



**SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY**

FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF **SMART LEADERS IAS**

# TNPSC **SANGAMAM**

**FREE**  
**MONTHLY**  
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# **SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY**

**FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF SMART LEADERS IAS**

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### **ADICHANALLUR**

- Experts at the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) unearthed a gold diadem from a huge burial urn while excavating the museum site at Adichanallur



- the precious metal was found inside a huge urn discovered in a pit with a diameter of 2.63 feet. The urn was interred into a rock of the same diameter.
- the urn contained a number of objects that were made of gold, bronze or iron. As many as 20 iron objects — two inside and 18 outside the urn burial — were unearthed.
- On the outside, it contained 11 arrow heads, two spear heads, one hanger, an iron plate, a chisel and a long spear of 1.75 metre with a decorated handle.
- The bronze objects included a circular sieve, a cup with a stand, and two bowls. Interestingly, the cup had a moulded decoration.
- The urn also had a number of pots, and red and black earthen wares of varying sizes.

### **ONDIVEERAN**



Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr L Murugan has expressed his gratitude to Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for authorizing a commemorative postal stamp for freedom fighter Ondiveeran. The stamp will be released on 20th August in Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu.

#### **About:**

- Ondiveeran Pagadai (or Ondi Veeran) (died 20 August 1771) was an Indian commander-in-chief who fought against the British East India Company in Tamil Nadu.
- Ondiveeran came from the Arunthathiyar community and is viewed by them as a hero.

### **SUBRAMANIAM BALAJI VS TAMIL NADU JUDGMENT (2013)**

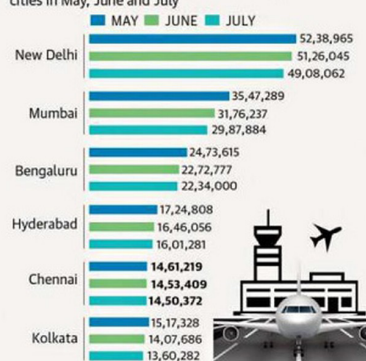
The Supreme Court referred to a three-judge Bench a series of petitions seeking a judicial direction that political parties who make “wild” promises of largesse should also reveal in their poll manifestos where they will get the money to pay for them.

#### **About:**

- The 2013 Balaji judgment states that election manifesto promises do not amount to ‘corrupt practice’ under Section 123 of the Representation of People Act.
- This revisit by the Supreme Court on its earlier judgment is unique as the court is exploring whether judicial parameters can be set on a purely political act of promising freebies.
- In its order, the court foresees that “freebies may create a situation wherein the State government cannot provide basic amenities due to lack of funds and the State is pushed towards imminent bankruptcy”.
- The court said it wants a transparent debate before the three-judge Bench on whether an “enforceable” judicial order can stop political parties from promising and distributing ‘irrational freebies’.
- The case is unique as the Supreme Court is exploring whether judicial parameters can be set on a purely political act of promising freebies.

## AIRPORT TRAFFIC

**Good turnaround** | There has been a sharp recovery in the air passenger traffic after normal flight services were restored at Chennai airport in the last few months. The following is the break-up of the number of passengers who used the airports in the top five metro cities in May, June and July



After nearly two years of COVID-19 lull, the increased international air traffic has helped Chennai airport climb one rank up to become the fifth busiest airport in the country after Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

### About:

- Till February 2014, Chennai airport held onto being the third busiest in the country and post March, Bengaluru airport overtook and continues to retain that position. Hyderabad and Kolkata airports too recorded sharp growth, relegating Chennai to the sixth spot.
- Interestingly, if one looks at the international passenger traffic data for July, Chennai airport stood third behind Delhi and Mumbai; it overtook Bengaluru and Hyderabad, recording 4.29 lakh passengers.
- But Chennai lags behind other metro cities in terms of domestic passenger traffic. In July, the Chennai airport had only 10.2 lakh domestic air passengers, far behind Delhi (36.5 lakh passengers), Mumbai (21.5 lakh passengers), Bengaluru (19.1 lakh passengers), Hyderabad (13.1 lakh passengers) and Kolkata (11.99 lakh passengers).



### **V.K. PAUL TASKFORCE ON MONKEYPOX**

In the wake of the detection of monkeypox cases in India, the Union government has constituted a task force to monitor and provide guidance on the expansion of diagnostic facilities and to explore vaccination against the infection in the country.

#### **About:**

- The team will be headed by V.K. Paul, member (Health), NITI Aayog. India has reported six confirmed cases of monkeypox so far — four in Kerala and two in Delhi.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 18,000 cases have been reported from 78 countries.
- Monkeypox is a zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus, which belongs to the same family of viruses that causes smallpox.
- The disease is endemic in regions like West and Central Africa, but lately, cases have been reported from non-endemic countries too, according to WHO.

### **THE INDIAN ANTARCTIC BILL**

The Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Antarctic Bill.

#### **About:**

- The Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022 seeks to allow the application of Indian laws to the country's research stations in Antarctica.
- It also aims to provide national measures to protect the Antarctic environment and associated ecosystems.
- The Bill will also give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.

### **THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THEIR DELIVERY SYSTEMS (PROHIBITION OF UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES) AMENDMENT BILL**

The Rajya Sabha passed the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill.

#### **About:**

- The first Bill will amend the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005.
- The amendment seeks to prevent financing of prohibited activities related to nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.
- The Bill also proposes to empower the Central government to freeze, seize or attach funds or financial assets or economic resources for preventing financing of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) and to prohibit making available funds or resources for such activities.

### **GATI SHAKTI UNIVERSITY BILL**

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan introduced the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to convert the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), a deemed-to-be university, into the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, an autonomous Central university.

#### **About:**

- The Bill seeks to expand the scope of the university from beyond just the Railways to cover the entire transport sector and support growth and modernisation in the field.
- The new university, once the Bill clears both Houses of Parliament, will be funded and administered by the Ministry of Railways.
- The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022 seeks to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009, inter alia, to provide for the establishment of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya as a body corporate under the said Act.
- The establishment of the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya would address the need for talent in the strategically important and expanding transportation sector and meet the demand for trained talent to fuel the growth and expansion of the sector.

### **AURANGABAD: FIRST SMART CITY IN INDIA TO RECEIVE DATA FROM GOOGLE'S EIE**

- The Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data from Google was officially released in



Aurangabad on Wednesday, according to the Aurangabad Smart City Development Corporation Limited (ASCDCL).

- This makes Aurangabad the first city in the nation to experience this. The data would aid research groups in formulating sustainable solutions for the city, according to ASCDCL authorities, who noted that the EIE dashboard for Aurangabad was introduced by Google during an event in New Delhi.

## FOODBORNE PATHOGEN SURVEY NETWORK (ICMR-FoodNet)



The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has inaugurated the Foodborne Pathogen Survey Network (ICMR-FoodNet) in Northeast India.

### About:

- It is the beginning of a unique public health initiative in the region, the Council said.
- The integrated task force coordinates project-based activity campaigns, monitors food-borne enteric disease outbreaks, and conducts intensified systematic laboratory-based surveillance in four north-eastern States, in collaboration with research and medical institutions and food sectors.

## SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA MISSION



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various

projects of the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission worth more than 300 crore rupees at Dharampur in Gujarat.

### About:

- Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said, the initiatives by the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission in the field of rural healthcare have strengthened the Vision of a 'Healthy India'.
- The modern healthcare facilities started by the Mission will benefit the rural, poor, and tribal people of South Gujarat.
- On the occasion, Mr Modi also recalled the spiritual association of Mahatma Gandhi with Rajchandra Ji.
- Shrimad Rajchandra (1867 – 1901) was a Jain poet, mystic, philosopher, scholar and reformer. He wrote much philosophical poetry including Atma Siddhi. He is best known for his teachings on Jainism and his spiritual guidance to Mahatma Gandhi.

## PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION (PDP) BILL

The government has withdrawn the Personal Data Protection Bill from Parliament as it considers a "comprehensive legal framework" to regulate the online space, including bringing separate laws on data privacy, the overall Internet ecosystem, cybersecurity, telecom regulations, and harnessing non-personal data to boost innovation in the country.

### About:

- The government has taken this step after nearly four years of the Bill being in the works.
- It had gone through multiple iterations, including a review by a Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP), and faced major pushback from a range of stakeholders including big tech companies such as Facebook and Google, and privacy and civil society activists.
- The tech companies had, in particular, questioned a proposed provision in the Bill called data localisation, under which it would have been mandatory for companies to store a copy of certain sensitive personal data within India, and the export of undefined "critical" personal data from the country would be prohibited.
- The activists had criticised, in particular, a provision that allowed the central government and its agencies blanket exemptions from adhering to any and all provisions of the Bill.
- The delays in the Bill had been criticised by several stakeholders, who had pointed out that it was a matter of grave concern that India, one of the world's largest Internet

markets, did not have a basic framework to protect people's privacy.

## MINERALS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP (MSP)

As part of a global 'China-plus-one' strategy adopted post the Covid-19 pandemic that caused massive supply-chain disruptions, a group of western nations are cooperating to develop alternatives to China to ensure key industrial supplies.

### About:


- A new US-led partnership initiative of 11 nations aims to bolster critical mineral supply chains. India is not part of this arrangement — called the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) — but New Delhi is working through diplomatic channels to fetch an entry.
- The US and 10 partners — Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the European Commission — have come together to form the MSP. The new grouping is aimed at catalysing investment from governments and the private sector to develop strategic opportunities.
- The new grouping could focus on the supply chains of minerals such as Cobalt, Nickel, Lithium, and also the 17 'rare earth' minerals.

### What are rare earth elements?

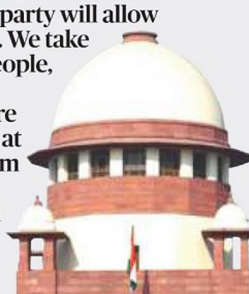
- The 17 rare earth elements (REE) include the 15 Lanthanides (atomic numbers 57 — which is Lanthanum — to 71 in the periodic table) plus Scandium (atomic number 21) and Yttrium (39). REEs are classified as light RE elements (LREE) and heavy RE elements (HREE).

## FREEBIES

The Supreme Court said Parliament may not be able to effectively debate the issue of doing away with "irrational freebies" offered to voters during elections, saying the "reality" is that not a single political party wants to take away freebies.

 These days everyone wants freebies. Not a single political party will allow freebies to be taken away... We take the side of the ordinary people, the downtrodden. Their welfare has to be taken care of. We are not just looking at this as just another problem during election time... We are looking at the national economic well-being

**N.V. RAMANA**  
Chief Justice of India



### About:

- The court suggested setting up a specialised body composed of persons who can "dispassionately" examine the problem.
- The observations from a Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana came even as the Centre said these freebies were paving the way for an "economic disaster" besides "distorting the informed decision of voters".
- The Centre, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, said it "substantially and in principle" supported doing away with the practice of promising freebies to voters.
- The court directed the parties to make "suggestions for the composition of a body".
- It proposed that this body could examine ways to resolve the issue of freebies and file a report before the Centre or the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- The court said once the parties come up with suggestions on the composition of such a body in a week, it would pass orders.

## KHULNA-MONGLA RAILWAY LINE

Bangladesh Railway Minister Md. Nurul Islam Sujan has said that the Khulna-Mongla railway line will become operational by the end of this year.

### About:

- The Mongla-Khulna railway line is funded by the government of India Line of Credit (LOC).
- The Khulna-Mongla railway project is part of the first Line of Credit extended by India to Bangladesh in 2010.
- The project is scheduled to be over by the end of this year.
- According to the IRCON International Ltd, a total 31 bridges and 108 culverts have been built for the train link. The Rupsha bridge was completed on 25 June this year.

## WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2021

The Lok Sabha passed the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.

### About:

- The Bill amends the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The Act regulates the protection of wild animals, birds and plants.
- The Bill seeks to increase the species protected under the law, and implement the Convention on International Trade in



Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

- Currently, the Act has six schedules for specially protected plants (one), specially protected animals (four), and vermin species (one). The Bill reduces the total number of schedules to four.
- The Bills empowers the central government to regulate or prohibit the import, trade, possession or proliferation of invasive alien species.

## EDUCATION IN MOTHER TONGUE

The Minister for Education informed the Lok Sabha about Education in Mother Tongue.

### About:

- Section 29(f) of Chapter V under Right to Education Act, 2009 clearly states that, “medium of instructions shall, as far as practicable, be in child’s mother tongue.”
- Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of the States/UTs.
- As envisaged in para 4.11 of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, is to be the mother tongue/regional language.
- The NIPUN Bharat Mission of the Government of India through its Mission Implementation Guidelines suggests that teaching learning process and development of teaching learning material should be done in mother tongue.
- Similarly, Vidya Pravesh- a three-month play-based school preparation programme for Grade-I and NISHTHA FLN (Foundational literacy and Numeracy) have also re-emphasised the same.

## WORLD’S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR POWER PLANT GOING TO BE BUILT IN KHANDWA, MP

- The world’s largest floating solar power plant is going to be built at Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh.
- With an aim to increase the power generation capacity of the central state of Madhya Pradesh and address the electricity problems in the region.
- A floating solar power plant is going to be built in Khandwa which will generate 600 Megawatt power by 2022-23.
- The project which is said to world’s largest floating solar plant will be constructed at an estimated cost of over Rs 3,000 crore over the Omkareshwar Dam and it will help

generate.

- Khandwa will become the only district in the state to have all three things including solar, hydel and thermal with over 4,000MW power to be produced from a single district.

## IDF WORLD DAIRY SUMMIT 2022 TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI

- International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit (IDF WDS 2022), is scheduled to be held in New Delhi from September 12. India will look to improve its per animal milk productivity by drawing lessons from advanced nations.
- Currently, the world’s largest milk producer with about 210 million tonnes of production per year, India lags behind many advanced countries in dairy productivity.
- This, according to dairy sector leaders, will be a key takeaway for the country from the Summit that has a theme of “livelihood and nutrition”.
- Before this, India hosted the International Dairy Congress in 1974. It must be noted that India is the largest milk producing country in the world.

### About the IDF World Dairy Summit:

- The IDF World Dairy Summit is an annual meeting of the global dairy sector, bringing together approximately 1500 participants from all over the world.
- The participant profile includes CEOs and employees of dairy processing companies, dairy farmers, suppliers to the dairy industry, academicians, government representatives, etc. The summit is composed of a series of scientific and technical conferences and social events.

## BIHAR’S LANGAT SINGH COLLEGE ASTRONOMY LAB INCLUDED IN THE UNESCO HERITAGE LIST



- The astronomical observatory at the Langat Singh College, commonly known as L. S. College, Muzaffarpur, Bihar is now included in the UNESCO list of Important



Endangered Heritage observatories of the world.

- The college authorities have requested the state government to conserve the old Astro lab as a specimen of the glorious past of the state and also to preserve and promote it as a heritage structure.
- The UNESCO team member informed him that the astronomical observatory at Muzaffarpur is now on the UNESCO list and it has been uploaded on the UNESCO site.

History of the astronomical observatory:

- According to the college records, it was developed in 1916 after a college professor felt the need of an Astro laboratory.
- Prof Romesh Chandra Sen was eager to have an astronomical observatory at the LS College, and in February 1914 he consulted J Mitchell, an amateur astronomer and principal of Wesleyan College, Bankura in West Bengal, seeking his guidance.
- In 1915, the college acquired a telescope, astronomical clock, chronograph and other equipment from England after which the astronomical observatory started functioning in 1916.
- Till the 1970s, the observatory was functioning smoothly but its condition deteriorated in the 1980s and it stopped working.
- Later, in 1995, it was sealed when some astronomical equipment and accessories were found missing from the observatory.

### **CHABAHAR DAY CELEBRATIONS: INDIA FOCUSES ON CENTRAL ASIA RELATIONS**

- 31 July was designated Chabahar Day in Mumbai by the Ministry of Port, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) to commemorate the Chabahar – Link to International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) – Connecting Central Asian Markets.
- According to the MoPSW press release, Sonwal mentioned in his talk that India's ambition is to turn Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar into a transit centre and connect it to INSTC to reach out to Central Asian countries.

#### **Importance of Chabahar Port for India:**

- A crucial component of India's India-Pacific strategy to link Eurasia with the Indian Ocean region is the Chabahar Port.
- Additionally, the port will be a component of India's International North-South Transport Corridor. India's goal and project, the INSTC (International North-South

Transport Corridor), aim to shorten the time it takes for EXIM goods to penetrate the markets of central Asia, Europe, and Russia.

- The region, notably Central Asia, has its commercial transit hub at Iran's Chabahar Port.
- Notably, the eastern portion of the North-South railway corridor was officially inaugurated when the first rail transit cargo from Russia to India entered Iran recently through the Sarakhs border crossing.
- Trade between Russia and India will grow thanks to the International North-South Transport Corridor. This 7200 km trade route uses a multi-mode network of roads, ships, and railways to carry freight. Through Iran and Azerbaijan, this route links Russia with India.
- The corridor aims to cut the travel time from 40 days to under 20 days and the transportation costs between India and Russia by roughly 30%.
- The INSTC's original founding members are Iran, India, and Russia. In 2002, the deal was inked.

### **PESA ACT**

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal on August 7 declared a six-point "guarantee" for tribals in Gujarat's Chhota Udepur district, including the "strict implementation" of The Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA Act).Q

#### **About:**

- The PESA Act was enacted in 1996 "to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas".
- Under the PESA Act, Scheduled Areas are those referred to in Article 244(1), which says that the provisions of the Fifth Schedule shall apply to the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. The Fifth Schedule provides for a range of special provisions for these areas.
- The PESA Act was enacted to ensure self-governance through Gram Sabhas (village assemblies) for people living in the Scheduled Areas.
- It recognises the right of tribal communities, who are residents of the Scheduled Areas, to govern themselves through their own systems of self-government, and also acknowledges their traditional rights over natural resources.

## HINDU MINORITY AND GUARDIANSHIP ACT (HMGA), 1956

A mother and father should have equal rights as guardians of their children and the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act (HMGA), 1956 should be amended as it discriminates against women, a parliamentary panel has recommended in its report.

### About:

- The said Act does not provide for joint guardianship nor does it recognise the mother as the guardian of the minor legitimate child unless the father is deceased or is found unfit.
- The Act gives preference to father over mother, it goes against the right to equality and right against discrimination envisaged under Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.
- The committee feels that there is an urgent need to amend the HMGA and accord equal treatment to both mother and father as natural guardians.
- Section 6 of the HMGA lays down that in the case of a Hindu minor boy and a Hindu minor unmarried girl, the father is the natural guardian and 'after' him the mother. Section 7 of the same Act provides that the natural guardianship of an adopted son, who is a minor, passes on adoption to the adopted father and 'after' him to the adoptive mother.

## INTERNATIONAL MOBILE EQUIPMENT IDENTITY (IMEI)

With rising cases of mobile phone snatching in the national capital, the Delhi Police is now planning to close ranks with internet service providers and the department of telecommunications to block stolen or robbed phones.



### About:

- This will be done by using the device's International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number.
- The International Mobile Equipment Identity or IMEI is a unique number that is used to identify a device on a mobile

network. It has 15 digits, and is like your phone's unique identity.

- When you use the internet or place a call through your cellular service provider, then this number is used to verify the identity of your device.
- If you have a dual SIM phone, then you will have two IMEI numbers, one for each slot.

## ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022 was introduced in Parliament amid protests and later sent to the standing committee for further deliberation. Many power engineers protested the Bill across the country, in states like Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Rajasthan, and others.

### About:

- In this Bill, Section 42 of the Electricity Act will be amended to allow 'non-discriminatory open access' to the distribution network, allowing private companies to supply electricity provided they get a license.
- Section 14 of the Electricity Act has also been proposed to be amended, allowing private companies to use distribution networks built by public sector electricity companies, enabling competition and enhancing the efficiency of power supply across the country.
- Under the Bill, consumers will be able to choose from multiple electricity providers, essentially like how they choose currently between telecom providers like Airtel, Vodafone, etc..

## FPI ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted an expert group of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to boost overseas flows into the country.

### About:

- The FPI Advisory Committee (FAC) will be chaired by former Chief Economic Adviser KV Subramanian and consists of 14 other members representing foreign banks, stock exchanges depositories and RBI.
- The FAC has been tasked with advising on issues related to investments and operations of FPIs in the financial markets, including measures to facilitate ease of doing business by FPIs in India.
- The committee will review investment



avenues available for FPIs and to advise on the feasibility of new investment avenues. It will also suggest measures required to encourage FPI participation in the bond market.

## GOVERNING COUNCIL OF NITI AAYOG



Addressing the seventh meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre, New Delhi, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi heralded the collective efforts of all the States in the spirit of cooperative federalism as the force that helped India emerge from the Covid pandemic.

### About:

- The Governing Council discussed the agenda items which included crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and agri-commodities, implementation of the National Education Policy and urban governance.
- In his closing remarks, the Prime Minister said that each state should focus on promoting its 3Ts, Trade, Tourism, Technology, through every Indian Mission around the world.
- This was the first physical meeting of the Governing Council since the onset of the pandemic, with the 2021 meeting held via video conferencing.
- The meeting was attended by 23 Chief Ministers, 3 Lieutenant Governors and 2 Administrators and Union Ministers. The meeting was moderated by Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh.

## INDIAN VIRTUAL HERBARIUM

With details of about one lakh plant specimens, the Indian Virtual Herbarium, the biggest virtual database of flora in the country, is generating a lot of interest and turning out to be an eye-catching endeavour.



### About:

- In the Mann Ki Baat episode on July 31, PM Modi spoke about the novel initiative, and said that the herbarium was an interesting collection of plants and preserved parts of plants.
- Developed by scientists of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), the herbarium was inaugurated by Union Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav in Kolkata on July 1. Since then, the portal [ivh.bsi.gov.in](http://ivh.bsi.gov.in) has had nearly two lakh hits from 55 countries.
- Each record in the digital herbarium includes an image of the preserved plant specimen, scientific name, collection locality, and collection date, collector name, and barcode number.
- The digital herbarium includes features to extract the data State-wise, and users can search plants of their own States, which will help them identify regional plants and in building regional checklists.

## CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL (CAT)



Union Minister of State for Personnel and Public Grievances, Dr. Jitendra Singh has said, in the last three years the Central Administrative Tribunal, CAT, achieved a disposal rate of around 91 percent. Justice Ranjit Vasant Rao More is the newly appointed CAT Chairman

### About:

- The Central Administrative Tribunal had been established under Article 323 - A of the Constitution for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.
- There are 17 Benches and 21 Circuit Benches in the CAT all over India.
- In addition to the Ministries and Departments of Central Government, the Government of India has notified 214 organizations under section 14 (2) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 to bring them within the jurisdiction of the Central

Administrative Tribunal, from time to time.

- In addition the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench is dealing with the matters of Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

### GOVT AMBITIOUS: ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD(ONORC) COMPLETES 3 YEARS

- The scheme has now been implemented all over the country with Assam being the latest state to join the initiative in June 2022.
- The ONORC, which was launched as a pilot project on August 9, 2019 in four states, has completed three years.
- The technology-driven ONORC scheme is being implemented by the Centre for the nation-wide portability of ration cards under the NFSA(National Food Security Act,2013).
- This system allows all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly the migrant beneficiaries, to claim either full or part of their entitled food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country through an existing ration card with biometric/Aadhaar authentication in a seamless manner.
- The system also allows their family members back home, if any, to claim the balance food grains on the same ration card.

### NATION OBSERVES 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

- The 80th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of the freedom struggle of our country, is being observed on 8 August 2022.



- The slogans “Quit India” and “Do or Die” became battle cries for the freedom fighters during the Quit India movement.

### QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

On this day 80 years ago — on August 9, 1942 — the people of India launched the decisive final phase of the struggle for independence. It was a mass

upsurge against colonial rule on a scale not seen earlier, and it sent out the unmistakable message that the sun was about to set on the British Empire in India.

#### About:

- Mahatma Gandhi, who had told the Raj to “Quit India” on the previous day (August 8) was already in jail along with the entire Congress leadership, so when August 9 dawned, the people were on their own — out on the street, driven by the Mahatma’s call of “Do or Die”.
- This truly people-led movement was eventually crushed violently by the British, but by then it was clear that nothing short of their final departure was acceptable to India’s masses.
- Reasons: While factors leading to such a movement had been building up, matters came to a head with the failure of the Cripps Mission. The failure of the Cripps Mission made Gandhi realise that freedom would come only if Indians fought tooth and nail for it.

#### Gandhi’s address: Do or Die

- On August 8, 1942, Gandhi addressed the people in the Gowalia Tank maidan in Bombay (Mumbai).
- “The mantra is: ‘Do or Die’. We shall either free India or die trying; we shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery,” Gandhi said.
- Aruna Asaf Ali hoisted the Tricolour on the ground.
- The Quit India movement had been officially announced.

### MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

Both the House of Parliament adjourned Sine Die, four days ahead of the schedule.

#### About:

- The Monsoon Session of Parliament, which commenced on 18th of last month, was scheduled to end on the 12th of this month.
- Rajya Sabha conducted business for 38 hours while it lost 47 hours due to disruptions during the session. the Question Hour could not be taken up on seven days. Only five Bills were considered and passed. the House took up a short duration discussion on the rising prices of essential items in the country.
- In the Lok Sabha, six bills were introduced and seven bills were passed during the session. 16 sittings were held and the House conducted business for more than 44 hours.



The House also held two short duration discussions on the price rise and steps to promote sports in the country.

### INDIGENOUS 5G TEST BED FREE

The Centre has decided to offer the use of Indigenous 5G Test Bed free of cost to the Government recognized start-ups and MSMEs for the next six months upto January 2023.

#### About:

- The decision has been taken with an objective to boost 5G ecosystem within India and to achieve the objectives of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.
- The facility is available at a very nominal rate to all other stakeholders.
- Department of Telecommunications has urged all 5G stakeholders including industry, academia, service providers, government bodies and equipment manufacturers to utilise the 5G testbed facilities and expertise to test and facilitate the speedy development and deployment of their products in the network.
- Keeping in view India's specific requirements and to take lead in 5G deployment, Department of Telecommunications has approved financial grant for the multi-institute collaborative project to set up 'Indigenous 5G Test Bed' in India in March, 2018 with total cost of 224 crore rupees.

### ETHANOL PLANT AT PANIPAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation the 2nd Generation (2G) Ethanol Plant at Panipat in Haryana through video conferencing on August 10, 2022.

#### About:

- It is part of a long series of steps taken by the government over the years to boost production and usage of biofuels in the country.
- It is in line with the Prime Minister's constant endeavour to transform the energy sector into being more affordable, accessible, efficient and sustainable.
- The 2G Ethanol Plant has been built at an estimated cost of over nine hundred crore rupees by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited. The project will turn a new chapter in India's waste-to-wealth endeavours by utilising about two lakh tonnes of rice straw (parali) annually to generate around three crore litres of Ethanol per annum.
- The project will also contribute to a reduction of Greenhouse Gases equivalent

to about three lakh tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent emissions per annum.

### COMMON CHARGER FOR ALL DEVICES

A common charger for your iPhone, your Android tablet and your Windows 11 laptop? That's not quite possible yet, but this is what the future could look like.

#### About:

- The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs has written to industry and other concerned stakeholders, inviting them to brainstorm a plan for having one cable for charging all your devices.
- The ministry's move comes in the backdrop of the concept of LiFE — Lifestyle for the Environment — announced by the Prime Minister at the UN Climate Change Conference (CoP 26) held in Glasgow in November 2021.
- Due to the incompatibility of charging ports between old and new devices, consumers are forced to buy a separate charger and cable every time they purchase a new gadget. Not only do consumers face inconvenience, this also adds to avoidable e-consumption.

### OPEN NETWORK FOR DIGITAL COMMERCE (ONDC)



US firm Microsoft has become the first big tech company to join the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a Government of India backed project.

#### About:

- ONDC is an initiative aimed at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
- ONDC is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
- It is being developed as a counter to the current duopoly in the Indian e-commerce market which is largely dictated by Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart.

## ONE YEAR OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF RICE FORTIFICATION

A total of 151 Districts (in 24 States) have already lifted fortified rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in Phase II of Rice Fortification Programme.

### About:

- Nearly 6.83 LMT have been distributed by the States/UTs under the phase which started from April 1, 2022.
- And under ICDS and PM POSHAN, nearly 7.36 LMT have been lifted by the States/UTs so far. Around 52% of the districts have lifted the foodgrains in the Phase II.
- The Hon'ble PM in his address on the 75th Independence Day (15th August, 2021), announced the supply of Fortified Rice in every scheme of Government of India throughout the country by 2024 in a phased manner.
- Phase-I covering ICDS and PM POSHAN had been implemented during 2021-22 and nearly 17.51 LMT had been distributed in the States/UTs.
- Pertinently, Phase-II includes Phase I above plus all Aspirational Districts and High Burden districts (total 291 districts) under Targeted Public Distribution System and Other Welfare Schemes in all the States/UTs by March, 2023 with a total quantity of about 175 LMT of fortified rice has to be distributed.



## UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU)

The Union Cabinet has approved the ratification of amendments to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) as contained in the Eleventh Additional Protocol to the Constitution signed during the 27th Congress of the Universal Postal Union held at Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire) from 9-27 August, 2021.

### About:

- The approval enables the Department of Posts, Government of India to have the "Instrument of Ratification" signed by the

Hon'ble President of India and have the same deposited with the Director General of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union.

- This would fulfil the obligations arising from Article 25 and 30 of the UPU Constitution which provides for ratification of the amendments to the Constitution adopted by a Congress as soon as possible by the member countries.
- The Universal Postal Union (UPU) established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874, is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system. The UPU's headquarters are located in Bern, Switzerland.

## INFLATION REDUCTION ACT (IRA) 2022

On August 7, 2022, the U.S. Senate approved a bill titled the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) 2022.

### About:

- The IRA has a special focus on climate, healthcare, and tax provisions to address inflation.
- The Bill marks the largest American investment aimed toward making the U.S. a leader in clean energy.
- It provides a tax deduction to low and middle-income households to go electric and seeks to lower the energy bills of U.S. households.
- For disadvantaged low-income communities and tribal communities, the Bill provides funding to benefit from zero-emission technologies.
- It also imposes a fee on methane leaks from oil and gas drilling.
- However, climate advocates criticise the bill for coupling the development of renewable energy, which is the cause of global warming, with land leasing for oil and gas drilling.

## TRIPLE TALAQ

Five years after the Supreme Court's five-judge Bench under Chief Justice J.S. Khehar invalidated instant triple talaq in August 2017, the women petitioners continue to live a life of half-divorcees.

### About:

- Technically still married, practically divorced, they enjoy no conjugal rights nor receive any regular maintenance from the



estranged husbands.

- Practically abandoned, the women cannot remarry in the absence of a legally valid divorce. After the verdict, none of the men were visited by law enforcement bodies and told to take back their wives.
- Further, no arrests could be made for giving instant triple talaq as the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 came into force long after pronouncement of instant talaq.
- A cloud of confusion hangs in the air as the women are uncertain of their eligibility for a fresh marriage. The top court invalidated instant triple talaq in the Shayara Bano versus the Union of India case while refraining from commenting on the state of their marriages directly.

### **SINGAPORE GRANTS PADANG, LOCATION OF NETAJI'S INFAMOUS CALL "CHALO DILLI"**

- The National Heritage Board stated that Padang (location of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's infamous Call "Chalo Dilli") will now receive the Monument Status of Subhas Chandra Bose and the greatest level of protection possible under Singapore's Preservation of Monuments Act (NHB). On August 9, 2022, the country of Singapore celebrated its 57th National Day, and the Padang iconic green location was designated as the 75th national monument.
- Padang is a sizable open field venue in Singapore where, in July 1943, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose delivered the phrase "Delhi Chalo."
- One of the oldest open spaces still in use today, Padang has significant national, historical, and social value. It is well-liked for athletic events like lawn bowling, cricket, football, and ice hockey.

### **DROUGHT IN UTTAR PRADESH AND JHARKHAND**

Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh are experiencing the worst monsoon season of the century.

#### **About**

- Between June 1 and August 12, the rainfall recorded over Jharkhand was 371.9mm against a normal of 627.6mm, a 41 per cent seasonal deficit.
- This is the lowest ever rainfall recorded over Jharkhand (June to August) since 1901, the IMD's rainfall data stated.
- For Uttar Pradesh, too, the picture is grim, as the state has recorded only 251.7mm

of the seasonal average of 449.1mm till August 12.

- UP is the most rain deficient Indian state this year and has remained so since the start of the monsoon season, like Jharkhand.
- Between 1901 and 2021, UP's driest monsoon months (June to August) were during 1987 (349.3mm), 2009 (365mm), 1996 (392mm), 2014 (394.3mm), and 1972 (424.3mm).

### **SALINE WATER LANTERN**

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled India's first Saline Water Lantern which uses the sea water to power the specially designed LED lamps.

#### **About:**

- The Minister visited the SAGAR ANVESHKA, a Coastal Research Vessel, operated and used by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai to review the progress of the implementation of the Deep Ocean Mission of India.
- The saline Water Lantern will bring "Ease of Living" to the fishing community living along the 7500 Kilometres long coastal line of India. Saline water-powered Roshini LED lamps will also boost and supplement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's UJALA scheme.
- Jitendra Singh hoisted tricolour on board the ship and extended the campaign of 'Har Ghar Tiranga', to 'Har Jahaj Tiranga'.

### **AYUSH GRID PROJECT**

An MoU was signed between Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for providing technical support to Ministry of Ayush for digitalisation of Ayush Sector under the Ayush Grid project for a period of 3 years.

#### **About:**

- The Ayush Grid project was initiated by the Ministry in 2018 for creating a comprehensive IT backbone for the entire sector.
- Digitalization of the entire Ayush Sector will lead to its transformation in fields of health care delivery at all levels, including research, education, various health programmes and drug regulations.

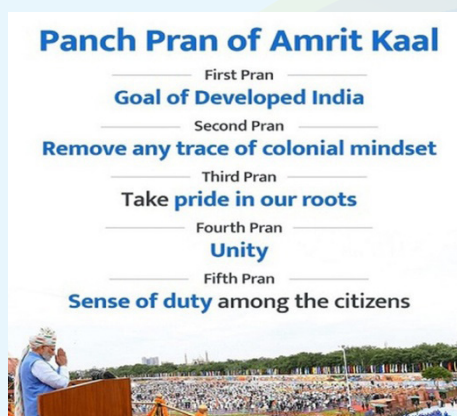
### **PANCH PRAN**

On the country's 76th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said corruption and nepotism are two main challenges that are not confined to politics alone and asked people to have 'nafrat' (hatred) for these evils and focus on 'Panch

Pran' (five resolves) to ensure a developed India in the next 25 years.

#### About:

- He spelled out “Panch Pran” (five resolves) to fulfil freedom fighters’ dreams for the country at India’s independence centenary by 2047.
- He said we should focus on the five pledges -- a resolve of developed India; removing any trace of the colonial mindset; taking pride in our legacy; our strength of unity; and fulfilling the duties of citizens with honesty, which should be done by the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers as well.



### NATIONAL FLAG

The National Flag, which is flying high across India as the nation celebrates 75 years of freedom, was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947.



#### About:

- According to the official record of the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly, Dr Rajendra Prasad, who was in the Chair, announced that the first item on the agenda was “a Motion by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru about the Flag”.
- Thereafter, Nehru rose to move the following Resolution: Resolved that the National Flag of India shall be horizontal tricolour of deep Saffron (Kesari), white and dark green in equal proportion.
- In the centre of the white band, there shall

be a Wheel in navy blue to represent the Charkha. The design of the Wheel shall be that of the Wheel (Chakra) which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka.

- The ratio of the width to the length of the Flag shall ordinarily be 2:3.

### PIN CODE

The 75th Independence Day coincides with another milestone in the country’s history — it was on August 15, 1972, that the Postal Identification Number (PIN) was introduced in India. As the PIN code turns, we look at its history and evolution.

#### About:

- According to the Department of Posts, there were 23,344 post offices, primarily in urban areas, in India at the time of Independence. But, the country was growing rapidly and the postal network had to keep pace.
- The PIN code was meant to ease the process of mail sorting and delivery in a country where different places, often, have the same or similar names, and letters are written in a wide variety of languages.
- The PIN is made up of six digits. The first number indicates the postal region — Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern; and number 9, which signifies the Army Postal Service.
- The second number denotes a sub-region, and the third represents the sorting district. The remaining numbers narrow the geography further to the specific post office making the delivery.

### INDIVIDUAL PORTAL FOR MINES MINISTRY

Ministry of Mines has said that an individual portal of the ministry will be started soon in the country. The Ministry said that the portal is being created by the Indian Bureau of Mines under the Prime Minister Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

#### About:

- The Ministry highlighted that two data layers of the portal have been created so far.
- The first layer covers the spatial data of Mineral concessions and the second layer includes mineral auction blocks.
- It said that spatial data of around over three thousand mining leases covering over two lakh ninety-seven thousand Hectare area all over the country have been uploaded on the portal.

### INDIAN FLAG UNFURLED IN SPACE TO MARKS 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE



- The Indian national flag was unfurled in space at an altitude of over 30 km as the country marked its 75 years of Independence.
- The tricolour was sent to the edge of space on a balloon by Space Kidz India, which describes itself as an aerospace organisation creating young scientists for the country.
- The unfurling of the flag was part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations that mark the completion of 75 years since India became Independent.

### **CITIZEN SURVEY FOR NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK**

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan has urged the citizens to participate in the Citizen Survey for National Curriculum Framework for developing a new curriculum.

#### **About:**

- He said, a dynamic National Curriculum Framework in line with the National Education Policy- 2020 will play a major role in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat.
- Ministry of Education has invited suggestions of the public through an online public consultation survey for the formulation of National Curriculum Framework and subsequently design of syllabus, textbooks and other instructional materials.
- The Government has announced the National Education Policy in July 2020, which recommends quality improvement of the system of education through the development of a National Curriculum Framework.
- The process of the Framework has been started through the constitution of the District Consultation Committees, State Focus Groups, and State Steering Committee, National Focus Groups and National Steering Committee.

### **INDIA TO START SUPPLYING PETROL WITH 20% ETHANOL FROM APRIL 2023**

- India will start supplying petrol with 20 per cent ethanol at select petrol pumps from April next year and will ramp up supplies thereafter as it looks to cut oil import dependence and address environmental issues.
- E20 petrol (petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol) in some quantity will be available from April 2023 and the rest to be covered by 2025.

### **KAWAS SOLAR PV PROJECT**

NTPC Limited, India's largest integrated energy company achieved 69454 MW of group installed and commercial capacity with the commissioning of 56 MW Kawas Solar PV Project at NTPC Kawas, Gujarat on 15.08.2022.

#### **About:**

- NTPC is steadily lowering its carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the installation of renewable energy projects in its existing stations as well as putting up green field RE projects.
- The Company has planned 262 MW floating solar on over 1300 acres of its reservoir area by installing over 9,50,000 PV modules at its various stations out of which 242 Mega Watt has been commissioned.
- This includes the country's largest floating solar of 100 MW at Ramagundam in Telangana, 92 MW at Kayamkulam in Kerala, and 25 MW each at Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh, and Kawas in Gujarat.

### **DELHI-DEHRADUN EXPRESSWAY PROJECT**

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways informed through a series of tweets that the last 20km stretch passes through eco-sensitive zone of Raja Ji National Park where Asia's longest elevated wildlife corridor (12km) is being constructed that includes 340m Daat Kali tunnel.

#### **About:**

- He said sustainable development is the motto of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Government.
- The Minister said the tunnel intends to protect the surrounding wildlife. Once completed, the expressway would reduce travel time between Dehradun-Delhi from 6 hrs to 2.30 hours & Delhi-Haridwar from 5 hours to 2 hours.

### **NATIONAL ACTION FOR MECHANISED SANITATION ECOSYSTEM (NAMASTE)**

Namaste is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as a joint initiative of the MoSJE and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

NAMASTE aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India
- All sanitation work is performed by skilled workers
- No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter

- Sanitation workers are collectivized into SHGs and are empowered to run sanitation enterprises
- All Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) have access to alternative livelihoods
- Strengthened supervisory and monitoring systems at national, state and ULB levels to ensure enforcement and monitoring of safe sanitation work
- Increased awareness amongst sanitation services seekers (individuals and institutions) to seek services from registered and skilled sanitation workers

## COAL SECTOR

Union Minister of Coal and Mines said that in the near future more than 107 coal blocks will be made available for auction by the Ministry of Coal.

### About:

- He was addressing a function in which the Ministry of Coal has executed agreements with the successful bidders for 16 coal mines under sale of coal of 13th tranche, 14th tranche and second attempt of 12th tranche.
- The Minister said that during the last four months Coal India Ltd has set new record by producing around 207 million ton coal. Ministry of coal is targeting production of 900 million ton this financial year and the target of CIL comes to 700 million ton.

## INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM (ITF)

Union Cabinet has approved signing of Contract between the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), India and France to support the International Transport Forum (ITF) activities on the Indian Transport Sector.

### About:

- The Contract was signed on 6th July, 2022.
- The activities to be carried out under this Contract will lead to:
- New scientific results;
- New policy insights;

- Capacity building through increase scientific interaction; and
- Identification of technology options for decarbonization of transport sector in India.

## EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE

The Employees' State Insurance, ESI will work to expand its services in all 744 districts of the country by December this year.



### About:

- Announcing this at the Employees' State Insurance Corporation's Chintan Shivir at Surajkund in Haryana, Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav said, this expansion will take into consideration the increased beneficiary base, post implementation of Social Security Code.
- Yadav said, Centers of Excellence for Occupational Health will be set up to promote indigenous research on occupational diseases in India.
- He informed that Employees' State Insurance will explore developing Health Facilities and Medical Colleges in Aspirational districts of the country.

## AQUA BAZAR' APP

National Fisheries Development Board (NPFB) conducted its 9th governing body meeting in New Delhi. The governing body meeting was chaired by Minister of Fisheries Parshottam Rupala.

### About:

- On this occasion, he also launched an online marketplace feature - 'Aqua Bazar' app.
- The app will help the fish farmers and stakeholders to source the inputs such as fish seed, feed and medicines and services required for fish culture. It will connect various stakeholders involved in aquaculture sector.
- He said, for the first time under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, government has taken up promotion of startups by the entrepreneurs



to achieve the targeted fish production.

## **INDIA'S FIRST E-DOUBLE DECKER AIR CONDITIONED BUS**

Highways and Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari unveiled India's first E-Double Decker air-conditioned bus in Mumbai.

### **About:**

- Switch mobility limited a subsidiary of Ashok Leyland has manufactured this unique electric double-decker bus called as Switch EiV 22.
- The bus is equipped with the latest technology, ultra-modern design and highest safety and best in class comfort features.
- Stressing on prioritising pollution-free country, he said 35 percent pollution in the country takes place because of petrol and diesel. He underlined that the size of the automobile industry is 7.5 lakh crore, and it is an important industry for the country as it has huge employment potential.

## **DRAFT INDIAN PORTS BILL, 2022**

The Government of India has prepared the draft Indian Ports Bill, 2022 to consolidate and amend the laws relating to ports

### **About:**

- The draft bill seeks to repeal and replace the existing the Indian Ports Act, 1908.
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has issued Draft Indian Ports Bill, 2022 for Stakeholder Consultation.
- The proposed bill will homogenize and streamline the development of the maritime sector, along with, promoting ease of doing business by eliminating unnecessary delays, disagreements and defining responsibilities.
- It will incorporate State Maritime Boards in the national framework.
- India has a 7,500 kilometre long coastline, 14,500 kilometer of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes.
- About 95 per cent of India's trade by volume and 65 per cent by value is done through maritime transport facilitated by ports.

## **GOA, FIRST STATE IN INDIA TO RECEIVE "HAR GHAR JAL" CERTIFICATION**

- The people of all the villages in Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D) declared their village to be a "Har Ghar Jal" through a resolution

passed by the Gram Sabha, certifying that all households in the villages have access to safe drinking water through taps and ensuring that "No One is Left Out."

- All 85,156 of the 85,635,000 rural households in Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, and Goa have access to potable water via a tap connection with Har Ghar Jal.

