out to look at the moon, send up flying lanterns, fly bright drones, have a meal, and enjoy time together with family and friends in parks and natural areas.

# The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) today celebrated its 35th Foundation Day.



- DBT also organizes webinar/s on "35 years of Biotechnology Growth in India – An exciting journey"

- BRITE (Biotechnology Research Innovation and Technology Excellence) Awards Given

- The e-book "DBT Fights COVID- From Virus to Vaccine" showcasing initiatives and achievements of DBT in mitigation of COVID-19 pandemic, unveiled

- The remarkable march of India into the world of biosciences and technological advances began in 1986, when a separate Department for Biotechnology, within the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India was created.

Vision

- "Attaining new heights in biotechnology research, shaping biotechnology into a premier precision tool of the future for creation of wealth and ensuring social justice – specially for the welfare of the poor."

- Major Initiatives of the National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2015-2020

- Launch four major missions in healthcare, food and nutrition, clean energy and education

- Create a technology development and translation network across India with global partnership, including 5 new clusters, 40 biotech incubators, 150 TTOs, and 20 bio-connect centres

- Ensure strategic and focused investment in building the human capital by setting up a Life Sciences and Biotechnology Education Council

# Magha Purnima

- Maghi Purnima, also known by the name of Magha Purnima, is known to be a day of the full moon that occurs during the Hindu calendar month of Magh.

- This day falls during the Gregorian calendar month of January or February.

- During this time period, the auspicious Kumbh Mela is held every twelve years, and the Magha Mela is held on an annual basis at the confluence of three rivers or Triveni Sangam all around north India, such as in cities like Allahabad or Prayag.

# Endangered Languages in India

- According to Unesco's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger, approximately 230 languages have become extinct, and a third have fewer than 1,000 speakers.

- UNESCO's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger is intended to:

- highlights the need to safeguard the world's linguistic diversity among policy-makers, speaker communities and the general public, and

- be a tool to monitor the status of endangered languages and the trends in linguistic diversity at the global level.

- The aim of UNESCO's Endangered Languages Programme is to support communities, experts and governments by producing, coordinating and disseminating:

- tools for monitoring, advocacy, and assessment of language status and trends; and services such as policy advice, technical expertise and training, good practices and a platform for the exchange and transfer of skills.

- It is estimated that, if nothing is done, half of the over 6,000 plus languages spoken today will disappear by the end of this century

- India has the highest number of languages – 197 languages- which were endangered, vulnerable or extinct as of 2017

- Out of these 5 languages were extinct, 42 critically Endangered, 7 severely endangered and 62 were definitely endangered and 81 were vulnerable

- Neary 60% of these languages originated in the Northeast and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- More than half of endangered languages have fewer than 10000 speakers and therefore have not been recorded in the Indian Census

# Indian Railways Reactivates Mobile App For Unreserved Ticket Booking



- With the aim of decongesting ticket booking counters and to ensure smooth compliance of social distancing norms, the facility to book unreserved tickets through 'UTS on mobile app' is being reactivated by Indian Railways.

- The facility was discontinued when the coronavirus-triggered lockdown was imposed on the country last year.

- The passenger will have to commence the journey within one hour of booking the ticket through the UTS mobile application.

- This app can be downloaded from Apple store as well as Google Play store.

- UTS on Mobile app offers various e-payment options for topping up Rail Wallet (R-Wallet).

- The R-Wallet can be recharged by passengers online through the official IRCTC website and also, at station ticket counters.'

- While recharging o-n the UTS app, 5 percent cash bonus will be offered to the passenger.

- For every R-wallet recharge of Rs 100, tickets can be booked up to an amount of Rs 105.

- Tickets, as for the geo-fencing aspect, can be booked through the app in the range of 5 kilometres to 30 metres radius of suburban stations.

- However, within 30 metres closer limit to stations, bookings on UTS app will not be possible.

- For ease of booking unreserved tickets and avoiding the need for queuing up at ticket counters, the national transporter has requested Chennai suburban commuters to extensively use UTS Mobile App.

# New umbrella entity for payments



- RBI extends application deadline umbrella entity for retail payments

- As per RBI guidelines, firms with at least 3 years' experience and a net worth of over Rs500 crore will be eligible to set up the umbrella entity which will be allowed to set up, manage and operate new payment systems in the retail space

- No single promoter or promoter group should have more than 40 per cent investment in the capital of the entity.

- The promoters should upfront demonstrate capital contribution of not less than 10 per cent — Rs 50 crore — at the time of making an application for setting up of the entity.

