



04 January 2025

National and International News

<p>United District Information System for Education (UDISE+)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education data reveals that Delhi schools outperform the national average in terms of digitalization. According to data from the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), 99.1% of schools in Delhi have functional desktops, compared to just 32.4% nationwide. Assam recorded the lowest percentage of schools with functional desktops at 12.8%, followed by Bihar at 13.3% and Jharkhand at 17%. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UDISE+ stands for Unified District Information System for Education Plus. It's an online platform developed by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India. Purpose: UDISE+ collects comprehensive data on all recognized schools in India, covering various aspects like: School Infrastructure: Availability of classrooms, toilets, drinking water, electricity, and other facilities. Teacher Information: Details about teachers, including their qualifications, experience, and attendance. Student Enrollment: Data on student enrollment, including gender and socio-economic background.
<p>Foreign Trade Policy 2023</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) amended the Foreign Trade Policy 2023 to include Para 1.07A and 1.07B, mandating consultation with stakeholders, including importers, exporters, and industry experts, for their views and feedback on the formulation or amendment of the policy. The key objective of the amendments is to encourage the participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process before introducing or changing policy and procedures affecting the importation, exportation, and transit of goods along with a reasonable opportunity to comment and contribute in the process. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Trade Policy (2023) is a policy document which is based on continuity of time-tested schemes facilitating exports as well as a document which is nimble and responsive to the requirements of trade.



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- **The Key Approach to the policy is based on these 4 pillars –**
 - Incentive to Remission,
 - Export promotion through collaboration - Exporters, States, Districts, Indian Missions,
 - Ease of doing business, reduction in transaction cost and e-initiatives and
 - Emerging Areas – E-Commerce Developing Districts as Export Hubs and streamlining SCOMET policy.
- **Key Highlights of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023:**
 - **Process Re-Engineering and Automation:**
 - Increased reliance on automated IT systems with risk management for various export approvals under the new FTP.
 - **Towns of Export Excellence (TEE):**
 - Four new towns—Faridabad, Mirzapur, Moradabad, and Varanasi—were designated as TEEs, expanding the list to 43 towns.
 - **Recognition of Exporters:**
 - Exporters with ‘status’ recognition will engage in capacity-building initiatives, including trade-related training for others.
 - **Promoting Exports from the Districts:**
 - Collaboration with state governments to promote districts as Export Hubs (DEH).
 - **Amnesty Scheme:**
 - Introduction of a one-time Amnesty Scheme under FTP 2023 to address defaults on Export Obligations.

**Person in news:
Rani Velu Nachiyar**



Why in news?


- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, paid tribute to the brave Rani Velu Nachiyar on the occasion of her birth anniversary.

Key Points:

- Rani Velu Nachiyar was born on **January 3, 1730, in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu.**
- She was the first queen to have ever actively opposed British rule and fought against colonial rulers many years before the Sepoy Mutiny.
- She is known by **Tamils as Veeramangai.**
- She was trained in war to match weapons usage, martial arts like Valari, Silambam (fighting using the stick), horse riding and archery.
- She was a scholar in many languages and she had proficiency in languages like **French, English and Urdu.**
- She married the king of Sivagangai named Muthuvaduganathaperiya Udaiyathevar, with whom she had a daughter. When her husband was killed by British soldiers, she was drawn into battle.
- **War against the British:** In collaboration with Hyder Ali and Gopala Nayaker, she waged a war against the British and emerged victoriously
- She granted powers to the Marudu brothers to administer the country in 1780.



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<p>United Nations Security Council (UNSC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama and Somalia began their two-year term as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. The five countries replaced Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is one of the five principal organizations of the United Nations (UN). It has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Under the Charter of the UN, all Member States are obligated to comply with UNSC decisions. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to peace or act of aggression. Powers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of peacekeeping operations Establishment of international sanctions Authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions Members: It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 permanent members known as P5, including the United Kingdom, China, France, Russia, and the United States. The P5's privileged status has its roots in the United Nations' founding in the aftermath of World War II. They have veto power over decisions of the UNSC. 10 non-permanent members: Each year the 193-member General Assembly elects five non-permanent members for a two-year term at the UNSC. Headquarters: New York
<p>Person in news: Savitribai Phule</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, honored Savitribai Phule Ji on the occasion of her birth anniversary. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Savitribai Phule, a Dalit woman from the Mali community, was born on January 3, 1831, in the village of Naigaon in Maharashtra. She was married to Jyotirao Phule (a social reformer) at a young age and he provided her education at home. Contributions of Savitribai Phule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Savitribai, along with her husband Jyotirao Phule, pioneered India's earliest girls' school in Bhide Wada, Pune, in 1848. She became India's first woman teacher and first Indian headmistress. The couple opened more such schools for girls, Shudras, and Ati-Shudras (the backward castes and



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	<p>Dalits, respectively) in Pune.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pune University bears the name of Savitribai Phule, serving as a tribute to this formidable woman who passionately advocated for women’s education in India. <p>○ Social Reform and Activism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Together with Jyotirao, Savitribai established the Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (‘Home for the Prevention of Infanticide’) as a shelter for children who were victims of rape, sati, and those who escaped female infanticide. ■ Savitribai Phule was a strong advocate for inter-caste marriages, widow remarriage, and the abolition of child marriage, sati, and dowry practices, among other social reforms. ■ In 1873, the Phules founded the Satyashodhak Samaj, or the ‘Truth-seekers’ Society,’ which welcomed individuals from all castes, religions, and classes, with the aim of promoting social equality. ■ They also introduced the ‘Satyashodhak Marriage,’ which rejected Brahmanical customs. In this ceremony, the couple pledged to work towards education and equality. ■ Savitribai actively participated in relief efforts during the 1896 famine in Maharashtra and the 1897 Bubonic plague.
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<p>Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Union Health Ministry is closely monitoring the HMPV outbreak in China and has assured that the situation is not concerning at this moment. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) is an RNA virus belonging to the Metapneumovirus genus in the Pneumoviridae family. ● It was first identified in 2001 by Dutch scientists studying respiratory illnesses in children. ● HMPV primarily spreads through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respiratory droplets during coughing or sneezing. ○ Direct contact with infected individuals. ○ Contaminated surfaces in shared environments ● Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cough ○ Fever ○ Nasal congestion ○ Fatigue ● Key reasons for concern include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vulnerable Populations: Children under 14 and the elderly are most at risk. ○ No Vaccine: Unlike influenza or COVID-19, there is no vaccine for HMPV. ○ Reinfection Possibility: Immunity after infection is short-lived,
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making reinfections possible.

- **Healthcare Strain:** Rising cases are placing a burden on healthcare facilities, especially pediatric units.

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