### **Har Ghar Jal: Jal Jeevan Mission**

- According to the certification process outlined in the Jal Jeevan Mission's Margdarshika (Har Ghar Jal), the field engineer must first present a completion certificate for the water delivery plan to the Panchayat during a meeting of the Gram Sabha.
- Through a Gram Sabha resolution, the villages attest that every household has a consistent supply of water of the required quality, with no household being left out.
- Additionally, they attest to the fact that all public institutions, including schools and anganwadi centres, receive tap water.
- All 378 villages in Goa and 96 in D&NH and D&D have established Village Water and Sanitation Committees, or paani samitis.
- The Har Ghar Jal program's water supply infrastructure must be operated, maintained, and repaired by VWSC.
- This Gram Panchayat subcommittee is also in charge of collecting user fees, which will be put in a bank account and utilised to cover the honorarium of the pump operator and occasionally do minor repairs.

## **CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL LAUNCHED 'MAKE INDIA NO. 1' MISSION**

- Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal has formally unveiled his Aam Aadmi Party's national ambition with the launch of the 'Make India No 1' campaign.
- At an event organised at Talkatora stadium here, he proposed a five-point vision for good governance.
- The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor termed the campaign a "national mission" and appealed to the masses to join.

### **The five-point vision of this initiative:**

- The first thing that we have to do is provide free and quality education to every child of this country.
- The second measure that we will have to take is to provide free and best medical treatment along with free medicines and

test facilities to every citizen of the country.

- Third, we will have to provide employment to every youth which is possible with the right intention and management.
- Fourth, every woman should get respect, equal rights and security.
- Fifth, we will have to ensure farmers get fair prices for their produce and get respect so that children can say with pride that they also want to become farmers.

### ROHINGYA REFUGEES

On August 17, Union Housing Minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted that Rohingya refugees would be shifted to flats meant for economically weaker sections (EWS), and provided with basic amenities and police protection.

#### About:

- The Minister said “India respects & follows the UN Refugee Convention 1951 & provides refuge to all, regardless of their race, religion or creed.”
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under Amit Shah issued a clarification saying that no such direction had been given to provide EWS flats to “Rohingya illegal foreigners”.

#### What is India's stand on refugees?

- India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol.
- All foreign undocumented nationals are governed as per the provisions of The Foreigners Act, 1946, The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, The Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and The Citizenship Act, 1955.

### FLASH FLOODS

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on August 20, 2022 expressed concern over the loss of life and property due to torrential rains and flash floods in various parts of Himachal Pradesh, in which 21 people were feared dead.

#### About:

- Excessive or continuous rainfall over a period of days, or during particular seasons can lead to stagnation of water and cause flooding.
- Flash floods refer to such a situation, but occurring in a much shorter span of time.
- For instance, the US's meteorological agency, the National Weather Service, says flash floods are caused when rainfall creates flooding in less than 6 hours.
- It adds that flash floods can also be caused by factors apart from rainfall, like when water goes beyond the levels of a dam.

### MITHILA MAKHANA

Union government has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Mithila Makhana.

#### About:

- Mithila Makhana or Makhan (botanical name: *Euryale ferox* Salisb.) is a special variety of aquatic fox nut cultivated in Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal.
- Once a product gets this tag, any person or company cannot sell a similar item under that name. This tag is valid for a period of 10 years following which it can be renewed.
- Makhana is the one of the three prestigious cultural identity of Mithila. Pan, Makhan and Machh (fish) are the three prestigious cultural identity of Mithila.
- In Mithila, Makhana is also termed as Makhan. It is also very famous in Kojagara festival of Maithil Brahmins celebrated for newly married couples.
- Makhana contains protein and fiber, along with micronutrients like calcium, magnesium, iron, and phosphorus.

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WOMEN POLICE

In Himachal Pradesh, the 10th National Conference of Women Police will begin in Shimla on August 21, 2022.

#### About:

- More than two hundred women police officers and employees across the country are participating in this two-day National conference.
- The conference is being organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) in collaboration with Himachal Police.
- The main objective of this conference is to enhance the leadership potential of women police officers and discuss their problems and challenges.
- State Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu said, at present the strength of women in the police force in Himachal is 13 percent and the women quota in the police has been increased to 25 percent.

### NATIONAL AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NAFIS)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) on August 17, at the two-day National Securities Strategies (NSS) Conference



2022 held in New Delhi.

#### About:

- It is conceptualized and managed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) at the Central Fingerprint Bureau (CFPB) in New Delhi.
- NAFIS project is a country-wide searchable database of crime- and criminal-related fingerprints.
- The web-based application functions as a central information repository by consolidating fingerprint data from all states and Union Territories.
- According to a 2020 report by the NCRB, it enables law enforcement agencies to upload, trace, and retrieve data from the database in real time on a 24×7 basis.
- In April 2022, Madhya Pradesh became the first state in the country to identify a deceased person through NAFIS.

### SUPER VASUKI: INDIAN RAILWAYS LONGEST FREIGHT TRAIN

- The Indian Railways conducted a test run of its latest train called Super Vasuki.



- The Super Vasuki is operated by the South East Central Railway (SECR) zone of the Indian Railways.
- The SECR ran the record long-haul freight trains Vasuki and Trishul last year and the 2.8 km long SheshNaag train before that.
- The Super Vasuki was set up by amalgamating five rakes of goods trains as one unit.

#### About

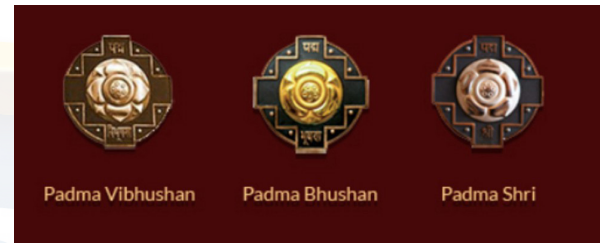
- The freight train is 3.5 km long.
- During the test run, the train had six locos, 295 wagons and of 25,962 tonnes gross weight, making it the longest and heaviest freight train ever run by the Railways.
- The train was formed by amalgamating five rakes of goods trains as one unit.
- The amount of coal carried by Super Vasuki is enough to fire 3000 MW of power plant for one full day, according to officials. This is three times the capacity of existing railway rakes (90 cars with 100 tonnes in each) which carries about 9,000 tonnes of

coal in one journey.

- The train took 11.20 hours to cover a distance of 267 km.

### RASHTRIYA PURUSKAR PORTAL

The Union Government has launched Rashtriya Puruskar Portal to bring together all the awards of the various Ministries, Departments and agencies of the government under one platform. This has been done to ensure transparency and public partnership.



#### About:

- Home Ministry in a statement said that this common portal facilitates every citizen or organization to nominate individuals or organizations for various awards instituted by the government.
- It informed that the nominations or recommendations for the Padma Awards are open till 15th of next month, while nominations or recommendations for Jeevan Raksha Padak will be invited till 30th of next month.

### GREEN ENERGY PROJECTS

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed an MoU with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Ltd. (MAHAPREIT), a wholly owned subsidiary of MPBCDC (49% owned by Govt. of India and 51% owned by Govt. of Maharashtra).

#### About:

- In accordance with the MoU, IREDA will offer financing facilities to MAHAPREIT for the Renewable Energy projects to be implemented for state utilities, local bodies and the infrastructure of Renewable Energy Parks.
- Under this collaboration, IREDA will also undertake Techno-Financial due diligence of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency & Conservation projects for MAHAPREIT.
- IREDA established a specialised Business Development and Consultancy division two years ago to meet the growing demand in the RE sector. This is the ninth MoU inked by IREDA in the last two years to provide consultation services for the sustainable development of the country.

- SJVN, NHPC, TANGEDCO, NEEPCO, BVFCL, THDCIL, GSL, and CIPET have signed MoUs with IREDA to enhance their techno-financial expertise for green energy projects and IREDA has already started work on most of the MoUs.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is formed in 1987 as a statutory and autonomous organisation under Government of India and administratively controlled by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

### JITENDRA SINGH UNVEILED FIRST COMPLETELY INDIGENOUSLY BUILT HYDROGEN FUEL CELL BUS

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh in Pune, unveiled the first hydrogen fuel cell bus made in India. Dr. Jitendra Singh referred to Green hydrogen as a superb clean energy vector that enables deep decarbonization of hard-to-abate emissions from the refining industry, the fertiliser industry, the steel industry, the cement industry, as well as from the heavy commercial transportation sector.

### WIND ENERGY

Annual installation of new wind power projects in India will peak by 2024 and likely decline thereafter, according to a report released by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and MEC+, a consulting firm that specialises in renewable energy.

#### About:

- As part of its transition away from fossil fuels, India has committed to sourcing half its electricity in 2030 from non-fossil fuel sources and installing 60 gigawatt (GW, or 1000 MW) of wind power by 2022.
- So far, only 40 GW of wind power capacity has been established.
- Wind industry installations have been slowing down in India since 2017. Only 1.45 GW of wind projects were installed in 2021 with many delayed due to the second wave of COVID-19 and supply chain-related disruptions.
- To compensate, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) granted a blanket timeline extension for seven-and-a-half months after the scheduled commissioning date (SCD) for projects with power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed before June 2021, which pushed the SCD of 0.7 GW projects to 2022.

### NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT (NFSA)

The Supreme Court (SC) has directed the Centre to increase coverage under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) so that “more and more needy persons and citizens get the benefit” under the 2013 law which entitles rural and urban poor to subsidised foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.

#### About:

- The coverage under the NFSA is still decided by the population figures of the 2011 census.
- The SC ordered the Union government to re-determine the NFSA coverage in the States and Union Territories after considering the population increase between 2011 and 2021 so that benefits were not restricted to beneficiaries identified back in 2011.
- “The right to food is a fundamental right available under Article 21 of the Constitution,” the Supreme Court noted.

### E-SHRAM PORTAL

- In the order, the court directed the States which were not able to register unorganised workers, including migrant labourers, in the e-Shram portal to do so within six weeks.
- The Union Labour Ministry has developed a National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) portal and the e-Shram portal for registration of labourers spread over 400 occupations including in constructions, agriculture, fishing, and dairy, those self-employed and even ASHA and anganwadi workers.

### COMPETITION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was recently introduced in Lok Sabha. It seeks to amend the Competition Act, 2002.

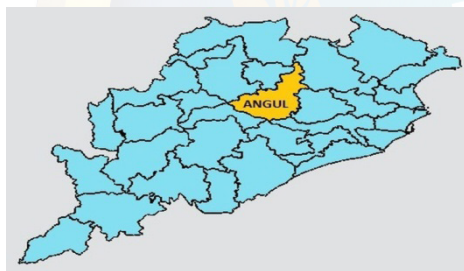
- The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022, inter alia, provides for the following, namely:





- changes in certain definitions like “enterprise”, “relevant product market”, “Group”, “Control”, etc., to provide clarity;
- broadening the scope of anti-competitive agreements and inclusion of a party facilitating an anti-competitive horizontal agreement under such agreements;
- provisions for reduction of time-limit for approval of combinations from two hundred and ten days to one hundred and fifty days and forming a prima facie opinion by the Commission within twenty days for expeditious approval of combinations;
- provisions for “value of transaction” as another criteria for notifying combinations to the Commission;
- limitation period of three years for filing information on anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position before the Commission;
- appointment of the Director General by the Commission with the prior approval of the Central Government;

### ANGUL



Researchers have urged policymakers to switch to green energy and economy in Odisha's Angul – one of India's largest coal producing districts – before power grade coal reserves are exhausted.

#### About:

- Angul currently accounts for 12% of India's and 56% of Odisha's coal production.
- The coal production in Angul is expected to increase nearly by three times in the next 10 years, reaching over 300 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2033.
- The sector has given direct employment to 1,68,000 — nearly 69% of them are informal.

### PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA)

The Supreme Court will hear in open court a review of its judgment upholding key provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

What was the Supreme Court ruling on PMLA?

- In *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary & Ors v Union of India*, a judgment delivered on July 27, the Supreme Court upheld the key provisions of the PMLA.
- The SC accepted the government's arguments on virtually every aspect that was challenged by the petitioners: from reversing the presumption of innocence while granting bail to passing the amendments as a Money Bill under the Finance Act to defining the contours of the powers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

#### How is a judgment reviewed?

- A ruling by the Supreme Court is final and binding. However, Article 137 of the Constitution grants the SC the power to review its judgments or orders.
- A review petition must be filed within 30 days of pronouncement of the judgment.

### INDIAN DIASPORA

Electronic-Passports will be rolled out by the end of this year or early next year. Secretary External Affairs, Dr. Ausaf Sayeed informed the media in Hyderabad.

#### About:

- He said an e-chip and a few more features will be added to the passport book which will provide security upgradation of the Indian passport and enable machine reading.
- Stating that the interests of diaspora are important, the secretary said several steps are being taken to facilitate Indian citizens who are migrating to work in other countries and providing legal support.
- He said 87 billion dollars have been remitted to India by diaspora last year, compared to the 83 billion dollars in the previous year.
- Sayeed said maximum number of Immigration clearances are being given in Telangana.
- Referring to immigration processes, he said 15 more countries have been identified for signing Migration and Mobility Agreements while the agreement with 12 countries is currently in force.

### SUPREME COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) ACT, 1958

The Government amended the Supreme Court Judges Rules to entitle a retired Chief Justice rent-free Type-VII accommodation in Delhi for six months from the date of superannuation.

### About:

- A notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice said the accommodation would be other than the designated official residence.
- The amended Rules added that a retired Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court shall be entitled to a chauffeur, a secretarial assistant and round-the-clock security cover, in addition to his or her personal security guard for a period of a year from the date of retirement.
- Further, the amended Rules mandated that a retired Chief Justice and judges should be extended, as per protocol, courtesies at ceremonial lounges at airports.
- The government has amended the original Supreme Court Judges Rules of 1959 in exercise of powers conferred on it under the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.
- A 2013 decision of the Supreme Court had taken a serious view of former Ministers, MPs and even retired Judges and government servants overstaying in bungalows beyond the allotted period.



### VIZHINJAM INTERNATIONAL TRANSHIPMENT DEEPWATER MULTIPURPOSE SEAPORT

The ongoing protests against the construction of the Adani Group's Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport in Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram intensified on August 22, with fisherfolk laying siege to the port from the sea and land.

### About:

- The biggest demand of the protesters is that the construction of the Rs 7,525-crore deepwater port and container transshipment terminal at Vizhinjam on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram should be stopped.
- The government has conceded all demands except providing a kerosene subsidy, and halting the construction of the port.

### LAW ON DIGITAL COMPETITION

To tackle unfair and predatory practices in the digital market space, the parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance in the first week of September will submit a report on how the competition law needs to evolve for the digital market.

### About:

- The majority of the tech companies which were invited to a meeting on this issue, however, expressed reservations about the necessity of any additional framework or law.
- The European Union has recently passed the Digital Markets Act and Digital Services Act; there are several Bills pending in the British Parliament and the U.S. Congress associated with digital markets.

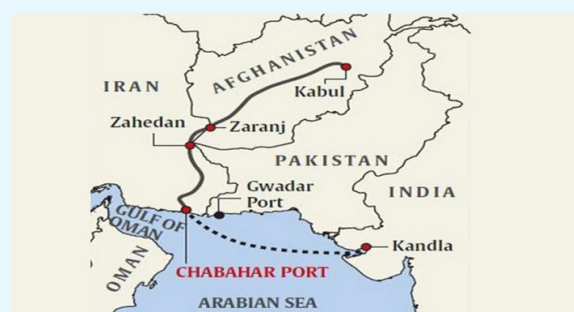
### FUTURE READY COMMERCE

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry released the Booklets and Documents on Future Ready Commerce at a function in New Delhi.

### About:

- It comprised of fourteen volume Restructuring Dossier of 'Department of Commerce which has been created to facilitate transition.
- The restructuring programme for Department of Commerce has been undertaken with the key objective to equip the ecosystem to achieve two trillion dollar export target by 2030. Under it a dedicated Trade Promotion Body will also be set up to drive overall promotion strategy.
- He said, the 14 volumes defines the role of each section within the department and lays down the expected outcomes and key performance indicators.
- The restructuring exercise rests on five major objectives including to increase India's share in global trade, assume leadership position in multilateral organisations like WTO and democratisation of trade.

### CHABAHAR PORT





The Union government has revved up its interest in using Iran's Chabahar port to connect to Afghanistan and Central Asia for trade, with the visit of the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal to the port on August 20.

#### About:

- Sonowal reviewed the progress in the work on the terminal and handed over six mobile harbour cranes "to improve efficiency".
- The Chabahar plan had three main objectives — to build India's first offshore port; to circumvent trade through Pakistan; and to find an alternative land route to Afghanistan.
- A fourth strategy has also emerged wherein the government hopes to provide Central Asia with an alternate route to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- The development of the Shahid Beheshti terminal in Chabahar has hit geopolitical road-block after road-block; the biggest issue being Iran's relationship with western countries, especially the U.S.

### **BOEING PITCHES 'ATMANIRBHAR STRATEGY' FOR NAVAL FIGHTER JETS**

- India will commission its first Indigenous aircraft carrier. US aviation major Boeing has made a strong pitch for the Indian Navy to choose the F/A 18 Super Hornet fighter jet, claiming that it would bring a profit of \$3.6 billion in domestic manufacturing.
- Boeing has joined its offers with the Government scheme Aatmanirbhaar Bharat, before the commissioning of the indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant which will operate the new fighters.
- Vikrant is the largest warship built by India, and India plans to buy 26 carrier-based fighters for Vikrant.
- This deal will be done through a Government-to-Government deal to meet the needs of the Indian Navy, with the US firm competing with French aircraft maker Dassault Aviation has pitched its Rafale-M jets.

### **INDIA TO HAVE 1.8 LAKH KMS OF HIGHWAYS & 1.2 LAKH KMS OF RAIL LINES BY 2025**

- India is set to construct more railways and motorways in 2025. The length of all national highways in India is anticipated to reach 1.8 lakh kilometres and the railway lines would be 1.2 lakh kilometres by 2025 according to the report of Bank of America

Securities India.

Years 1950 to 2025:

- Between the years 1950 to 2015, 4000 kilometres of new national highways were constructed in India and it was 77,000 kilometres in 2015.
- The expected milestone which is for highways to reach 1.8 lakh kilometres by 2025, is more than double the current length.
- In 1950, the railway network in India was only 10,000 kilometres of rail lines and by 2015 there were 63,000 kilometres of railway lines.
- The milestone for 2025 is to make the railway network reach up to 1.2 lakh kilometres.

### **STATE'S REVENUE GROWTH TO SLIDE TO 9% DESPITE RISE IN GST COLLECTIONS**

- States' revenue growth will slide to 7-9 per cent in FY23 even as handsome GST collections will help in the accretion, a report said.
- The revenue growth had galloped 25 per cent in FY22 courtesy a lower base in the pandemic-affected FY21, the report by rating agency Crisil, which analysed 17 states accounting for 90 per cent of the aggregate GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product).

### **SECTION 9A IN THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1951**

Uncertainty looms large over Hemant Soren's continuation as Jharkhand Chief Minister as he is likely to be disqualified by the Governor as Member of the Legislative Assembly; the Governor has received the Election Commission of India's opinion on the question.

#### About:

- The case against him has its roots in a mining lease that he gave himself as a Minister for Mines in 2021. The BJP complained to the Governor on February 11, 2022, that this act was in violation of Section 9(A) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- On August 25, the ECI wrote to the Governor that Mr. Soren could be disqualified under Section 9(A). The awarding of a mining lease to himself was a brazen act of self-service, misuse of office and breach of people's trust.

Section 9A in The Representation of the People Act, 1951

- Section 9A in The Representation of the

People Act, 1951 deals with Disqualification for Government contracts, etc.

- It says that “A person shall be disqualified if, and for so long as, there subsists a contract entered into by him in the course of his trade or business with the appropriate Government for the supply of goods to, or for the execution of any works undertaken by, that Government.”

### **CBI CONVICTION RATE**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recorded a conviction rate of 67.56% in 2021, compared to 69.83% in 2020, according to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) annual report.

#### **About:**

- The CBI registered 680 regular cases and 67 preliminary enquiries last year, while it had registered 589 regular cases and 87 preliminary enquiries in 2020.
- Last year, court judgments were received in 360 cases, which included 202 convictions, 82 acquittals and 15 of discharge from allegations. In 61 matters, cases were disposed of on other reasons. At the end of the year, a total of 10,232 cases were pending in various courts.
- In 2021, investigations were pending in 982 cases, whereas the figure stood at 1,117 the previous year. The probe was finalised in 798 regular cases and 86 preliminary inquiries last year.
- Of the total cases instituted last year, 457 pertained to various charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act. They involved 549 public servants, of whom 221 were gazetted officers.
- As per the report, 102 cases were registered for demand of bribe by public servants for showing favour and 40 for possession of disproportionate assets. Of the 747 cases, — 133 were taken up on court directions and 37 on references from State governments and Union Territories.
- The CBI said that in 2021-end, 177 cases were pending for grant of sanction for prosecution under Prevention of Corruption Act.

### **VISHNUGAD PIPALKOTI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT (VPHEP)**

An independent panel of the World Bank is considering a plea by residents of Haat village, Chamoli district, Uttarakhand to investigate environmental damage from the under-construction Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project (VPHEP) in the district.

#### **About:**

- The 444-MW VPHEP is being built by the Tehri Hydropower Development Corporation (THDC), a partially State-owned enterprise. The project is primarily funded by the World Bank and was sanctioned in 2011. It is proposed to be completed in June 2023.
- About 40% of the funds for the \$792 million project (₹64,000 crore approx.) has already been disbursed.
- Residents in their complaint have said muck dumping from the dam threatens the local Lakshmi Narayan Temple, which is deemed to be of historical and cultural importance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

### **FIRST “DIVYANG PARK” OF MAHARASHTRA**

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has provided all possible support to establish the first “Divyang Park” of Maharashtra in Nagpur and the work towards this endeavor will be started soon.

#### **About:**

- “Divyang Park” will have different kind of facilities for Divyangjans like sensory garden, textile Pathway touch and smell garden, skill training facility, rehabilitation facility, Sports & infotainment etc.