- The promoter or the promoter group shareholding should be diluted to a minimum of 25 per cent after 5 years of the commencement of business.

- A minimum net worth of Rs 300 crore should be maintained.

- The entity eligible to apply as promoter or the promoter group for the NUE should be 'owned and controlled by residents' with 3 years' experience in the payments ecosystem as Payment System Operator (PSO) or Payment Service Provider (PSP) or Technology Service Provider (TSP).

- Once established, these newly authorized entities will be able to operate their own clearing and settlement systems.

- Establish new standards and technologies; and develop innovative new payment systems that enhance customer access, convenience and safety.

- All NUEs will have to be interoperable with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

- NPCI would also be allowed to set themselves up as for-profit entities, and they will themselves be able to participate in RBI's payment and settlement systems.

- The NPCI is at the epicentre of digital payments in the country.

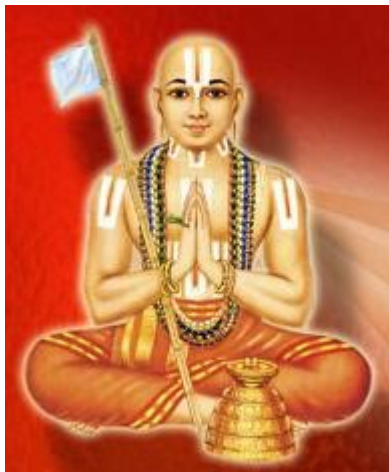# Central Excise Day is celebrated every year on February 24



- It is observed on 24th February every year to commemorate the Central Excise and Salt Act which was enacted on 24th February 1944.

- The day honours the contribution of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to the country and the officers associated with it and their services.

- The day also encourages the officers to carry out their duties with utmost sincerity

- Every year, officers do their duties of checking the corruption of goods from the manufacturing sector.

- The Central Excise Department plays an important role in the industrial development of the country.

- The tax system has been reformed by the Ministry to make payment of taxes easier and has also increased the use of techniques.

# The caracal, a favourite of royals, now critically endangered



- The National Board for Wildlife and Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change last month included the caracal, a medium-sized wildcat found in parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, in the list of critically endangered species.

- Though not under grave threat in its other habitats, the animal is on the verge of extinction in India

- Besides India, the cracal is found in several dozen countries across Africa, the Middle East, Central and South Asia.

- While it flourishes in parts of Africa, its numbers in Asia are declining.

- The wildcat has long legs, a short face, long canine teeth, and distinctive ears — long and pointy, with tufts of black hair at their tips.

- The iconic ears are what give the animal its name — caracal comes from the Turkish karakulak, meaning 'black ears'.

- In India, it is called siya gosh, aPersian name that translates as' black Ear'.

- A Sanskrit fable exists about a small wild cat named deergha - arnor 'long-eared'.

- The caracal could be earlier found in arid and semi-arid scrub forest and ravines in Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh

- Today, its presence is restricted to Rajasthan, Kutch, and parts of MP.

- The listing of the caracal as critically endangered is expected to bring central funding to conservation efforts.

- It is likely to ensure that the animal is studied comprehensively for the first time, including its home range, population, prey, etc.

# Ramanujacharya



- Ramanuja or Ramanujacharya (c. 1017–1137 CE )

- Was an Indian theologian, philosopher, social reformer, and one of the most important exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism.

- His philosophical foundations for devotionalism were influential to the Bhakti movement.

- Ramanuja's guru was Yādava Prakāśa, a scholar who was a part of the more ancient Advaita Vedānta monastic tradition.

- Sri Vaishnava tradition holds that Ramanuja disagreed with his guru and the non-dualistic Advaita Vedānta, and instead followed in the footsteps of Tamil Alvārs tradition, the scholars Nāthamuni and Yamunāchārya.

- Ramanuja is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedānta,and his disciples were likely authors of texts such as the Shatyayaniya Upanishad.

- Ramanuja himself wrote influential texts, such as bhāsya on the Brahma Sutras and the Bhagavad Gita, all in Sanskrit.

- His Vishishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism) philosophy has competed with the Dvaita (theistic dualism) philosophy of Madhvāchārya, and Advaita (non-dualism) philosophy of Ādi Shankara, together the three most influential Vedantic philosophies of the 2nd millennium.

- Ramanuja presented the epistemic and soteriological importance of bhakti, or the devotion to a personal God (Vishnu in Ramanuja's case) as a means to spiritual liberation.