### **LEGAL METROLOGY (PACKAGED COMMODITIES) RULES 2011**

The central government has amended the legal metrology (packaged commodities) rules 2011 for ease of doing business and reducing the compliance burden for the garment or hosiery sold in loose or open.

#### **About:**

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said that the amendment exempts the garment or hosiery industry selling in loose or open from 6 declarations required under the legal metrology (packaged commodities) rules, 2011.
- The notification issued is for ease of doing business by reducing compliance burden to industries without compromising the interest of consumers by declaring the information relevant to consumers.

### **EXPORT POLICY FOR MESLIN FLOUR**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for amendment of policy of exemption for Wheat or Meslin Flour (HS Code



1101) from export restrictions/ ban.

**About:**

- Impact: The approval will now allow to put a restriction on the export of Wheat Flour which will ensure a curb on rising prices of wheat flour and ensure food security of the most vulnerable sections of the society.
- Implementation: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) shall issue a notification to this effect.

## **BATTERY WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES, 2022**

Union Ministry of Environment published the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 on 24th August, 2022 to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries.

**About:**

- New rules will replace Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001.
- The rules cover all types of batteries, viz. Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries and industrial batteries.
- The rules function based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) where the producers (including importers) of batteries are responsible for collection and recycling of waste batteries and use of recovered materials from wastes into new batteries.
- The rules will enable setting up a mechanism and centralized online portal for exchange of EPR certificates between producers and recyclers/refurbishers to fulfil the obligations of producers.
- The rules promote setting up of new industries and entrepreneurship in collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries.
- Prescribing the use of certain amount of recycled materials in making of new batteries will reduce the dependency on new raw materials and save natural resources.
- On the principle of Polluter Pays Principle, environmental compensation will be imposed for non-fulfilment of Extended Producer Responsibility targets, responsibilities and obligations set out in the rules.
- The funds collected under environmental compensation shall be utilised in collection and refurbishing or recycling of uncollected and non-recycled waste batteries.

## **GOI CARRIES OUT THE “ONE NATION ONE FERTILIZER” PROGRAM**

- One Nation One Fertilizer: The government

issued an order requiring all businesses to market their goods under the brand name “Bharat” in order to standardize fertiliser brands across the nation.

- According to the One Nation One Fertilizer order, irrespective of the company that manufactures it, whether in the public or private sector, all fertiliser bags, whether containing urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), muriate of potash (MOP), or NPK, will sport the brand name “Bharat Urea,” “Bharat DAP,” “Bharat MOP,” and “Bharat NPK.”

## **CENTRE PICKS 75 TRIBAL DISTRICTS FOR TB INTERVENTION PROJECTS**

- After having run an active case-finding campaign to detect instances of Tuberculosis (TB) among tribal populations over the past six months, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Central TB Division of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have now zeroed in on 75 tribal districts, where focused interventions will be run over the next few months with the aim to make them TB-free.
- The campaign to detect TB cases across 174 tribal districts started this January under the Aashwasan Campaign under which door-to-door screening was done in over 68,000 villages.
- Official data showed that 3,82,811 people were identified for presumptive TB after a verbal screening of over 1.03 crore people in these villages.

## **INDIA'S 1ST 3D PRINTED POST OFFICE TO SOON COME UP IN KARNATAKA**

- India's first 3D-printed post office is slated to come up in Bengaluru, Karnataka and will cost around one-fourth of the amount spent on a traditional building.
- The new post office building in Cambridge Layout in Halasuru, Bengaluru will be built using 3D printing and is likely to be completed within the next month.
- The Post Office building is being constructed by Larsen & Toubro, which is the only company currently in India utilising 3D printing technology for construction.
- 3D printing can significantly reduce the cost and expedite construction which would otherwise take months to complete.
- 3D printing of the new post office which will be a three-storied building has been given clearance by the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and

IIT-Madras.

## FOURTH EDITION OF INDIA'S CLEAN AIR SUMMIT BEGINS IN BANGALORE

India's Clean Air Summit (ICAS)

- The fourth edition of India's Clean Air Summit (ICAS) took place in Bangalore with global experts.
- With the help of India's Clean Air Summit, global experts are set to discuss an integrated approach to resolving air pollution and increasing climate change.
- India's Clean Air Summit will continue till 26th August 2022.
- The Centre for Air Pollution Studies (CAPS) and the Centre for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP), think-tanks have organized the summit.

## PM MODI INAUGURATES HOMI BHABHA CANCER HOSPITAL IN MOHALI

Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 300-bed Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre at Mullanpur, Mohali in Chandigarh.
- The Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre has been built at a cost of over ₹660 crores by the Tata Memorial Centre which is an aided institute under the Union Department of Atomic Energy.
- Chief Minister of Punjab Bhagwant Mann was also present during the inaugural ceremony of the Bhabha Cancer Hospital.
- The hospital is equipped with the finest state-of-the-art facilities which include Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Mammography, Digital Radiography, and Brachytherapy to ensure the treatment of all types of cancer in India.
- The treatment for cancer available here is surgeries, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and bone marrow transplant.

## INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (ICH)

The Ministry of Culture along Sangeet Natak Akademi, the designated nodal agency for ICH, in collaboration with the National Museum and National Museum Institute, organized the celebration of the successful inscription of 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' on the Representative List of ICH of Humanity in 2021.

About:

- 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' was inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural

Heritage (ICH) of Humanity during its 16th session held in Paris, France from 13th to 18th December 2021.

- India now has 14 intangible cultural heritage elements on the prestigious UNESCO Representative List of ICH of Humanity.

## NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA)

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated office of National Investigation Agency (NIA) at New Raipur in Chhattisgarh. He also extended his greetings to the people of Chhattisgarh on the occasion of the 'Teeja Pola' festival

About:

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is the primary counter-terrorist task force of India.
- The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008, which was passed after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
- Headquartered in New Delhi, the NIA has branches in various cities.

## PHASING OUT PETROLEUM-POWERED VEHICLES

California has approved a ban on the sale of new petroleum-powered vehicles by 2035 — a landmark policy intervention that could have an impact throughout most other American states, and in countries outside of the US

About:

- The rule would kick in with a 35 per cent limit on new passenger vehicle sales to be "zero emission" (or Battery Electric Vehicles) by 2026, which then goes up to 68 percent by 2030, and 100 per cent in 2035.
- California, besides being the biggest US state, is one of the largest markets for car sales in the world. So, California's position on new car sales is extremely important.

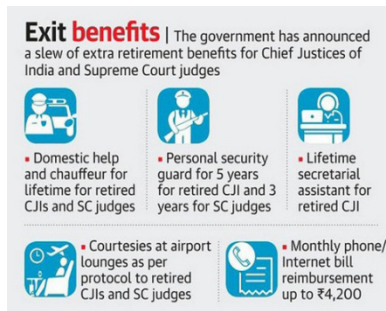
What is India's stance?

- India has a target of meeting at least 65 per cent of all new vehicle sales to be electric by 2030.
- Progress has been patchy though, with 6.38 lakh EVs registered in India since 2012 – less than 1 per cent of the total vehicle count.
- What is encouraging is that over 15 states have issued or adopted EV policies so far.

## POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR



## SUPREME COURT JUDGES



The Centre amended the Supreme Court Judges Rules the second time in a week to provide chauffeurs and domestic help for retired Chief Justices of India and Supreme Court judges for their entire lifetime.

### About:

- Retired CJIs would also get secretarial assistants. The staff would be paid the salary and allowances of regular employees of the Supreme Court.
- The first series of amendments in the Rules on August 23 had allowed retired Chief Justices of India and Supreme Court judges chauffeurs, secretarial assistants and security cover only for a year. There was no mention of “domestic help”, who would be an employee in the level of junior court assistant.
- The benefit of 24-hour security cover has been extended to five years for retired Chief Justices and three years for retired judges of the Supreme Court. The judiciary had recently raised concerns about attacks on judges.
- Besides, former CJIs and retired judges of the top court can get their monthly mobile phone and Internet bills reimbursed to the extent of ₹4,200.
- A retired CJI is also entitled to a rent-free Type VII accommodation, other than the designated official residence, in New Delhi for six months immediately after retirement.
- The notification issued by the Law Ministry however said these post-retirement benefits would be available only if the retirees were not getting similar facilities from any High Court or government body.

## NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL PRICING AUTHORITY (NPPA)

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) celebrated its Silver Jubilee in New Delhi.

### About:

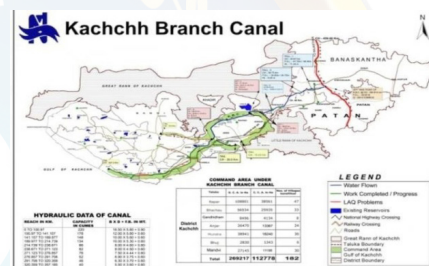
- On the occasion, Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System 2.0, an integrated

responsive cloud-based application. It will provide a single window for submissions of various forms as mandated under Drug Price Control Order, 2013.

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India.
- It was constituted vide Government of India Resolution dated 29th August 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP).

## KUTCH BRANCH CANAL (KBC)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 357.18-kilometer-long Kutch Branch Canal (KBC) that stretched from the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Dam in Narmada district 750 kilometres away, to the last of the villages of Gujarat's Mandvi taluka, Mod Kuba.



### About:

- Built at the cost of Rs 6493 crore, Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd (SSNNL) officials acclaim KBC as the “longest branch canal in the world”.
- The project began around 2008 and passes over Dudhai village which was the epicentre of the 2001 earthquake.
- While the construction of the branch canal was completed in May, about 1200 km of a total of 5000 km network of minor canals for laying the distribution network is yet to be completed.

## POSITIVE INDIGENISATION LIST (PIL)



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the



third Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) of 780 strategically important line replacement units (LRU), sub-systems and components, with a timeline beyond which they will only be procured from the domestic industry.

#### About

- This is different from the three PILs announced for the armed forces.
- This was done in line with the effort to promote self-reliance in defence manufacturing, and minimising imports by the defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs).
- This list is in continuation to the two PILs of LRUs, sub-systems, assemblies, sub-assemblies and components that were published in December 2021 and March 2022.
- These lists contain 2,500 items which are already indigenised and 458 (351+107) items which will be indigenised within the given timelines.
- Out of the 458 items, 167 items (163 from the first PIL, and four from the second PIL) have been indigenised, so far.
- The Ministry explained that indigenisation of these items will be taken up through different routes under the 'Make' category of procurement procedure.

### CYBER THREAT TO MOBILE BANKING

The lack of adequate cybersecurity and the dearth of talent in banking could potentially lead to a further rise in cyberattacks on user devices.

#### About:

- According to a 2020 Statista survey across 25 States in India, two-third respondents said they had a smartphone.
- Of these, half said they sent and received money digitally, and about 31% said they had a mobile app for banking. Nearly 14% said they used their mobile phones for banking-related purposes.
- Global cybersecurity firm Kaspersky warns of an increase in cyberattacks on Android and iOS devices in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.
- One mobile banking trojan, called Anubis, has been targeting Android users since 2017. Roaming Mantis is another prolific malware targeting mobile banking users.
- There is push from regulators to make

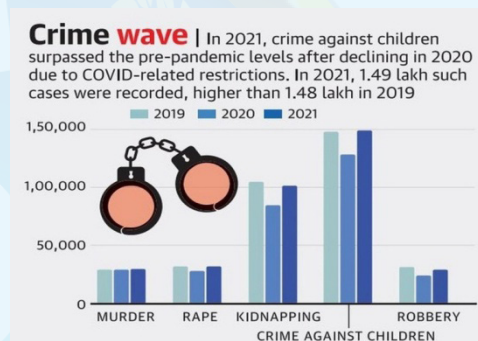
payment platforms interoperable at a time when the demand for technical experts is a serious concern in the banking industry.

### FRAUD REGISTRY

The Reserve Bank is considering setting up a fraud registry to create a database of fraudulent websites, phones and various modus operandi used for digital fraud.

#### About:

- Such a database would help prevent fraudsters from repeating the offence as the websites or phone numbers would be blacklisted, RBI executive director Anil Kumar Sharma said on Monday.
- There is no definite timeline for setting up of the fraud registry.



- Payment system participants would be provided access to this registry for near-real time fraud monitoring. The aggregated fraud data would be published to educate customers on emerging risks.
- Sharma also said that the customers of the Credit Investment Company (CIC) would come under the Reserve Bank — Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2021.

### CRIMES IN INDIA

Violent crimes such as rape, kidnapping, atrocities against children, and robberies registered across India increased in 2021, after the pandemic-related restrictions led to a decline in these severe offences in 2020.

#### About:

- Murders, which did not come down even in 2020, continued to increase in 2021 too, according to data from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)'s 2021 report.
- The number of registered rape cases increased from 28,046 in 2020 to 31,677 in 2021, closer to the 2019 figure of 32,032. Cases related to kidnapping and abduction fell to 84,805 in 2020 from 1,05,036 cases in 2019, but again rose to 1,01,707 in 2021.
- On the other hand, murder cases continued their consistent increase with 29,272 cases

in 2021, up from 29,193 in 2020 and 28,915 in 2019.

- However, the number of overall registered cognisable crimes decreased from 66 lakh in 2020 to 60.9 lakh in 2021, a 7.6% fall.
- The crime rate (crimes per 1 lakh people) also decreased from 487.8 in 2020 to 445.9 in 2021.
- The decline in overall crimes in 2021 can be attributed to a sharp decrease in cases registered under 'disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant (Section 188 of the IPC).

## DEVELOPMENT OF ENTERPRISES AND SERVICES HUB (DESH)

A Workshop on Development of Enterprises and Services Hub (DESH) Bill, 2022 was organized by Department of Commerce. The workshop was organised in partnership with Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs (EPCES)

### About:

- The government plans to facilitate easier financing norms to activities pertaining to the manufacturing and services hubs envisaged under the proposed revamped law for Special Economic Zones (SEZs), also known as Development (Enterprise and Services) Hub Bill, 2022.
- This will be done by giving them infrastructure status, at par with sectors such as road, rail waterways, airports, to improve access to finance and enable long-term borrowing from lenders at easier terms.

## STANDALONE 5G ARCHITECTURE

India's largest telecom company Reliance Jio announced the launch of its 5G services in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai by Diwali this year, with an aim to expand and cover the entire country by December 2023.

### About:

- The company said it will launch its 5G services on a "standalone" 5G architecture, against the "non-standalone" approach that other operators are betting on.
- 5G networks are deployed mainly on two modes: standalone and non-standalone.
- In the standalone mode, which Jio has chosen, the 5G network operates with dedicated equipment, and runs parallel to the existing 4G network, while in the non-standalone mode, the 5G network is supported by the 4G core infrastructure.
- The standalone mode provides access to full 5G capabilities and new network

functionalities such as slicing that provides greater flexibility to operators to efficiently use their spectrum holdings.

- Non-standalone networks are generally considered to be a stepping stone, and global precedent suggests operators that have launched non-standalone 5G networks eventually transition to standalone networks. The non-standalone mode, however, lets operators maximise the utilisation of their existing network infrastructure with relatively lower investment.

## THE SPECIAL MARRIAGE ACT, 1954

The Supreme Court dismissed a writ petition challenging the Constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 under which couples seek refuge for inter-faith and inter-caste marriages.

### About:

- The writ petition has called the provisions under the SMA violative of the right to privacy guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution as they require couples to give a notice of 30 days before the date of marriage inviting objections from the public.
- These public notices have been used by anti-social elements to harass couples getting married.

## FORENSIC EVIDENCE

Delhi Police has become the first police force in the country to make collection of forensic evidence mandatory in crimes punishable by more than six years

### About:

- The order was issued hours after Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the Police Headquarters here. Since Delhi is a Union Territory, its police force is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The order comes following a push by Mr. Shah who had said the government was going to overhaul the British-era Indian Penal Code and one of the changes being considered was making collection of forensic evidence compulsory in criminal cases punishable by more than six years.
- "The era of third degree torture is over. Custodial torture has roots in colonial India. Conviction of criminals can be achieved based on forensic evidence that is irrefutable," Mr. Shah had said.

## MUSLIM PERSONAL LAW PRACTICES

A five-judge Constitution Bench on Tuesday impleaded the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the National Commission of Women (NCW) and the National Commission of Minorities as parties in a batch of petitions challenging the Muslim Personal Law practices such as polygamy and nikah halala.

### About:

- The Supreme Court also issued notice in a separate petition in the batch, which said the personal law practices violated Section 494 of the Indian Penal Code.
- The section makes “marrying again during lifetime of husband or wife” an offence punishable with imprisonment up to seven years and fine. The case will be listed after the Dasara holidays.
- Petitioners argue that polygamy and nikah halala (bar against remarriage with divorced husband without an intervening marriage with another man) are unconstitutional.







## INDIA - MALDIVES TIES

Maldives President Ibrahim 'Ibu' Solih arrived in Delhi for a bilateral visit, amid rows within his government over ties with India, the Yoga Day attack, and a bitter row with Maldivian Speaker, former President and party colleague Mohammad Nasheed.

### About:



- During his four-day visit, Mr. Solih will be expected to focus on enhancing trade and connectivity between the two countries.
- He will meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bilateral talks, discuss strategic ties, and the status of infrastructure agreements between them, and sign a number of MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding).
- The infrastructure projects include the Greater Male Connectivity Project of bridges connecting the capital city to neighbouring islands, to be built by Indian company Afcon with the help of a \$400-million Line of Credit and a \$100-million grant from India, along with other projects under India's \$1.4-billion assistance announced during Mr. Solih's last visit to India in December 2018.

## UNSC MEET ON COUNTERTERRORISM

In a first, India will host diplomats and officials from all 15 countries of the United Nations Security Council, including China, Russia and the U.S., for a special meeting on terrorism, in Delhi and Mumbai in October.

### About:

- The meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), which India is chairing for 2022 as a member of the UNSC, will focus particularly on challenges such as terrorism financing, cyberthreats and the use

of drones.

- New Delhi is expected to highlight cross-border threats from Pakistan and Afghanistan at the meeting, which will come two months before India completes its tenure as an elected member of the UNSC (2021-22).
- In addition, India has been pushing for the UN members to adopt a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (first proposed in 1996), which is likely to be raised during the meeting.
- While terror financing is now recognised and dealt with through mechanisms such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), it was necessary to build templates and "codes of conduct" for newer threats, including financing through cryptocurrency and the use of drones for terror attacks.

## YUAN WANG 5

India is closely monitoring the movement of a Chinese "spy ship" that is on its way to Sri Lanka and will dock at its Hambantota port around August 11.

### About:



- The vessel's visit to the Lankan port comes at a time when the country is battling a severe economic crisis, and India is learnt to have already lodged a verbal protest against the ship's visit.
- The 'Yuan Wang 5', a Chinese research and survey vessel, is en route to Hambantota, a strategically important deep-sea port developed mostly using loans from Beijing.
- 'Yuan Wang'-class ships are used to track satellite, rocket and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launches.
- China has around seven of these tracking ships that are capable of operating throughout the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans. The ships supplement Beijing's land-based tracking stations.

## ITU's REGIONAL STANDARDIZATION FORUM (RSF) FOR ASIA AND OCEANIA REGION

As a part of the celebrations during Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Communication is hosting the International Telecommunication Union's Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) for Asia

### About:

- The theme of the Forum is "Regulatory and Policy aspects of Telecommunications/ ICTs".
- The Forum will be succeeded by four-day meeting of International Telecommunication Union-T Study Group 3 Regional Group Asia and Oceania (ITU-T SG3RG-AO) from 09th August 2022 to 12th August 2022.
- The Regional Standardization Forum is a platform for discussing standardization topics including inter alia India's experience in various sectors of technology like Sustainable Digital Transformation and the Role of ITU Standards, Harnessing Technologies for Digital and Financial Inclusion in Emerging Markets, evolving Data Value Chain and Digital Health.
- The Forum will be succeeded by ITU-T Study Group 3 Regional Group Asia and Oceania (ITU-T SG3RG-AO) from 09th August 2022 to 12th August 2022.

## GAZA STRIP

Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip were exchanging fire in the worst bout of cross-border violence since an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas last year.

### About:



- The Gaza Strip or simply Gaza, is a Palestinian enclave on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It borders Egypt on the southwest for 11 kilometers (6.8 mi) and Israel on the east and north along a 51 km (32 mi) border.
- The Gaza Strip and the West Bank are claimed by the de jure sovereign State of Palestine.

- The territories of Gaza and the West Bank are separated from each other by Israeli territory.
- Both fell under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, but the Strip has, since the Battle of Gaza in June 2007, been governed by Hamas, a militant, Palestinian, fundamentalist Islamic organization, which came to power in the last-held elections in 2006.
- It has been placed under an Israeli and US-led international economic and political boycott from that time onwards.

## ASEAN HAS CELEBRATED ITS 55TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2022

- External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar has congratulated ASEAN Member States and the Secretary General on their 55th anniversary.
- The theme of this year's ASEAN Day is "Stronger Together" that invites and welcomes the forward-minded people of ASEAN to come in synchronization and work as a collective to face the challenges of 21st Century. ASEAN symbolizes the spirit of solidarity and peaceful, prosperous and socially responsible ASEAN Community.

### About ASEAN:

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration). The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- Founding Members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam (1984), Vietnam (1995), Lao PDR and Myanmar (1997), and Cambodia (1999), joined the ASEAN later.
- ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta.

## CHINA IS CONDUCTING ITS LARGEST-EVER MILITARY DRILLS AROUND TAIWAN

- After Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the US House, left the island, China began its largest-ever military drills encircling Taiwan.
- Beijing reacted angrily to her visit, threatening punishment and announcing military exercises in some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world: the seas surrounding Taiwan.

## INDO-ISRAEL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR VEGETABLES INAUGURATED



- Israeli experts are providing the Center's technology as part of the India-Israel Action Plan (IIAP), while MIDH is funding the construction of the Center's infrastructure for demonstration purposes.
- On the basis of Israeli innovations, Centers of Excellence (CoEs) are being established in the United States.
- In order to improve agriculture, the Central and State Governments are collaborating on all fronts, according to Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.

#### About the Indo-Israel Centre Foundation:

- Using a video conference, Mr. Tomar laid the cornerstone for the Indo-Israel Center of Excellence for Vegetables in Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh.
- He hoped that the opening of this centre will be crucial to the growth of the Chandauli district and the Purvanchal region.
- The Minister also expressed satisfaction that Uttar Pradesh is carrying out Central Government initiatives and that the State has made quick progress in natural and organic farming.

### ASIAN REGIONAL FORUM

The Election Commission of India will be hosting a virtual meet of the 'Asian Regional Forum' on the theme "Making our Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative" at Nirvachan Sadan on August 11, 2022.

#### About:



- This Regional Forum meet is precursor to the "Global Summit for Democracy" to be hosted by the National Electoral Institute of Mexico in the coming month.
- As part of this 'Global Summit for Democracy', five Regional Forums namely Africa, America, Asia, Europe, and countries of the Arab States have been created. India is hosting the Asian Regional Forum meet of the EMBs.
- The meet will have participation from Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of Mexico, Mauritius, Philippines, Nepal, Uzbekistan, Maldives and Representatives from

International IDEA, Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

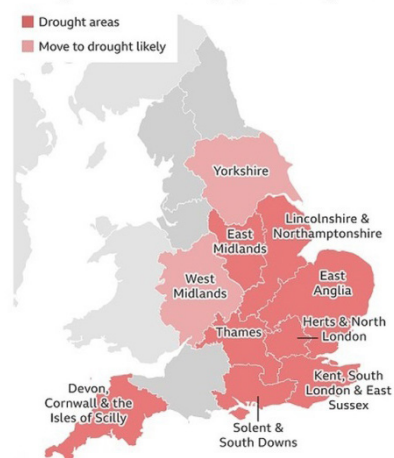
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### DROUGHT IN ENGLAND

The government formally declared parts of England to be in drought as the country faces a period of prolonged hot and dry weather.

#### About:

Drought declared in large parts of England



- Where has a drought been declared? Devon and Cornwall; Solent and South Downs; Kent and South London; Herts and North London; East Anglia; Thames; Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire; and East Midlands.

#### What happens when a drought is declared?

- All water companies are required to have a drought plan in place setting out what restrictions they may put in place on their customers in the event of a drought.
- Water companies will implement these plans, which will include temporary water use restrictions such as hosepipe bans to reduce the demand for water.
- They can also apply for drought orders and permits which legally allow more flexibility in managing water resources including abstracting more water from rivers, reservoirs or aquifers.

### NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION (NATO)

It was recently reported that India held its first political dialogue with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in Brussels on December 12, 2019.





#### About:

- Attended by senior officials, including from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Defence, the idea was to ensure the dialogue was primarily political in character, and to avoid making any commitment on military or other bilateral cooperation.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, or NATO, is a political and military alliance of 28 European countries and two countries in North America (United States and Canada).
- It was set up in 1949 by the US, Canada, and several western European nations to ensure their collective security against the Soviet Union. It was the US's first peacetime military alliance outside the western hemisphere.
- Thirty countries are currently members of NATO, which is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. The headquarters of the Allied Command Operations is near Mons, also in Belgium.

### IMD-UNDP AND JAPAN COLLABORATE FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN 10 STATES AND UTS

- IMD-UNDP initiates a new project to speed up climate action in 10 States and Union Territories throughout the nation has been unveiled by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the government of Japan, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- During the years 2022–2023, the project of IMD-UNDP will be implemented in the following states: Bihar, Delhi–NCR, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh.
- UNDP India has received a \$5.16 million climate grant from Japan for the project of IMD-UNDP.
- This is a component of the worldwide assistance provided by Japan to 23 nations

through the UNDP's "Climate Promise — From Pledge to Impact" initiative.

#### IMD-UNDP: Key Points

- India made a commitment to reduce its projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030, install 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030, reduce its carbon intensity by less than 45% by the end of the decade, and reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 at the COP26 summit in Glasgow in November 2021.
- The collaborative endeavour of IMD-UNDP will help Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) reach net-zero emissions and guarantee development that is climate resilient.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will work with the IMD to implement it (MNRE).
- The new NDCs for India were approved by the Cabinet to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change one week before the launch.
- IMD-UNDP: Climate Planning
- In order to promote both climate reduction and climate resilience, IMD-UNDP will collaborate. In important industries like transportation, health, MSMEs, and agriculture, clean energy
- infrastructure and emission-reduced technology will be implemented by IMD-UNDP.
- This involves establishing 85 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and 30 solar cold storage systems throughout the 10 States, as well as solarizing 150 healthcare facilities and 20 microbusinesses by IMD-UNDP.
- With the help of climate information flow systems for 30 Gram Panchayats, resilient climate planning will be put on display at the local level.
- The programme by IMD-UNDP plans to train and skill over 2,000 people in order to create green businesses and jobs in industries like renewable energy.
- The same objectives of IMD-UNDP of decarbonization and sustainable development would necessitate greater climate partnerships, according to Hokugo Kyoko, Minister (Economic and Development), Embassy of Japan in India.

### MEXICAN PRESIDENT PROPOSES PEACE COMMISSION LED BY 3 LEADERS INCLUDING PM MODI

- The Mexican President, Andrés Manuel

López Obrador has proposed that the top commission should include Pope Francis, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, and Indian PM Narendra Modi.

- The aim of the commission would be to present a proposal to stop the wars around the world and reach an agreement to seek a truce for at least five years. The commission aims to stop wars across the world and reach an agreement to seek a truce for at least five years.
- The Mexican President is planning to submit a written proposal to the UN to create the commission, made up of three world leaders, including PM Modi, to promote a world truce for a period of five years.

#### Important Points:

- The Mexican President has invited China, Russia, and the US to seek peace and to end warlike actions.
- As per the Obrador, the proposed truce will help in reaching an agreement in the case of Taiwan, Israel and Palestine.
- Mr Modi and other leaders of the Member States are expected to participate in the session when the global body will discuss the crises in Ukraine, Gaza Strip and the regional tension over Taiwan.

### UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS

India has contributed four lakh US dollars to four Voluntary Trust Funds as part of its commitment to global promotion and protection of human rights and support for United Nations Human Rights.



#### About:

- India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva in a tweet said that the contribution reflects India's commitment in this regard.
- The four Trust Funds to which contribution has been made include the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, the Voluntary

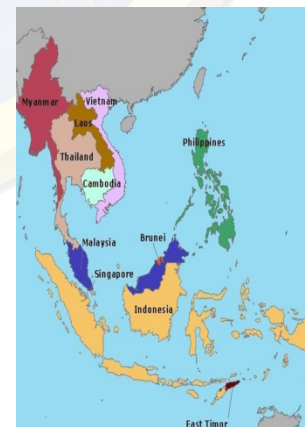
Fund for financial and technical assistance for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review, and the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDs) in the work of the council.

### MOSCOW CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY-2022

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has stressed on the comprehensive reform of United Nations' structure saying that this worrying shortcoming of United Nations' system is manifestation of its structural inadequacy.

#### About:

- Addressing the plenary session of Moscow Conference on International Security-2022 virtually today, Mr. Singh said, at the core of India's call for reformed multilateralism, lies the reform of the United Nations Security Council which is reflective of the contemporary realities.
- He said, major powers' refusal to change United Nations institutions in tune with time, ignores the emerging geo-political realities, economic and technological progress happened since 1945.
- Singh stressed that the Council must be made more representative of developing countries to provide leadership to the entire world.
- On the Indo-Pacific region, the Defence Minister said, as a nation central to the Indian Ocean, India is committed to a free, open, secure and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.



### OCEAN DIVERSITY PACT

A delegation from India and other member countries of the United Nations are in New York to deliberate on a one-of-its-kind agreement to conserve marine biodiversity in the high seas, namely the oceans that extend beyond countries' territorial waters



### About:

- The agreement follows a resolution by the UN General Assembly in May and is expected to be the final in a series set in motion since 2018 to draft an international legally binding instrument under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- The high seas comprise nearly 45% of the Earth's surface.
- A key aspect of the agreement is deciding on the rights of companies that undertake exploration for biological resources in the high sea
- Last June, the Union Cabinet approved a 'Blue Economy' policy for India, a near 4,000-crore programme spread over five years. This among other things will develop a manned submersible vessel as well as work on "bio-prospecting of deep-sea flora and fauna including microbes".

### INDIA-SOUTHEAST ASIA HISTORICAL LINKS

As part of his visit to Thailand for the ninth India-Thailand joint commission meeting, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited the Devasthan in Bangkok.

### About:

- The Devasthan is the Royal Brahmin Office of the Thai Royal Court and is the official centre of Hinduism in Thailand.
- India and the Southeast Asia region share a long history of cultural and commercial relations.
- The classical Sanskrit and Pali texts from India carry references of the region using various names such as Kathakosha, Suvar-nabhumi (the land of god) or Suvarnadvipa (the golden island), indicating that this was a region that attracted Indian merchants.
- In more recent times, European and Indian scholars have referred to Southeast Asia as 'Farther India', 'Greater India', or 'Hinduised or Indianised states'.
- The Ramayana — known in Thailand as Ramakriti (the glory of Rama) or Ramakien (the account of Rama) — has provided an outlet of cultural expression in Thailand for both the elite and the common man. Episodes from the epic are painted on the walls of Buddhist temples and enacted in dramas and ballets.

### TALIBAN

The United Nations is set to end travel ban exemptions for 13 Taliban officials.

### About:

- Under a 2011 UN Security Council resolution, 135 Taliban officials are subject to sanctions that include asset freezes and travel bans.
- In June this year, the 15-member UN Security Council's Afghanistan Sanctions Committee removed two Taliban education ministers from the exemption list over the regime's curtailment of women's rights. At the same time, they renewed the exemption for the others till yesterday.
- China and Russia have called for an extension, while the United States has sought a reduced list of the officials allowed to travel.

### ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

Maharashtra government will take a loan of 4,000 crore rupees from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for setting up medical colleges in 12 districts of the state.



### About:

- Maharashtra govt to take Rs 4000 cr loan from Asian Development Bank to set up medical colleges in 12 districts
- There are 12 districts in the state without a single medical college. These districts include Jalgaon, Satara, Alibaug, Sindhudurg, Usmanabad, Parbhani, Amravati, Ratnagiri, Gadchiroli, Bhandara and Ambernath.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

### OCEAN SAILING EXPEDITION ON INSV TARINI TO MAURITIUS

Sanjay Panda Commanding Officer, INS Mandovi flagged off a sailing expedition from Goa to Port



Louis, Mauritius at early hours of 20 Aug 22. The expedition is being undertaken by a crew of six (incl three women officers), onboard INSV Tarini.

#### About:

- Covering a distance of almost 2500nm (approx 4500 km) one way, the crew, over a period of 20 - 21 days is expected to face extreme weather and rough sea conditions of monsoons.
- In addition to sailing in these conditions the crew will also be undertaking boat upkeep, machinery routines and preparing their meals. The passage would be nonstop once they leave the Indian shores.
- The Indian Navy has six ocean going Indian Naval Sailing Vessels (INSVs) viz Mhadei, Tarini, Bulbul, Hariyal, Kadalpura and Neelkanth in her inventory.

### INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD ON ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS (IOAA)

- India secured the third rank in medal tally at the 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA).

#### About:

- India held the third position jointly with Singapore with students winning three gold and two silver medals.
- The 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) 2022 was held in Kutaisi, Georgia, from 14 to 21 August, 2022.



### SCO DEFENCE MINISTERS MEETING

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh travelled to Tashkent (capital of Uzbekistan) on a three-day visit to attend a defence ministerial conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

#### About:

- The SCO defence ministerial meeting is taking place around three weeks ahead of the annual summit of the SCO scheduled for September 15-16 in Samarkand.
- The SCO is an influential economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.

- India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.
- The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- India has shown a keen interest in deepening its security-related cooperation with the SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.

### BENAMI LAW

The Supreme Court declared as “unconstitutional and manifestly arbitrary” the amendments introduced to the Benami law in 2016, which apply retrospectively and can send a person to prison for three years even as it empowers the Centre to confiscate “any property” subject to a benami transaction.

#### About:

- In a decision much awaited by businesses, a three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, declared as unconstitutional Sections 3(2) and 5 introduced through the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016. The 2016 law amended the original Benami Act of 1988, expanding it to 72 Sections from a mere nine.
- Section 3(2) mandates three years of imprisonment for those who had entered into benami transactions between September 5, 1988 and October 25, 2016. That is, a person can be sent behind bars for a benami transaction entered into 28 years before the Section even came into existence.
- Justice Ramana, who wrote the 96-page judgment, held that the provision violated Article 20(1) of the Constitution. Article 20(1) mandates that no person should be convicted of an offence, which was not in force “at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offence”.
- Section 5 of the 2016 Amendment Act said that “any property, which is subject matter of benami transaction, shall be liable to be confiscated by the Central Government”. The court held that this provision cannot be applied retrospectively.

### CHINESE SPACE STATION TIANGONG

Tensions between India and China since May 2020 is worrying Indian astrophysicists involved in an ambitious project to install an Indian-made spectroscope aboard the developing Chinese space station Tiangong.

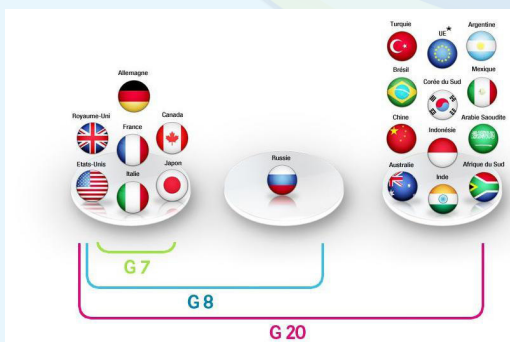
## About:

- Scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, were among nine groups selected from 42 applicants in 2019 as part of a UN-led initiative that invites research teams from all over the world to compete for an opportunity to design payloads that will be shuttled to Tiangong aboard rockets of the Chinese Manned Space Agency.
- The project, called Spectrographic Investigation of Nebular Gas (SING), also involves collaboration with the Institute of Astronomy, Russian Academy of Sciences, and has been designed and developed by research students at the IIA. The plan is to have it ready by the year-end so that it can be launched in the summer of 2023.
- Though the plan is on schedule, scientists at the IIA are now consulting with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the External Affairs Ministry whether they are in the clear to go ahead with the project.

## 20TH EDITION OF BIOASIA 2023 SCHEDULED IN FEBRUARY 24-26

- The 20th edition of BioAsia 2023 will be hosted by the Government of Telangana, the premier event of BioAsia 2023 for the life sciences and health tech, on February 24-26, 2023.
- BioAsia 2023's logo and theme, "Advancing for ONE: Shaping the next generation of humanised healthcare," have been unveiled by Minister for Industries and Commerce KT Rama Rao.

## FOR THE FIRST TIME, INDIA TO TAKE OVER THE G20 PRESIDENCY BY DECEMBER 2022



- The Union cabinet approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and related structures that will implement policy decisions and be responsible for arrangements for India's forthcoming presidency of the group in

2023.

- India will hold the presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India next year.
- The G20 Secretariat will handle work related to knowledge, content, technical, media, security and logistical aspects of India's presidency of the inter-governmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU).

## All About G20: From History Upto The Recent:

- The G20 is an international forum, made up of 19 countries and the European Union, representing the world's major developed and emerging economies.
- Together, the G20 members represent 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade and two-thirds of the world's population. Because of its size and strategic importance, the G20 has a crucial role in setting the path for the future of global economic growth.

## IT's Beginning:

- The G20 started out in 1999 as a meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors. Following the global financial crisis in 2008, the urgent need for a meeting of the G20 at the Leaders' level emerged.
- For the first time in November 2008 in Washington D.C, G20 Leaders convened and managed to coordinate fiscal, monetary and economic policies to put the global economy on a path to recovery.
- Since then, the G20 has organically evolved, transforming itself from a global firefighter into a unique international forum to address long-term structural challenges.

## The Role of International Organisations in the G20:

- At the invitation of each Presidency, key international organisations participate in G20 meetings to provide substantive inputs and enrich the discussion.
- The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) has acted as a strategic advisor to the G20.
- The OECD participates in all G20 Working Group meetings and provides data, analytical reports and proposals on specific topics, often jointly with other relevant international organisations.
- The OECD has been working closely with the IMF on national growth strategies and the structural policy agenda as part of the Framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, with the ILO on youth employment and gender, with the World Bank,



UNDP and other international organisations on development, with the IEA (International Energy Agency) on fossil fuels, and with the WTO and UNCTAD on monitoring investment and trade protectionism.

#### G20 members represent:

1. 90% of global GDP.
2. 80% of international global-trade.
3. 2/3rd of the world's population lives in G20 member countries.
4. 84% of all fossil fuel emissions are produced by G20 countries.

#### It's key objectives:

- Restoring global economic growth;
- Strengthening the international financial system;
- Reforming international financial institutions.

#### About The Presidency:

- The presidency of the G20 rotates annually among its members. The presidency leads a three-member management group of previous, current and future chairs, referred to as the Troika, the purpose of which is to ensure transparency, fairness, and continuity from one presidency to another.
- The G20 does not have a secretariat of its own. A temporary secretariat is set up by the country that holds the presidency for the term of chairmanship.

#### G20 Members:

- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

### TANZANIA

India and Tanzania plan to form a task force to prepare a five year 'future road map' for enhancing defence cooperation between the nations and to hold the next Joint Defence Cooperation meeting in Tanzania soon.



#### About:

- This was agreed at the bilateral meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Tanzanian Minister of Defence.
- Tanzania is a country in East Africa within the African Great Lakes region.
- It borders Uganda to the north; Kenya to the northeast; Comoro Islands and the Indian Ocean to the east; Mozambique and Malawi to the south; Zambia to the southwest; and Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west.
- Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, is in northeastern Tanzania.
- Three of Africa's Great Lakes are partly within Tanzania. To the north and west lie Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake, and Lake Tanganyika, the continent's deepest lake, known for its unique species of fish. To the south lies Lake Malawi.

### INDIA-BANGLADESH RIVER WATER SHARING ISSUES

India and Bangladesh discussed a wide range of issues related to the major common rivers such as the Ganga, Teesta and several smaller rivers during the 38th meeting of the Joint River Commission (JRC) held recently



#### About:

- The JRC meeting discussed the whole gamut of the issues related to the common rivers between the two countries, especially the Ganga, Teesta, Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla, Dudkhkumar and Kushi-yara," said an official statement issued by Dhaka after the talks.
- Bangladesh side requested for conclusion of the long-pending Teesta Waters Sharing Treaty at an early date. The Indian side assured of their utmost efforts in concluding the agreement.
- Teesta River is a 414 km long river that rises in the Pauhunri Mountain of eastern Himalayas, flows through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal through Bangladesh and enters the Bay of Bengal.



## INDIAN DIASPORA IN U.K.

Indian citizens received the largest share of U.K. student, skilled worker and visitor visas for the year ending June 2022, as per official data published by the British government.

### About:

- As per the data, 1,17,965 students received student visas in the year ending June 2022, up 215% from 2019.
- India has displaced China to become the country with the highest number of sponsored study visas in the U.K. for the first time since the year ending June 2011. Indian and Chinese nationals get just under half of all sponsored study visas.
- Indians received 1,02,981 work visas in the year ending June 2022, an 80% increase compared to the year ending December 2019, just before the pandemic began. Nigeria, the Philippines, Zimbabwe and the United States followed India (in that order) for work visas.
- Forty-six percent of worker (formerly, 'skilled worker') visas went to Indians.

## SOUTH KOREA BREAKS ITS OWN RECORD FOR THE WORLD'S LOWEST FERTILITY RATE

- South Korea has once again shattered its own record for the world's lowest fertility rate. South Korean women were estimated, based on 2021 data, to have an average of just 0.81 children over their lifetimes, down from 0.84 a year earlier.
- The number of newborns declined in 2021 to 260,600, which equates to about 0.5% of the population.
- According to the United Nations' global population projections and World Bank's data, the report further stated that Korea is the world's fastest-ageing nation among economies with a per capita GDP of at least \$30,000.
- By 2100, its population will fall by 53% to 24 million, up from a 43% decline forecast in 2019.
- Bank of Korea Governor Rhee Chang-Yong, who took office earlier this year, warned in April that the nation's economy is on the verge of secular stagnation as the population ages and productivity slows.

## S. JAISHANKAR EMBARKS ON A 3-NATION VISIT TO SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT

- Looking forward to augmenting relationships with all nations of the Latin Ameri-

can Region, External Affairs minister Dr S Jaishankar has embarked on a three-nation visit.

- During the Minister's meeting with top leaderships of these three countries as well as his counterpart, focus will be on food and energy security, defence and security, space, IT, and aerospace.
- This is the minister's first visit to the South American Region when he travels to Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina starting August 22-27.
- The minister, accompanied by senior officials, will have bilateral engagements with his counterparts and will also call on the top leadership in all the three countries.

## FLOODS IN PAKISTAN

Extending "heartfelt condolences" to victims of the floods in Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was saddened by the crisis, in a rare outreach to the neighbouring country on a day Pakistan's Finance Minister said he could consider re-opening trade routes with India.

### About:

- While Europe, China and some other regions of the world are experiencing a severe drought, Pakistan is facing one of the worst floods in its recent history.
- Reports say about 110 of the 150 districts in the country are affected by the flooding. Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said on Sunday that over 1,000 people were confirmed dead in the floods so far.
- The flooding, the result of an unusually wet monsoon season in Pakistan this year, started in July, but has worsened over the last couple of weeks.
- The same southwest monsoon that brings the bulk of India's annual rainfall causes rain in Pakistan as well.
- The monsoon season in Pakistan, however, is a little shorter than in India. That is because the rain-bearing monsoon winds take time to travel northward from India into Pakistan.

## INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT (IDP)

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification on 26 August 2022 for greater facilitation of citizens in the issue of International Driving Permit (IDP) across the country.

### About:

- India, being a signatory to Convention on International Road Traffic of 1949 (Gene-

va Convention), is required to issue IDP as provided under this Convention, for the acceptance of the same on reciprocal basis with other countries.

- Currently, the format, size, pattern, colour etc. of the IDP being issued was differing across States in India. Due to this, many citizens were facing difficulties with their respective IDP in foreign countries.
- Now, through this amendment, the format, size, colour etc. for IDP has been standardized for issuance across India, and in adherence to the Geneva Convention.
- A comparison of vehicle categories across various Conventions and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 has also been added for facilitation of regulatory authorities. Helpline numbers and email have also been provided.