- His theories assert that there exists a plurality and distinction between Ātman (soul) and Brahman (metaphysical, ultimate reality), while he also affirmed that there is unity of all souls and that the individual soul has the potential to realize identity with the Brahman.

# Multidrug resistant (MDR) bacteria



- Global travellers exposed to a greater burden of multidrug-resistant bacteria: study

- Multidrug resistant (MDR) bacteria are one of the most important current threats to public health.

- Typically, MDR bacteria are associated with nosocomial infections

- However, some MDR bacteria have become quite prevalent causes of community-acquired infections.

- When a single bacterium is resistant to more than one antibiotic it is said to be multidrug-resistant.

- This can occur in two distinct ways. A bacterium can have several different resistance genes, each providing resistance to a particular antibiotic.

# National Waterways in India



MAP OF INDIA SHOWING IMPORTANT WATERWAYS

- National Waterways Act came into effect in 2016.

- It proposed 106 additional National Waterways and merges 5 existing Acts which were declared the 5 National Waterways.

- As a result, 106 new waterways were identified by IWAI and intimated to MoS.

- In this regard, the National Waterways Act, 2016 was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section I dated 26th March, 2016 as an Act No. 17 of 2016

- In 1986, the Government of India created the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for regulation and development of Inland Waterways for navigation and shipping.

- Out of the 111, National Waterways declared under the National Waterways Act, 2016, 13 are operational for shipping and navigation and cargo/passenger vessels are moving on them.

- The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly is the longest waterways in India stretched for 1620 km

There are mainly two types of waterways in India:

- Inland waterways – which includes rives, lakes, canals, etc.

- Sea or Shipping Routes which are mostly used for trade

Inland Waterways Authority of India or IWAI is a statutory body which is responsible for the waterways in India.

- NW – 1    Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly

- NW – 2    Brahmaputra

- NW – 3    West Coast Canal, Champakara Canal, and Udyogamandal Canal

- NW – 4    Krishna and Godavari

- NW – 10   Amba River

- NW – 83   Rajpuri Creek-Maharashtra

- NW – 85   Revadanda Creek – Kundalika River System-Maharashtra

- NW – 91   Shastri river–Jaigad creek system - Maharashtra

- NW – 68   Mandovi – Usgaon Bridge to the Arabian Sea- Goa

- NW – 111  Zuari– Sanvordem Bridge to Marmugao Port      - Goa

- NW – 73   Narmada River -Gujarat and Maharashtra

- NW – 100        Tapi River       - Gujarat and Maharashtra

- NW – 97 (Sundarbans Waterways) Namkhana to AtharaBankiKhal-Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route West Bengal

these are operational waterways

# Swachh Iconic Places



- The Swachh Iconic Places is an initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

- It is a special clean-up initiative focused on select iconic heritage, spiritual and cultural places in the country.

- The initiative is being coordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti in association with the Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and the concerned State governments.

- Kashmir's iconic Dal Lake among 12 'Swachh Iconic Places' selected for intensive clean-up in 4th phase

- Phase I coverage of iconic places

- Vaishno Devi, Jammu and Kashmir Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Maharashtra Taj Mahal, Uttar Pradesh Tirupati Temple, Andhra Pradesh Golden Temple, Punjab Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh Ajmer Sharif Dargah, Rajasthan Meenakshi Temple, Tamil Nadu Kamakhya Temple, Assam Jagannath Puri, Odisha

- Phase II coverage of iconic places

- Gangotri Yamunotri Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain Char Minar, Hyderabad Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assissi, Goa Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam Gomateshwar in Shravanbelgola Baijnath Dham, Devghar Gaya Tirth in Bihar Somnath temple in Gujarat.

- Phase III coverage of iconic places Raghavendra Swamy Temple (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh) Hazardwari Palace (Murshidabad, West Bengal) Brahma Sarovar Temple (Kurukshetra, Haryana) VidurKuti (Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh) Mana village (Chamoli, Uttarakhand) Pangong Lake (Leh-Ladakh, J&K) Nagvasuki Temple (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh) ImaKeithal/market (Imphal, Manipur) Sabarimala Temple (Kerala) Kanvashram (Uttarakhand)

- Phase IV coverage of iconic places Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra Sanchi Stupa, Madhya Pradesh Kumbhalgarh Fort, Rajasthan Jaisalmer Fort, Rajasthan Ramdevra, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan Golconda Fort, Hyderabad, Telangana Sun Temple, Konark, Odisha Rock Garden, Chandigarh Dal Lake, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir Banke Bihari Temple, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh Agra Fort, Agra, Uttar Pradesh Kalighat Temple, West Bengal