## NETHERLANDS

President Droupadi Murmu discussed the various aspects of bilateral relation between India and the Netherlands with Queen Máxima of the Netherlands.

### About:

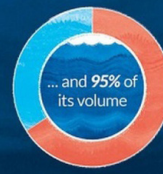
- During the discussion, the two leaders discussed the universal financial inclusion initiatives. Queen Máxima appreciated the progress made in India in this direction in the last few years.
- President Droupadi Murmu noted that the 'Strategic Partnership on Water' launched during the India-Netherlands virtual Summit in last year and other dimensions of bilateral relations have witnessed improvement in recent years. Queen Máxima is on a three day visit to India.
- The Netherlands is a country located in Northwestern Europe with overseas territories in the Caribbean.
- It is the largest of four constituent countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- The Netherlands borders Germany to the east, Belgium to the south, with a North Sea coastline to the north and west. It shares maritime borders with the United Kingdom, Germany and Belgium in the North Sea.

## What are the high seas?

They make up nearly **2/3** of the world's ocean ...

They represent **95%** of Earth's occupied habitat

But less than **1%** of the high seas are protected



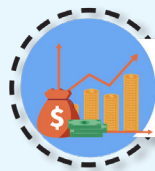
## UN HIGH SEAS TREATY

Negotiations involving 168 countries, including the European Union, to agree on a UN treaty for protecting oceans failed on August 27.

### What is the proposed UN High Seas treaty?

- Also referred to as the 'Paris Agreement for the Ocean', the treaty to deal with Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction has been under discussion for several years.
- The proposed treaty concerns the ocean existing beyond the Exclusive Economic Zones that lie from the coast of a country to about 200 nautical miles or 370 km into the sea, till where it has special rights for exploration.
- Waters beyond that are known as open seas or high seas.
- The treaty was to be negotiated under the United Nations Convention on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982 which governs the rights of countries regarding marine resources.
- As there is no treaty for conserving the health of vast swathes of the earth's oceans, a UN resolution in 2017 had decided to rectify this while setting 2022 as the deadline.





## **TRADE DEFICIT**

India's trade deficit has widened to a record \$31.02 billion in July thanks to contracting merchandise exports and a rise in imports. This is a three-times increase from the \$10.63 billion trade deficit reported in July last year.

### **What is trade deficit?**

- Trade deficit or negative balance of trade (BOT) is the gap between exports and imports. When money spent on imports exceeds that spent on exports in a country, trade deficit occurs.
- It can be calculated for different goods and services and also for international transactions. The opposite of trade deficit is trade surplus.

### **What causes it?**

- There are multiple factors that can be responsible.
- One of them is some goods not being produced domestically. In that case, they have to be imported. This leads to an imbalance in their trade. A weak currency can also be a cause as it makes trade expensive.

### **Is it bad for a country's economy?**

- If trade deficit increases, a country's GDP decreases. A higher trade deficit can decrease the local currency's value.
- More imports than exports, according to economists, impact the jobs market and lead to an increase in unemployment. If more mobiles are imported and less produced locally, then there will be less local jobs in that sector.

## **RBI'S FINANCIAL INCLUSION INDEX(FI-INDEX) INCHES UP**

- The Reserve Bank of India's composite financial inclusion index (FI-Index) capturing the extent of financial inclusion across the country rose to 56.4 in March 2022, showing growth across parameters. RBI now publishes the index annually in July every year.
- The index stood at 53.9 in March last year. It was at 43.4 for the period ending March 2017, showing rapid improvement in reach of financial services over the past five years.

### **How The Index Calculated:**

- The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- It comprises three broad parameters — access with 35% weightage, usage with 45% weightage and quality with 20% weightage. It incorporates details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector.

### **What Is Financial Inclusion:**

- Financial inclusion means that individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs – transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurance – delivered in a responsible and sustainable way.
- Being able to have access to a transaction account is a first step toward broader financial inclusion since a transaction account allows people to store money, and send and receive payments. A transaction account serves as a gateway to other financial services.

## **GARBA TAX**

A controversy has broke out over the imposition of 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on garba passes this year. On August 4, Congress's Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh called it the 'Garba Samapt Tax' (Garba-ending tax).

### **About:**

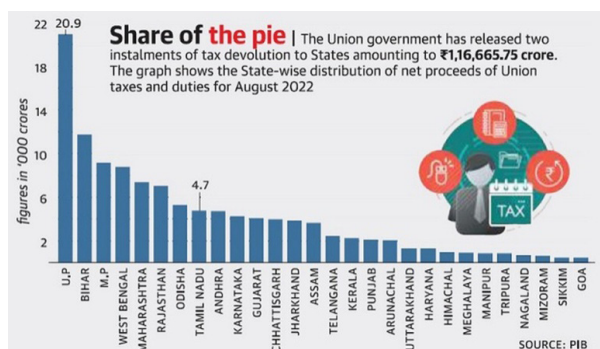
- 'Navratri' is a Gujarati word meaning the festival of nine nights.
- While celebrated nationwide, the festivities stand out in Gujarat due to the rich garba dances, done to pay respect to and worship Goddess Amba.
- The festival involves worshipping a lamp placed in perforated earthen pots, which is symbolic of the power of the Mother Goddess and denotes her 'garbha' or womb that brings new life.
- With many organisers opening bookings for the upcoming Navratri festival, to be held from September 26 to October 5, a controversy has broken out over the imposition of 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST)



on garba passes this year.

- Exemption from the GST only applies to organisers charging less than Rs 500 per pass.

## CENTRE RELEASES RS. 1.16 LAKH CRORES TO STATES



The Centre released over Rs.1.16 lakh crore to the States, equivalent to two monthly instalments of tax devolution, to help front-load State governments' capital spending abilities in this financial year.

### About:

- Coming soon after the expiry of the assured Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation to States from this July, economists expect the move to give the States twice the monthly share of net proceeds of Union taxes and duties for August to bolster their cash flows and nudge them into planning and executing capital expenditure (capex) outlays.
- The development assumes significance as some Chief Ministers raised concerns about their dwindling resources and sought more funds from the Centre through extension of the GST compensation period and a higher share in the divisible pool of taxes, at NITI Aayog's Governing Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 7.
- As against a "normal monthly devolution" of ₹58,332.86 crore, the Finance Ministry said Rs. 1,16,665.75 crore had been released "in line with the commitment of the Government of India to strengthen the hands of States to accelerate their capital and developmental expenditure".

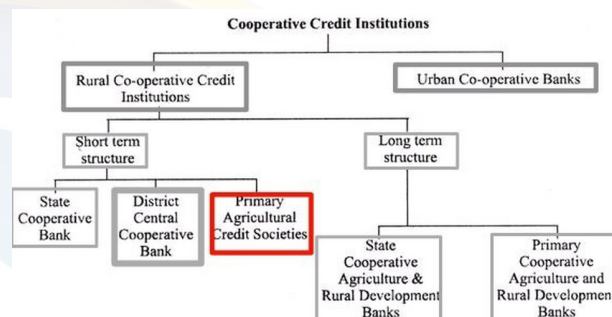
## IN INDIA, 7.3% OF THE POPULATION OWNED DIGITAL CURRENCY IN 2021

- India ranked seventh in the list of top 20 global economies for digital currency ownership in 2021:
- The UN trade and development body, UNCTAD said in 2021, developing countries accounted for 15 of the top 20 economies when it comes to the share of the population

that owns cryptocurrencies.

- Ukraine topped the list with 12.7 per cent, followed by Russia (11.9 per cent), Venezuela (10.3 per cent), Singapore (9.4 per cent), Kenya (8.5 per cent), and the US (8.3 per cent).
- In India, 7.3 per cent of the population owned digital currency in 2021, ranking seventh in the list of top 20 global economies for digital currency ownership as share of population.

## PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES (PACS)



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has said that the government will bring model by-laws to govern all Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) in the country.

### About:

- He said, the sick and defunct PACS should be revived or taken for liquidation.
- Mr Shah was addressing a national conference on rural cooperative banks organised by the Ministry of Cooperation and the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCOB) at Vignan Bhavan in New Delhi.
- Describing the PACS as pillars of the co-operative movement, Mr Shah called for strengthening of the PACS by diversifying them into various other activities.
- Mr Shah stressed the need to establish more than 2 lakh new PACS across the country to achieve the target of providing agri-finance worth 10 lakh crore rupees through co-operatives.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF RURAL CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah addressed the National Conference of Rural Co-operative Banks in New Delhi.

### About:

- Shri Amit Shah also presented awards to outstanding State Co-operative Banks, District Central Co-operative Banks and Pri-

mary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).

- The Union Home and Cooperation Minister said there are about 8.5 lakh cooperative societies in the country, out of which there are 1.78 lakh different types of credit societies.
- In the field of agricultural credit, there are 34 state cooperative banks with more than 2,000 branches, 351 district cooperative banks with 14,000 branches and about 95,000 PACS.

## RESERVE BANK OF INDIA'S 1ST SET OF DIGITAL LENDING NORMS

- All digital loans must be disbursed and repaid through bank accounts of regulated entities only, without pass-through of loan service providers (LSPs) or other third parties, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its long-awaited guidelines for the segment.
- 'Digital Lenders' are classified into three groups:
  - 1) Entities regulated by the RBI and permitted to carry out lending business; Example Banks and NBFCs
  - 2) Entities authorized to carry out lending as per other statutory/regulatory provisions but not regulated by RBI. For example, Rural cooperatives like 'Primary Agriculture Credit Societies' (PACS) regulated by State Governments
  - 3) Entities lending outside the purview of any statutory/ regulatory provisions. For example informal lenders.

## DIGIYATRA

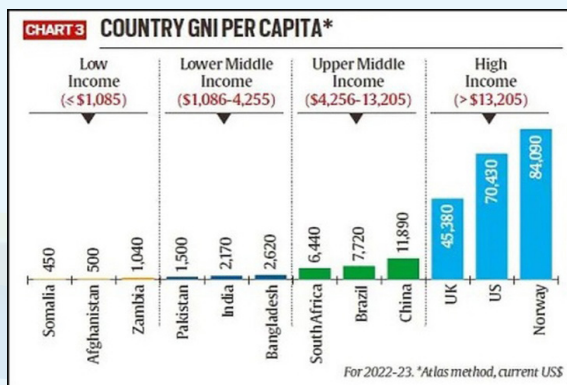


The Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), run by GMR, announced the soft launch of the Centre's DigiYatra initiative, rolling out the beta version of its app for Android platforms.

### About:

- DigiYatra, the passenger processing system based on facial recognition technology, has been piloted at the Delhi airport and has had the required infrastructure set up at the airport's Terminal 3.

- DigiYatra envisages that travellers pass through various checkpoints at the airport through paperless and contactless processing, using facial features to establish their identity, which would be linked to the boarding pass.



## DEVELOPED COUNTRY

In his Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked Indians to embrace the "Panch Pran" — five vows — by 2047 when the country celebrates 100 years of independence. The first vow, he said, is for India to become a developed country in the next 25 years.

### About:

- NTPC is steadily lowering its carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the installation of renewable energy projects in its existing stations as well as putting up green field RE projects.
- The Company has planned 262 MW floating solar on over 1300 acres of its reservoir area by installing over 9,50,000 PV modules at its various stations out of which 242 Mega Watt has been commissioned.
- This includes the country's largest floating solar of 100 MW at Ramagundam in Telangana, 92 MW at Kayamkulam in Kerala, and 25 MW each at Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh, and Kawas in Gujarat.

## INTEREST SUBVENTION ON SHORT TERM AGRICULTURE LOANS

The Union Cabinet has approved to restore Interest Subvention on short term agriculture loans to 1.5% for all financial institutions.

### About:

- Thus, Interest Subvention of 1.5% will be provided to lending institutions (Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Bank, Small Finance Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Co-operative Banks and Computerized PACS directly ceded with commercial banks) for the financial year 2022-23 to 2024-25 for lending short term agri-loans upto Rs 3 lakh



to the farmers.

- This increase in Interest Subvention support requires additional budgetary provisions of Rs 34,856 crore for the period of 2022-23 to 2024-25 under the scheme.
- Increase in Interest Subvention will ensure sustainability of credit flow in the agriculture sector as well as ensure financial health and viability of the lending institutions especially Regional Rural Banks & Cooperative Banks, ensuring adequate agriculture credit in rural economy

### **RBI TO LAUNCH DIGITAL RUPEE SOON**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will very likely introduce its digital rupee, the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), in this fiscal year itself.
- Talks of a digital rupee in the country have been swirling since Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced it during her Budget 2022 speech back in February.
- At the time, she had said that the digital rupee would be launched in 2022-2023.

#### **About**

- The digital rupee blockchain, being developed by the Reserve Bank, would be able to trace all transactions, unlike the current system of mobile wallet offered by private companies. Earlier, news agency PTI reported that the digital currency issued by the RBI would be numbered in units, just like every fiat currency has a unique number on it.
- CBDC is a digital or virtual currency but it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies or cryptocurrency that have mushroomed over the last decade. Private virtual currencies do not represent any person's debt or liabilities as there is no issuer. The government has already said that private cryptocurrencies will never be a legal tender. The RBI has been strongly opposing private cryptocurrencies as they could have implications on national security and financial stability.

#### **It's Benefits:**

- There are multiple benefits in using a CBDC. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary had told Lok Sabha last year: "Introduction of CBDC has the potential to provide significant benefits, such as reduced dependency on cash, higher seigniorage due to lower transaction costs, reduced settlement risk. Introduction of

CBDC would also possibly lead to a more robust, efficient, trusted, regulated and legal tender-based payments option."

- As CBDCs are in a digital form, the dependency on paper will reduce, which in turn, will be beneficial to the environment. The use of CBDCs could also lead to a further shift to a cashless economy. The use of CBDCs will give a boost to the government's call for cashless payments and positively change the banking scenario.
- Furthermore, as more people opt for CBDCs, it would benefit cross-border remittances. Overall, the cost of transactions would reduce for businesses and the government.

#### **World Scenario:**

- China's digital RMB was the first digital currency to be issued by a major economy. As of July 2022, four central banks have launched a CBDC: the Central Bank of The Bahamas (Sand Dollar), the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (DCash), the Central Bank of Nigeria (e-Naira) and the Bank of Jamaica (JamDex).

### **RBI REPORT: BANK CREDIT RISE EXPEDITES 14.2% IN THE JUNE 2022 QUARTER**

- The Bank credit growth increased from 6% in the quarter that ended in June 2021 to 14.2% in the quarter that concluded in June 2022 as per the data released by the Reserve Bank of India. The Bank credit has increased by 10.8% in the three months that ended in March 2022. The last five quarters have seen a consistent 9.5 to 10.2% annual growth in aggregate deposits.
- Highlights of the RBI Report:
- The "Quarterly Statistics on Deposits and Credit of SCBs for June 2022" were published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI Report).
- All scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), including small financing banks (SFBs), regional rural banks (RRBs), and payments banks, provide this information (PBs).
- The last five quarters have seen a consistent 9.5 to 10.2% annual growth in aggregate deposits.
- Metropolitan branches continue to account for more than half of all bank deposits, and during the past year, their share has slightly increased.

### **INDIAN ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the Indian economy will grow at the rate of 7.4 per-

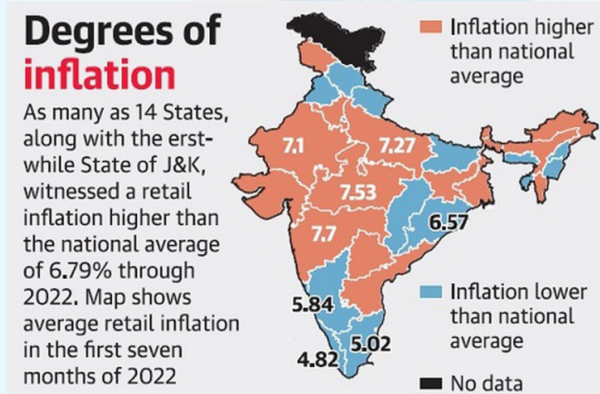


cent in the current fiscal as well as in the next year.

#### About:

- She said, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have projected India's growth to be the fastest for the next two fiscal years, and their estimates are in sync with that of the Reserve Bank of India.
- On the issue of freebies, Ms Sitharaman said there is a need for a rigorous debate on the freebies side.
- She stressed that political parties making pre-poll promises should make budgetary provisions for taking care of the expenditures and not push the burden on other entities.

## INFLATION

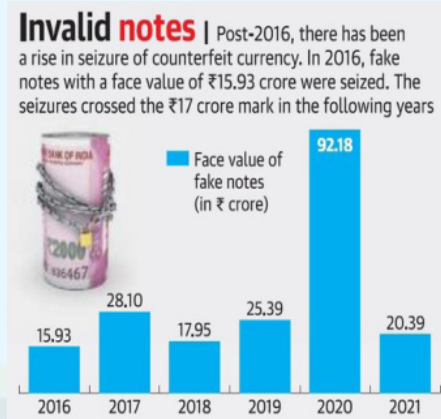


There are wide disparities in the pace of price rise experienced by consumers across the country, with a dozen States clocking an average inflation of less than 6% and another 12 States averaging more than 7% through 2022 so far.

#### About:

- Headline inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index has averaged 6.8% in the first seven months of 2022, well above the 6% upper tolerance threshold set by policy makers.
- However, consumers in Telangana, West Bengal and Sikkim faced the steepest spike in prices, with their combined retail inflation for rural and urban areas averaging 8.32%, 8.06%, and 8.01%, respectively.
- Smaller States such as Manipur, Goa and Meghalaya have had an average inflation of less than 4% through this period, at 1.07%, 3.66%, and 3.84%, respectively.

## FAKE CURRENCY



Nearly 60% of all fake notes seized in 2021 were of Rs.2,000 denomination, the Crime in India 2021 report compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows.

#### About:

- Of the fake Indian currency notes with a face value of Rs. 20.39 crore seized in 2021, Rs. 12.18 crore was in the denomination of Rs. 2,000.
- The new Rs. 2,000 and Rs 500 currency notes were introduced in 2016 after the old Rs.500 and Rs. 1,000 notes were scrapped by the Union government. The government had said that curbing of fake notes was one of the primary objectives of the 2016 demonetisation exercise.
- Post-2016, there has been an increase in seizure of fake money, the NCRB data reveal.
- The highest recovery of fake Rs.2,000 notes was made in Tamil Nadu (Rs. 5 crore), followed by Kerala (Rs. 1.8 crore) and Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 1 crore).



## PROGRAMS AND YOJANAS

### GOVT LAUNCHES: MISSION VATSALYA SCHEME

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a centrally-sponsored scheme “Mission Vatsalya” erstwhile Child Protection Services (CPS) scheme, since 2009-10 for the welfare and rehabilitation of children.
- The objective of Mission Vatsalya is to secure a healthy and happy childhood for each and every child in India, ensure opportunities to enable them to discover their full potential and assist them in flourishing in all respects in a sustained manner, foster a sensitive, supportive and synchronized ecosystem for the development of children, assist States/UTs in delivering the mandate of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and achieve the SDG goals.
- Mission Vatsalya promotes family-based non-institutional care of children in difficult circumstances based on the principle of institutionalization of children as a measure of last resort.

#### Components Of The Scheme:

- Components under Mission Vatsalya include improvement in the functioning of statutory bodies, Strengthening service delivery structures; Upscale institutional care/services; Encouraging non-institutional community-based care; emergency outreach services; Training and capacity building.
- All the States/UTs have signed the Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) with the Ministry for implementation of the Scheme. Mission Vatsalya will be implemented as a centrally-sponsored scheme as per the prescribed cost-sharing ratio between the Centre and State/UT Governments.

### YUVA SAMVAD ‘INDIA @ 2047’

Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur will address the Yuva Samvad “India@2047” in New Delhi.

#### About:

- Around 400 youth including National Youth Awardees and Youth delegates, who have been sent by Ministry of Youth Affairs

and Sports to various countries to represent India as a part of International Youth delegations will participate in the event.

- This event will provide an opportunity to the participating youth to express their views on various issues of National and International importance.

### NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AWARENESS MISSION (NIPAM)

National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM) has achieved target of imparting Intellectual Property (IP) awareness and basic training to 1 million students on 31st July 2022, ahead of the deadline which was 15 August 2022.



#### About:

- NIPAM, a flagship program to impart IP awareness and basic training, was launched on 8 Dec 2021 as a part of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” celebrations.
- The program is being implemented by Intellectual Property Office, the Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- During the period 08 December 2021 to 31st July 2022, the following milestones achieved:
- of participants (students/faculty) trained on IP = 10, 05, 272
- Educational institutes covered = 3662
- Geographical coverage = 28 states and 7 Union Territories

### PMAY-URBAN

Union Cabinet has approved continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) - Housing for All Mission up to 31st December 2024.



### About:

- Financial assistance is being provided for the completion of already sanctioned over 122 lakh houses till 31st March 2022.
- The scheme is one of the major flagship programmes being implemented by Central Government to provide all-weather pucca houses to all eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas of the country through States, Union Territories, and Central Nodal Agencies.
- The continuation of the scheme based on the request of States and UTs upto 31st December 2024 will help in completion of already sanctioned houses under Beneficiary Led Construction, Affordable Housing in Partnership, and In-situ Slum Redevelopment verticals.
- Central Assistance approved since 2015 is two lakh three thousand crore rupees against 20 thousand crore rupees in 2004-2014.

### NEW CHANGES IN THE ATAL PENSION YOJANA(APY)

- The Central government has brought a few changes to the Atal Pension Yojana, which was started with the aim of providing pension facilities to those working in the unorganised sector in 2015.
- And as a result, the Ministry of Finance has now decided not to allow income taxpayers to apply for the APY scheme.
- The new order issued by Finance Ministry will come into effect from October 1, 2022. According to the gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Finance on August 10, any citizen who is or has been an income tax payer according to the Income Tax Act will not be eligible to join the Atal Pension Yojana from October 1, 2022.

### Benefits:

- 1) It provides a minimum guaranteed pension ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age.
- 2) The amount of pension is guaranteed for lifetime to the spouse on death of the subscriber.
- 3) In the event of death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the entire pension corpus is paid to the nominee.

### SMILE

Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar today launched the 'SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise' initiative in New Delhi.

### About:



The Initiative aims to make cities, towns and municipal areas begging-free and make a strategy for comprehensive rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of begging through the coordinated action of various stakeholders.

- The Ministry has allocated a total budget of a hundred crore rupees for the project till 2025-26.
- Through the project, the Ministry envisions developing a support mechanism for holistic rehabilitation of those engaged in the act of begging and building an India where no person is forced to beg in order to survive and fulfill their basic needs.
- The Ministry highlighted that under the initiative seventy-five Municipal Corporations in collaboration with Non-Government Organisations and other stakeholders will cover several comprehensive welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging.

### SPACE KIDZ INDIA

Space Kidz India unfurled the Indian flag about 30 kilometres above the planet on Independence Day.

### About:



- The flag was sent to an altitude of 1 lakh 6 thousand feet above the planet on a balloon that unfurled it.
- The event was part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav slogan and under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to celebrate the historic anniversary.



- Space Kidz India is an organization creating 'young scientists for the country and spreading awareness among children for a borderless world.'
- The organization recently launched a satellite into Low Earth Orbit. AzadiSAT was developed by 750 girl students from across India to mark the 75 years of Independence.

### EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME (ECLGS)

The Union Cabinet has approved the enhancement in the limit of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by Rs 50,000 crore from Rs. 4.5 Lakh crore to Rs. 5 Lakh crore, with the additional amount being earmarked exclusively for enterprises in hospitality and related sectors.

#### About:

- ECLGS is a continuing scheme. The additional amount of Rs. 50,000 crore would be made applicable to enterprises in hospitality and related sectors till validity of the scheme which is 31.3.2023.
- ECLGS is an already operational scheme and on account of the disruptions caused by the COVID 19 pandemic on hospitality and related sectors, Government has specifically earmarked an amount of Rs. 50,000 crore for enterprises in these sectors.
- The enhancement is expected to provide much needed relief to enterprises in these sectors by incentivizing lending institutions to provide additional credit of up to Rs. 50,000 crore at low cost, thereby enabling these business enterprises to meet their operational liabilities and continue their businesses.
- Loans of about Rs. 3.67 Lakh crore have been sanctioned under ECLGS till 5.8.2022.

### TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE DIGITAL LIBRARY (TKDL)

The Cabinet has approved the "Widening access of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database to users, besides patent offices".

#### About:

- The opening up of the TKDL is also envisaged to inculcate thought and knowledge leadership through Bharatiya Gnana Parampara, under the New Education Policy 2020.
- The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is a prior art database of Indian traditional knowledge established in 2001, jointly by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Home-

opathy (ISM&H, now Ministry of AYUSH).

- The TKDL is a first of its kind globally and has been serving as an exemplary model to other nations. The TKDL currently contains information from existing literature related to ISM such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Yoga.
- The information is documented in a digitized format in five international languages which are English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish.

### NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AWARENESS MISSION (NIPAM)

- The National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM) was launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 8th December 2021.
- The National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM) aims to provide awareness and training on Intellectual Property (IP).
- On 31st July 2022, the scheme met its goal of training one million students before the deadline on 15th August 2022.
- The number of students or faculty trained under the Intellectual Property Awareness Mission is 10,05,272 and 3663 educational institutions have been covered.

#### National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM)

- The National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM) targets students of two levels.
- Level A includes the students of class 9th to class 12th and Level B includes students from various colleges and universities.
- NIPAM was launched with the vision of raising innovation and supporting the creativity of inventors or authors who contribute to society with their ideas and affect society economically and culturally.
- Also, NIPAM seeks to contribute to the creation of Atmanirbhar Bharat by increasing IP awareness all around the country.

### HAR GHAR JAL UTSAV



**Har Ghar Jal  
Jal Jeevan Mission**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually address the Har Ghar Jal Utsav on August 19, 2022

which is being held in Goa under the Jal Jeevan Mission

#### About:

- Goa is the first State to achieve 100 per cent Har Ghar Jal certification.
- Goa has become the first Har Ghar Jal certified State and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu are the first Union Territory in the country.
- In this state and UT, people from all the villages have declared their village as Har Ghar Jal through a resolution passed by the Gram Sabha.
- All two lakh 63 thousand rural households of Goa and over 85 thousand of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu have access to safe drinking water through tap connection.

### INDIA'S FIRST PORTAL ON ARRESTED NARCO OFFENDERS 'NIDAAN'

- A first-of-its kind database of arrested narcotics offenders has been made operational for use by various central and state prosecution agencies tasked to enforce anti-drugs laws in the country.
- The portal–NIDAAN or the National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders–has been developed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- It is part of the narcotics coordination mechanism (NCORD) portal that was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on July 30 in Chandigarh during the national conference on 'Drug trafficking and national security'.



#### More About NIDAAN-

- The NIDAAN platform sources its data from the ICJS (inter-operable criminal justice system) and the e-Prisons (a cloud-based application) repository and it is planned to integrate it in the future with the crime and criminal tracking network system or CCTNS.
- The ICJS, an initiative of the Supreme Court e-committee, was created to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice sys-

tem, like courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories, from one platform.

#### Benefits Of NIDAAN-

- NIDAAN is a one-stop solution for all narcotics offenders' related data and will help investigative agencies as an effective tool to connect the dots while probing narcotics cases.

### SECOND PHASE OF GRAMEEN UDYAMI PROJECT

National Skill Development Corporation, NSDC in partnership with Seva Bharti and Yuva Vikas Society launched the second phase of Grameen Udyami Project to augment skill training in tribal communities for their inclusive and sustainable growth.

#### About:

- Grameen Udyami is a unique multiskilling project, funded by NSDC that aims to train 450 tribal students in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- The project is being implemented in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat.
- This concept was crystallized by Minister of Tribal Affairs and tribal MPs.

### TRANSGENDERS WILL BE COVERED UNDER AYUSHMAN BHARAT PM-JAY

- According to the government of India, transgenders will be brought under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- The National Health Authority (NHA) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide inclusive and composite health package for transgenders under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY.



### SWACHH SAGAR, SURAKSHIT SAGAR CAMPAIGN

Union Minister of Environment participated in Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar Campaign at Puducherry.



### About:

- “Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar/Clean Coast, Safe Sea” Campaign, is a 75-day citizen-led initiative, aimed at improving the coastal and ocean health via community action.
- The campaign began on July 5, 2022, and will culminate on 17th September 2022 - International Coastal Clean-up Day.
- The three strategic underlying objective of the Campaign is to alter and save the environment through behaviour change. The campaign’s three overarching goals are:
  - Consume Responsibly,
  - Separate waste at home, and
  - Dispose of waste responsibly.
- The campaign is spearheaded by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in partnership of Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Indian Coast Guard, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), other central ministries/organisation and other social organizations and educational institutions.
- The coastal clean-up campaign is being taken at 75 beaches along the coast line of with average 75 volunteers for every kilometre of coastline.

### SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DENOTIFIED, NOMADIC, SEMI-NOMADIC (SEED) TRIBES

The Union Social Justice Ministry received 402 applications online from across the country for benefits under the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of Denotified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic (SEED) Tribes.

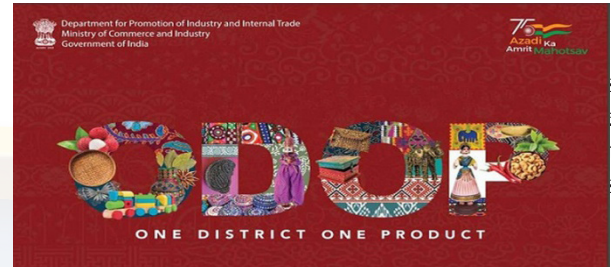
### About:



- More than 10 crore Indians from 1,400 communities belong to these groups, show the latest estimates available with the government.
- The scheme aims to provide free competitive exam coaching to students, health insurance and financial assistance for housing and uplift clusters of these communities

through livelihood initiatives.

- The Ministry has been allocated ₹200 crore for this scheme to be spent over five financial years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- At the time of the launch, the Ministry announced that the scheme would be implemented through an online portal that would issue a unique ID to each applicant to apply and track the status of the application on-



### About:

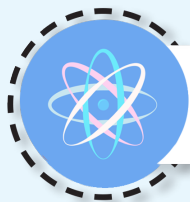
- On the occasion, Mr Goyal highlighted the ways in which the ODOP gift catalogue is a step towards realizing the potential of all districts in the country and will give global recognition to the country’s diverse indigenous products.
- He urged all the line ministries, Industry Association, and Export Promotion Councils to utilize products from the catalogue for encouragement to designs and branding.
- The Minister said that utilizing products from the catalogue will promote a brand image for local products in the international market.
- The ODOP gift catalogue includes a wide range of products like Fragrances and Oils, Indian Spirits, Home Decor products, Fabrics, and Silks and Shawls.

### MY HANDLOOM MY PRIDE CHALLENGE

On the occasion of the ‘National Handloom Day’ (August 7) Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged all youngsters associated with the world of startups to take part in my handloom my pride challenge

### About:

- Mr Modi said it is an excellent opportunity to ideate and innovate for weavers.
- On the occasion, an insurance scheme for weavers has come into force in Telangana. About 80 thousand weavers in the state will be benefited by the Insurance scheme.



## AFRICAN SWINE FEVER VIRUS (ASFV)

Barely a week after about 500 pigs were culled in Kerala's Wayanad district to prevent the spread of African swine fever detected there, new cases of the disease have been reported from there and Kannur.

### About:

- African swine fever virus (ASFV) is a large, double-stranded DNA virus in the Asfarviridae family.
- It is the causative agent of African swine fever (ASF).
- The virus causes a hemorrhagic fever with high mortality rates in domestic pigs; some isolates can cause death of animals as quickly as a week after infection.
- It persistently infects its natural hosts, warthogs, bushpigs, and soft ticks of the genus Ornithodoros, which likely act as a vector, with no disease signs.
- It does not cause disease in humans. ASFV is endemic to sub-Saharan Africa and exists in the wild through a cycle of infection between ticks and wild pigs, bushpigs, and warthogs.
- The disease was first described after European settlers brought pigs into areas endemic with ASFV, and as such, is an example of an emerging infectious disease.
- ASFV replicates in the cytoplasm of infected cells.
- It is the only virus with a double-stranded DNA genome known to be transmitted by arthropods.

## LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

With the lumpy skin disease spreading fast among bovines in western and northern Rajasthan, cattle-rearers in the State are suffering heavy losses. The infection has spread to about 25,000 cattle in the last couple of months and resulted in the death of more than 1,200 animals.

### About:

- Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is an infectious disease in cattle caused by a virus of the family Poxviridae, also known as Neethling virus.
- The disease is characterized by fever, enlarged superficial lymph nodes and multiple nodules (measuring 2–5 centimetres (1–2 in) in diameter) on the skin and mucous

membranes (including those of the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts).

- Infected cattle also may develop edematous swelling in their limbs and exhibit lameness.
- The virus has important economic implications since affected animals tend to have permanent damage to their skin, lowering the commercial value of their hide.
- Additionally, the disease often results in chronic debility, reduced milk production, poor growth, infertility, abortion, and sometimes death.

## AZAADISAT

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch its smallest commercial rocket to unfurl Tricolour in space.

### About:

- The launch will take place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- ISRO chairman S Somanath has called the new satellite a “game changer” that will drive India's dreams of breaking into the lucrative and booming small satellite launch market.
- On August 15, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an announcement that the Tricolour will be unfurled in space during India's 75th year of Independence.
- To mark country's celebrations of ‘Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, the SSLV will have a co-passenger satellite called ‘AzaadiSAT’ comprising 75 payloads built by 750 young girl students from 75 rural government schools across India.
- This project was specially conceptualised for the 75th Independence Day year celebrations to encourage scientific temper and create opportunities for young girls to choose space research as their career.



## INDIA'S CLIMATE PLEDGES

### PM Modi's 5 Big Goals for India:

1. Achieving net-zero by 2070
2. Reducing total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes starting now till 2030
3. Increasing renewable energy component to 50% of our total energy requirements by 2030
4. Reducing carbon intensity by 45% by 2030
5. Increasing non-fossil energy capacity to reach 500 GW by 2030



India ratified pledges made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Glasgow in November 2021 to accelerate the country's reliance on renewable energy to power the economy and be effectively free from use of fossil fuels by 2070. However, the approved pledges were fewer than those Mr. Modi committed to.

#### About:

- The Union Cabinet approved an update to India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).
- Modi had laid out five commitments, or Panchamrit, as the government references it, namely:
- India will increase its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW (gigawatt) by 2030;
- will meet 50% of its energy requirements from "renewable energy" by 2030;
- will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now till 2030;
- will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by more than 45%; and
- will achieve the target of "net zero" by the year 2070, when there will be no net carbon dioxide emitted from energy sources.
- A press statement, following the Cabinet approval, only mentions two of these promises, namely that
- India is committed to reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030, from the 2005 level and
- achieving 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

## SMALL SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE (SSLV)

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

will launch its maiden Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, SSLV-D1/EOS-02 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre from Sriharikota at 9.18 am on August 7, 2022.

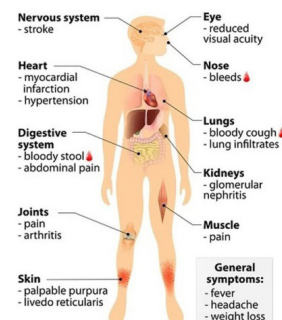
#### About:

- This is for the first time that the Indian space agency will demonstrate its capabilities in launching SSLV to inject smaller satellites in low earth orbit.
- It will carry the Earth Observation Satellite and another small satellite developed by the student team of Space Kidz India and named as AzaadiSAT.
- The girl students from Government schools across the country had participated in making this eight kg Cubesat to mark the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence. It carries 75 different payloads with earth observation applications.
- SSLV developed by ISRO has solid fuel in the first three stages and a fourth stage that carries liquid propulsion-based Velocity trimming module. It offers on demand quick launch feasibility and requires minimal launch infrastructure as compared to PSLV and GSLV launch vehicles of ISRO.
- The launch marks the beginning of a journey that, in a few years' time, is expected to see the SSLV becoming the most frequently used launch vehicle by ISRO, replacing the PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) which has done over 50 flights till now.

## NASA MADE THE FIRST MULTISPECTRAL MAPS OF MARS AVAILABLE

- The researchers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) made the first multispectral maps of Mars' surface public. The 5.6 GB, multicoloured map covers 86% of the area of the Red Planet. The American space agency will gradually distribute the whole map over the next six months.

### VASCULITIS



## VASCULITIS

Ashton Kutcher had a “weird, super rare form of vasculitis” two years ago that “knocked out” his vision, hearing, and “all his equilibrium”. Now he is “fully recovered”.

### About:

- Vasculitis is simply an inflammation of blood vessels.
- Inflammation is the natural response of the body’s immune system to any injury or infection, which in normal course can help the body fight invading germs.
- However, in vasculitis, the body’s immune system turns on healthy blood vessels, causing them to swell up and narrow down. The trigger for vasculitis may be an infection or a drug, although the precise reason is often uncertain or unknown.
- Vasculitis can be only a minor problem affecting the skin, or it can be a serious condition that impacts the heart, kidneys or other vital organs.
- There are around 20 different disorders that are classified as vasculitis. Angiitis and Arteritis are used as synonyms for vasculitis.

## DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS IN CHINA

Scientists have discovered over 4,300 dinosaur footprints in Hebei province of Zhangjiakou in northern China. This is the largest number of footprint fossils found in one spot in the country.

### About:

- The largest number of dinosaur footprint fossils located in northern China, these cover an area of 9,000 square metres. According to news reports, the footprints show four different dinosaur species, one of which might be undiscovered.
- The footprints belong to herbivores and carnivores dinosaurs; while the former could reach lengths of nearly 15 metres, the latter was four to five metres. Scientists believe the area may have attracted dinosaurs due to the availability of water and trees at the time.

### How did the dinosaur footprints become fossils?

- Preserved footprints, also known as ichnites, are trace fossils that have survived millions of years. These are found in earthen materials that were soft enough to form the foot impression and hard enough to retain it.
- Over time, the material dried, hardened, and was covered with layers of sediment, helping the impression become fossilised. In numerous instances, soil erosion is now bringing them to the surface.

## AGM-88 HARM

United States Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Colin Kahl confirmed on August 8, 2022 that Washington has supplied some “anti-radiation missiles” to Ukraine, which could be fired from some Ukrainian Air Force aircraft.

### About:

- The statement, kind of, confirms Russian allegations that an American anti-radar missile, AGM-88 HARM, which is part of NATO’s inventory, has been used in the theatre of conflict.
- The acronym ‘HARM’ in the AGM-88 HARM air-to-surface missile stands for High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile.
- It is a tactical weapon fired from fighter aircraft, and has the capability to detect and home into radiation emitted by hostile radar stations that have surface-to-air detection capabilities.
- The missile was originally developed by the Dallas-headquartered Texas Instruments, but is now produced by the major American defence contractor Raytheon Corporation.



## LANGYA

Almost three years after the novel coronavirus was detected in China, a new zoonotic virus has been discovered in the country’s two eastern provinces with 35 infections identified so far. This new type of Henipavirus is also being called Langya Henipavirus or the LayV.

### About:

- The newly discovered virus is a “phylogenetically distinct Henipavirus”. Henipaviruses are classified as biosafety level 4 (BSL4) pathogens. They can cause severe illness in animals and humans, and as of now there are no licensed drugs or vaccines meant for humans.
- The types of Henipaviruses that had been



identified prior to this included Hendra, Nipah, Cedar, Mojiang and the Ghanaian bat virus. Langya, meanwhile, is known to cause fever.

- Langya's genome organization is "identical to that of other Henipaviruses", and that it is closely related to the "Mojiang Henipavirus, which was discovered in southern China".

### CORBEVAX

The Centre has said that the option of heterologous precaution dose with Corbevax will be available to all people above 18 years of age.

#### About:

- Corbevax will be available as precaution dose after the completion of six months from the date of administration of the second dose of either Covaxin or Covishield vaccines for a population above 18 years.
- Corbevax is a protein subunit COVID-19 vaccine developed by Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas and Dynavax technologies based in Emeryville, California.
- It is licensed to Indian biopharmaceutical firm Biological E. Limited (BioE) for development and production.

### LUMPI-PROVAC: ICAR CREATES LOCALLY PRODUCED VACCINE FOR CATTLE WITH LUMPY DISEASE

- ICAR develops Lumpi-ProVac, a locally made vaccine, for cattle with Lumpy skin disease.



- For veterinarians and cattle owners battling to stop the spread of lumpy skin disease among cattle in regions like Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Punjab, among others, there is encouraging news.
- Scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) announced that an indigenous vaccine against the Lumpy skin disease (Lumpi-ProVac), which had been developed since 2019 using viral strains obtained from Ranchi, has successfully finished field trials and is now prepared for commercial introduction.

### Lumpi-ProVac for Lumpy skin disease: Key Points:

- In a significant development, two ICAR institutes have created the Lumpi-ProVac vaccine, which the national government now intends to commercialise as soon as possible in order to contain the outbreak of Lumpy skin disease that has killed thousands of cattle across multiple Indian states over the past several weeks.
- The Lumpi-ProVac vaccine's development during the previous three years was described by Dr. Naveen Kumar, a researcher at the ICAR National Research Centre for Equines in Haryana who oversaw the vaccine trials.

### Lumpi-ProVac for Lumpy skin disease: Lumpy Skin Disease:

- Lumpy skin disease, which affects both cows and buffaloes and is brought on by the capripox virus, derives its name from the massive, firm nodules that appear on the skin of cattle who have the condition.
- Other signs of the Lumpy skin disease in these animals include depression, conjunctivitis, and excessive salivation.
- The nodules eventually rupture, resulting in the animals bleeding. The Lumpy skin disease viral illness currently has no known treatment; instead, clinical symptoms are primarily managed.
- The goatpox vaccine, which also offers some protection against Lumpy skin disease, is currently being utilised to prevent the disease.

### SPARK: NEW VIRTUAL SPACE MUSEUM LAUNCHED BY ISRO

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched a digital platform called the 'SPARK' space museum for showcasing several ISRO missions with an interactive interface.
- The digital platform known as the 'SPARK' space museum was launched by the Chairman of ISRO, S Somnath. This idea by ISRO is a new initiative while celebrating the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav marking 75 years of Independence.

#### Key points

- This digital space museum 'SPARK' has an interactive interface through which users can interact with the site easily.
- The platform hosts several documents, images, and videos related to ISRO's launch of vehicles, satellites, and scientific missions.
- The secretary of the Department of Spaces

S Somnath and major Directors of various ISRO centers appreciate this initiative.

- The Directors suggest coming with more non-sensitive digital content on this platform.
- People can also access a beta version of this application through the official website of ISRO.

## ORIGIN OF CONTINENTS

A new Curtin University study has found the most robust evidence yet showing that Earth's continents were formed by giant meteorite impacts.

### About:

- The paper, 'Giant impacts and the origin and evolution of continents', was published in Nature on August 10.
- By examining tiny crystals of the mineral zircon in rocks from the Pilbara Craton in Western Australia, which represents Earth's best-preserved remnant of ancient crust, experts found evidence of these giant meteorite impacts.
- These impacts were prevalent during the first billion years or so of the planet's history.

## CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME

A woman from Bengaluru has filed a petition in the Delhi High Court to stop her Noida-based friend, who has been suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome since 2014, from travelling to Europe to undergo a physician-assisted euthanasia.

### About:

- Also known as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS), Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, is a serious and debilitating disease that affects the nervous system, the immune system and the body's production of energy.
- Experts have suggested that the term can trivialize the severity of the illness. In a 2015 report, the US Institute of Medicine proposed the term systemic exertion intolerance disease (SEID).
- Its causes are still unknown. However, the potential triggers would include viral or bacterial infection, hormonal imbalances and genetic predispositions. There is no specific test for the disease, and doctors have to rely on medical examinations, blood and urine tests.
- ME/CFS can affect anyone, from children to adults of all ages. According to the CDC, it's more common in women and people between 40 and 60 years old.
- As of yet, there is no specific cure or approved treatment.

## CORNEAS BIOENGINEERED FROM PIG COLLAGEN

For the first time, researchers in Sweden have been able to create a successful alternative — bioengineered cornea implants made of collagen derived from pig skin.

### About:

- The implant was used to successfully restore the vision of 20 people in India and Iran, most of whom were blind due to keratoconus, a disease that leads to thinning of the cornea.
- The findings were published in the journal Nature Biotechnology on August 11.
- Researchers claim that there is a severe shortage of corneas, with only one available for 70 patients.
- As a substitute for human corneas, the researchers utilised medical-grade collagen derived from pig skin, a byproduct of the food industry that is already used in medical devices for glaucoma surgery.
- This is not only cheaper and easier to access than donated corneas, but requires a less invasive procedure and can be stored for a significantly longer period — up to two years, the study notes.

## INDIA'S FIRST 3D-PRINTED HUMAN CORNEA DEVELOPED BY CCMB, IIT HYDERABAD, AND LVPEI

- Researchers in Hyderabad have successfully 3D-printed an artificial cornea (3D-printed Human Cornea) and placed it in a rabbit eye for the first time ever in India.
- A 3D-printed Human cornea made from human donor corneal tissue has been created by researchers from the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H), and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).

## HAYABUSA-2 PROBE

How did the Earth, believed to have been covered in bubbling oceans of magma billions of years ago, transform into the 'blue planet' and become covered in water?

### About:

- In an article published in the journal Nature Astronomy on August 15, scientists from Japan suggest that water and organic materials might have been brought to our planet



from the outer edges of the solar system.

- The scientists made the hypothesis after analysing samples from the asteroid Ryugu, collected by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Hayabusa-2 probe, which had brought 5.4 grams of rocks and dust from the asteroid to Earth in December 2020.
- The Hayabusa-2 mission was launched in December 2014 when the spacecraft was sent on a six-year voyage to study the asteroid Ryugu.

### NASA'S MOON ROCKET MOVED TO LAUNCH PAD FOR 1ST TEST FLIGHT

- The American space agency, NASA has rolled out its giant new Moon rocket, surrounding the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft, the vehicle was moved to Pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida ahead of the expected lift-off on 29 August.
- The near 100m-tall (328ft) SLS rode an immense tractor to the pad.
- The SLS will be used under the Artemis mission that will take humans back to the Moon his time with plans for a longer presence on the surface.

#### About the Orion spacecraft:

- Orion is a partially reusable crewed spacecraft to be used in NASA's Artemis program.
- The spacecraft consists of a Crew Module space capsule designed by Lockheed Martin and the European Service Module manufactured by Airbus Defence and Space.

### MEGALODON

Using fossil evidence to create a three-dimensional model, researchers have found new evidence about the life of one of the biggest predatory animals of all time — the Megalodon.

#### About:

- According to the new study published in the journal Science Advances, the Megalodon could "completely ingest, and in as few as five bites," a prey as big as the killer whale.
- According to the study, the Megalodon was bigger than a school bus at around 50 feet from nose to tail. In comparison, the great white sharks of the present can grow to a maximum length of around 15 feet.
- Using their digital model, the researchers have suggested that the giant transoceanic predator would have weighed around 70 tonnes — or as much as 10 elephants.
- Megalodons roamed the oceans an estimated

23 million to 2.6 million years ago.

### AK-203 ASSAULT RIFLES

The production of the AK-203 assault rifles by the Indo-Russian joint venture at Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, is set to begin by year-end and the manufacturing equipment required for it will be dispatched from Russia shortly, according to a senior official of Kalashnikov, the Russian company which manufactures the rifles.



#### About:

- The production was originally scheduled to begin early this year. As per the contract, over 6.1 lakh AK-203 assault rifles costing over Rs. 5,000 crore will be manufactured by a Joint Venture, Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd (IRRPL), at Korwa, Amethi in Uttar Pradesh.
- IRRPL was set up jointly between erstwhile OFB [now Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) and Munitions India Limited (MIL)] of India and Rosoboronexport (RoE) and concern Kalashnikov of Russia.
- As per contractual terms, first 70,000 AK-203 rifles will be produced in India with a phased increase in the extent of localisation from 5% to 70%. The remaining rifles will be produced with 100% localisation.

### ISRO RECEIVED A CREW MODULE FAIRING FROM HAL FOR GAGANYAAN MISSION

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) handed two pieces of space equipment to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for use in the Gaganyaan mission.
- This is the second crew module fairing (CMF) that India's top space agency has purchased from HAL for the mission.
- Even though both of these CMFs will be used in some capacity, the first experiment will use the CMF that ISRO obtained from HAL.

#### Gaganyaan Mission: About

- Gaganyaan mission, which translates to "Sky Craft" in Sanskrit, is an Indian crewed

orbital spacecraft that is meant to serve as the foundational spacecraft for the Indian Human Spaceflight Program.

- Gaganyaan mission, India's long-delayed first human spaceflight project, will lift off in 2023.
- The Gaganyaan mission will send humans to space.
- The Gaganyaan mission would undergo a variety of testing and development flights, according to ISRO chairman S Somanath, who spoke recently following the launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-53)'s mission.
- Gaganyaan Mission: Major Obstacles
- ISRO chairman S Somanath mentioned that the mission might not be launched until 2024. Somanath acknowledged the mission's inherent risk and said that the agency will approach it with extreme caution.
- ISRO tested the crew escape system's Low Altitude Escape Motor (LEM) earlier this month.
- The mission encounters a problem and the astronauts need to be rescued, the mechanism removes the crew module.
- The crew escape system requires a lot of push in order to move the crew module away from the launch vehicle, and the LEM assists by giving it.
- The major goals of static tests are to validate the performance of motor subsystems, check motor ballistic parameters, and assess design margins. Additionally, it aids in examining the consistency of interfaces.

### **NASA'S ARTEMIS III MISSION: MOON LANDING LOCATIONS**

- The 13 prospective landing locations for NASA's Artemis III mission, which would bring the first woman and person of colour to the Moon, have been revealed, as promised.
- The following 13 areas have been chosen by NASA as potential landing sites for the NASA's Artemis III mission: Peak Near Shackleton, Connecting Ridge, Connecting Ridge Extension, Haworth, Malapert Massif, Leibnitz Beta Plateau, Nobile Rim 1, Nobile Rim 2, and Amundsen Rim are some of the features that make up the Faustini Rim A.

### **GEOHERMAL ENERGY TO BE USED TO SUPPLY ENERGY TO LADAKH**

- At 14,000 feet in Ladakh, ONGC is getting ready to pump geothermal energy.
- State-run explorer ONGC has set out on

a mission to harness the steam streaming from the earth's core at Puga, a lonely valley off the road to Chumar on the de facto boundary with China, at a height of more than 14,000 feet.

- In India, geothermal energy is nothing new. The Indian government first provided a report on the nation's geothermal hotspots in 1973.
- This occurred after shallow drilling exploration by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) revealed prospective hot spring and geothermal areas. According to estimates, India has the ability to produce 10 gigawatts of geothermal energy.

### **TOMATO FLU**

A new infection dubbed tomato flu, or tomato fever, has been detected in India mostly among children younger than five, according to a report in the Lancet Respiratory Journal.

#### **About:**

- The "non-life-threatening" virus was first identified in Kollam district of Kerala on May 6.
- The primary symptoms of tomato flu are similar to those of chikungunya, which include high fever, rashes, and intense pain in the joints. As with other viral infections, further symptoms include fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dehydration, swelling of joints, body aches, and common influenza-like symptoms, which are similar to those manifested in dengue.
- As tomato flu is similar to chikungunya and dengue as well as hand, foot, and mouth disease, the treatment is also similar — isolation, rest, plenty of fluids, and hot water sponge for the relief of irritation and rashes.
- Supportive therapy of paracetamol for fever and body ache and other symptomatic treatments may be required. Young children are also prone to this infection through the use of nappies, touching unclean surfaces, and putting things directly into the mouth.
- The 'tomato flu' is caused by Coxsackie virus A 16. It belongs to Enterovirus family.

### **INDIA'S FIRST OBSERVATORY TO MONITOR SPACE ACTIVITY TO COME UP IN UTTARAKHAND**

- India's first commercial space situational awareness observatory, to track objects as small as 10 cm in size orbiting the earth, will be set up in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand by Digantara, a space sector start-up.
- The space situational awareness (SSA) ob-



servatory will help India track any activity in space including that of space debris and military satellites hovering over the region.

- Currently, the United States is a dominant player in monitoring space debris with observatories in multiple locations and commercial companies providing additional inputs from across the world.

#### The Benefits Of This Observatory:

- It would be able to reduce the potential for collisions between satellites and other spacecraft by making more accurate predictions of their location, speed, and trajectory. The observatory will also give India indigenous capabilities to monitor space activity over the subcontinent, he said, adding that ahead of the war in Ukraine, several Russian satellites were seen hovering over the region.
- India has been monitoring space objects using multi-object tracking radars and the SSA observatory will be a huge boost in the sector. Chinese satellites are seen over one particular region of India for a long time, having indigenous capability to monitor such activities and not being dependent on countries like the United States is a plus for India.

### BRAHMOS

A Court of Inquiry (CoI) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) into the accidental firing of a BrahMos super-sonic cruise missile in March 2022, which landed in Pakistan, found that deviation from standard operating procedures (SOP) by three officers led to the incident. Services of the officers have been terminated with immediate effect, the IAF said.

#### About:



- The missile landed 124 km inside Pakistan, following which the IAF ordered a CoI headed by an Air Vice-Marshal, a two-star officer, to investigate the incident.
- A day after the incident, the Pakistan military said the supersonic surface-to-surface missile flying at three times the speed of sound at 40,000 feet ended up 124 km inside Pakistan, damaging some civilian property.

- BrahMos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia-based NPO Mashinostroyeniya and the missile derives its name from the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.

### JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

The James Webb Space Telescope, NASA's latest and most powerful telescope, has captured new images of our solar system's largest planet, Jupiter, presenting it in a never before seen light.



#### About:

- The photographs published have captured a new view of the planet, presenting in detail its massive storms, colourful auroras, faint rings and two small moons — Amalthea and Adrastea.
- Jupiter's famous Great Red Spot, a storm so big that it could swallow Earth, appeared bright white in the image, since it was reflecting a lot of sunlight, the space agency stated.
- NASA's \$10 billion James Webb Telescope was developed with the assistance of the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency.
- It was launched to space on December 25, 2021 and is currently observing from Lagrange point 2, approximately 1.5 million km beyond Earth's orbit around the Sun. The telescope released its first image on July 11 2022.

### IT GUWAHATI DEVELOPED TECHNIQUE FOR MAKING SUGAR SUBSTITUTE "XYLITOL"

- Researchers at IIT Guwahati have created a fermentation process that uses ultrasound to safely generate Xylitol from sugarcane bagasse, the byproduct of crushing sugarcane.
- This approach gets over the operational

constraints of chemical synthesis and the time lags of traditional fermentation.

- The use of ultrasound during the fermentation process not only reduced the time of fermentation to 15 hours, but also increased the yield of the product by almost 20%

### WORLD'S FIRST FLEET OF HYDROGEN PASSENGER TRAINS BY GERMANY

- The world's first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains was launched by Germany.
- The first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains has replaced 15 diesel trains that were previously operated on nonelectrified tracks in Lower Saxony, Germany.
- The engine of the trains is powered by electricity generated using hydrogen fuel cells.
- The use of hydrogen is a clean alternative to fossil fuels as per the German government's announcement.
- The state governor Stephan Weil said that Lower Saxony has invested a total of 93 million euros for the first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger train projects.
- This invitation is an excellent example and effort to make the economy of Germany greener.

### GAGAN

The Government of India has exempted Boeing 787 aircraft in India from complying with the indigenously developed GAGAN navigation system until December 2025 as the aircraft manufacturer has said that it involves a major design change.

**About:**



- The GPS-aided GEO augmented navigation (GAGAN) is an implementation of a regional satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS) by the Government of India.
- GAGAN helps aircraft with guided landing

at airports that do not have an instrument landing system.

- It is a system to improve the accuracy of a GNSS receiver by providing reference signals.

### CSA6 GENE

A newly identified gene can hold the key to prevent fungal infection Candidiasis that often affects intensive-care unit (ICU) patients, cancer patients and patients receiving immunosuppressive therapy.

**About:**

- The gene called CSA6 has been identified in *Candida albicans*, a fungal species infamous for causing high rates of morbidity and mortality under certain immuno-compromised conditions such as AIDS or during cancer treatment.
- The fungal species residing in mucosal linings of the gastrointestinal and urogenital tract of healthy individuals turns into a pathogen under immuno-compromised conditions breaching the host defense causing superficial as well as life-threatening systemic infection.

### RNA VACCINE

Moderna is suing Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech for patent infringement in the development of the first Covid-19 vaccine approved in the United States, alleging they copied technology that Moderna developed years before the pandemic.

**About:**

- Just a decade old, Moderna, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, had been an innovator in the messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine technology that enabled unprecedented speed in developing the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines use the same technology, based on messenger RNA, or mRNA. Such vaccines make use of the messenger RNA molecules that tell the body's cells what proteins to build.
- mRNA enters cells shortly after vaccination and instructs them to create a SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, prompting the immune response.



## SMALL CELLS

To expedite the roll-out of 5G, telecom operators in the country will leverage street furniture such as poles, advertisement hoardings and bus shelters for deploying low-power base stations called 'small cells' that will help bring the network closer to the consumers.

### About:

- Small cells are needed for deploying 5G as opposed to earlier generations such as 4G, because of the frequency. The higher the frequency, the lower the wavelength, which means that the distance they travel is less.
- Small cells are low-powered radio access nodes or base stations that have a coverage range from a few metres up to a few hundred metres. They are portable, easy to deploy and help provide localised coverage.
- As per the TRAI paper, small cells provide coverage for very short distances and therefore they are installed in a large number — even more than 200 per square kilometre — for good geographical coverage to provide highly reliable and high-capacity broadband.



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### RAMSAR SITES

India has added 10 more Ramsar sites, or wetlands that are of international importance, taking the number of such sites to 64, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said.

#### About:

- The 10 new sites — six in Tamil Nadu and one each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha — encompass an area of 1,51,842.41 hectares, bringing India's total wetland area to 1.2 million hectares.
- The sites are Koothankulam Bird Sanctuary, Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Vembannur Wetland Complex, Vellode Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary and Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary, all in Tamil Nadu, Satkosia Gorge in Odisha, Nanda Lake in Goa, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Karnataka, and Sirpur Wetland in Madhya Pradesh.
- Until 2012, India had 26 Ramsar sites, with the last decade witnessing a meteoric rise. On July 26, Mr. Yadav announced that India had added five Ramsar sites.
- Ramsar wetlands now comprise around 10% of the total wetland area in the country.
- Being designated one, however, doesn't necessarily invite extra international funds but that States —and the Centre — must ensure that these tracts of land are conserved and spared from man-made encroachment. Acquiring this label also helps with a locale's tourism potential and its international visibility.

### UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEEMED HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT A HUMAN RIGHT

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution that recognised everyone's right to a healthy environment.
- It was stated that the action is a crucial one in halting the alarming decline of the natural environment.
- India supported the resolution but abstained from one of the resolution's key clauses. It expressed dissatisfaction with the resolution's methodology and content.

#### KEY POINTS:

- The UNGA recognises the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right, according to the resolution's operative paragraph 1.
- Ashish Sharma, a counsellor at India's Permanent Mission to the UN, asked that this comment be recorded in the meeting's official records.
- Decline of the natural world:
- Globally, our natural world is changing. Many species have reached an alarming point, and many are close to being extinct.
- For instance, habitat loss and climate change have made the migratory monarch butterfly an endangered, threatened species, according to the most recent IUCN Red List.
- Mountain ranges and glaciers are also melting more quickly than previously imagined, according to scientists.
- The effects of climate change are so obvious that people see them frequently. One such is the recent spike in temperature throughout Europe.
- The UN intensified its efforts to safeguard nature before it was too late in response to its deteriorating status.

#### Background of the Environment Action Plan by UN:

- The first international conference to make the environment a top priority was the United Nations Conference on Environment in Stockholm in 1972.
- A set of guidelines for responsible environmental management were adopted by the participants.
- The Stockholm Declaration launched a global conversation on the relationship between economic development, environmental pollution of the air, water, and oceans, and human well-being. It also elevated environmental issues to the top of the international agenda.
- The establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme was one of the key outcomes of the Stockholm conference. The UN Human Rights Council officially declared a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment to be a fundamental human right in October 2021.
- The Council urged States from all across



the world to cooperate to implement this recently recognised right in resolution 48/13.

- By designating a Special Rapporteur to focus solely on that subject, the Council also expanded its attention on the effects of climate change on human rights with a second resolution (48/14).



### PENINSULAR ROCK AGAMA

The Peninsular Rock Agama (*Psammophilus dorsalis*) which is a type of garden lizard has a strong presence in southern India.

#### About:

- Habitat loss and other such features of urbanisation have affected the presence of the animal in urban centres.
- A study carried out by researchers from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, undertook to characterise urbanisation in the region and also to understand where the rock agama reside in and around Bengaluru specifically.
- The study, published in *Frontiers in Conservation Science*, examined several environmental factors that could affect the presence of the lizard and revealed that they are found mainly in rocky places and warm spots.
- Thus, the inference is that conservation efforts must point towards retaining rocky patches even while reviving landscapes by planting trees.

### ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (ZSI) PUBLISHED A BOOK ON 1000+ BIRD SPECIES

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) covered about 1,331 different bird species that can be found in India in a field guide that was written by ZSI.
- According to ZSI Director Dhriti Banerjee, Unlike prior books that mostly used drawings, it emphasizes high-quality images of birds. The identification of each species is essential for accurate documentation.

### Zoological Survey of India (ZSI): About

- Zoological Survey of India was established by the government of India on July 1, 1916, as the leading organization in zoological research and studies in order to advance the survey, exploration, and study of the fauna in the nation.
- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) had a turbulent beginning.
- The Asiatic Society of Bengal was established by Sir William Jones on January 15, 1784, and that is when ZSI's history began.
- In addition to the Indian Museum (1875), the Asiatic Society of Bengal served as the parent organization for organizations like the Zoological Survey of India and the Geological Survey of India.
- The establishment of ZSI was actually a realization of Sir William Jones's ideal, who founded the Asiatic Society of Bengal and had a vision that included all of the human knowledge.
- The Asiatic Society has been gathering biological and geological specimens since 1796 and in 1814 it established a museum.
- The growing collections of geological and zoological specimens were under the supervision of Nathaniel Wallich, the first Superintendent of the "Museum of the Asiatic Society." He had expanded the animal collections to the Zoological Galleries of the Museum.
- The Indian Museum first opened its doors in 1875, marking the beginning of the Zoological Survey of India.
- When the new museum first opened, it only had three divisions: zoological, archaeological, and geological.
- The Board of Trustees of the Indian Museum received the zoological holdings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal in writing in 1875.

### 5TH ELEPHANT RESERVE IN AGASTHYAMALAI LANDSCAPE ANNOUNCED BY TAMIL NADU

- The proposal to designate 1,197.48 sq.km in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli as the Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve was approved by the Union Environment Ministry.
- Tamil Nadu will oversee this Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve, which is the fifth elephant reserve.
- The forest department may be eligible for additional financing through the centrally sponsored Project Elephant after notifying the Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve.

### Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve: Key Points:

- Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve status will put more of an emphasis on protecting and conserving elephants as indicator animals that indicate a healthy ecosystem, even when the area is already protected as a reserve forest or wildlife sanctuary.
- Identification of elephant corridors will allow for the adoption of improved management techniques.
- Asian elephant numbers in the Periyar-Agasthiyarmalai landscape are estimated to be 1,800 (Census 2010).
- About 300 of them are found alone on the southern side in the Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve and Mahendragiri hill ranges in the Neyyar, Shendurney, and Peppara Wildlife Sanctuaries and Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, all located in Thiruvananthapuram Forest Division.

### Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve: Demography:

- The Periyar-Agasthiyarmalai region, which spans 5,600 sq km and 16 forest divisions in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, is home to the elephant population to the south of this.
- The southern portion of the Periyar Plateau and its eastern spur, the Varushnad and Meghamalai hill ranges, the Achankoil valley, and the Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve and Mahendragiri hill ranges on the southern side make up the elephant habitat in the landscape.
- Notifying Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve area as an elephant reserve will result in more focused management of this area, secure the corridors that are crucial for Asian elephant genetic dispersion in this area, and connect the populations to other areas in the Srivilliputhur Meghamalai tiger reserve and with the Periyar landscapes.

### TASMANIAN TIGER



Scientists in the US and Australia have embarked on a \$15-million project to resurrect the thylacine or Tasmanian Tiger, a marsupial that went extinct in the 1930s, using gene-editing technology.

### About:

- The ambitious project aims to reintroduce the animal to its native place Tasmania to revive the region's lost ecological balance.
- Tasmanian Tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*), the only animal in the Thylacinidae family to survive in modern times, was a marsupial mammal that raises young ones in a pouch.
- Even though the species earned its nickname Tasmanian Tiger because of the stripes along its back, it was a slow-paced carnivorous that usually hunted alone or in pairs at night.
- The sharply clawed animal had a dog-like head and ate kangaroos, other marsupials, small rodents, and birds.
- Once widespread in the grass and woodlands of continental Australia extending north to New Guinea and south to Tasmania, the animal's fate changed after the European Colonisation of Australia.
- The animals were reported to have eaten poultry of farmers, and were killed following official authorisation.

### CLOUDBURSTS

Over 20 people have been killed in destruction caused by cloudbursts and flash floods in different parts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand over the last three days.

### About:

- A cloudburst is a localised but intense rainfall activity. Short spells of very heavy rainfall over a small geographical area can cause widespread destruction, especially in hilly regions where this phenomenon is the most common.
- Not all instances of very heavy rainfall, however, are cloudbursts. A cloudburst has a very specific definition: Rainfall of 10 cm or more in an hour over a roughly 10 km x 10-km area is classified as a cloudburst event. By this definition, 5 cm of rainfall in a half-hour period over the same area would also be categorized as a cloudburst.

### NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS

Achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2070, a target that Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed to in Glasgow in 2021, could boost India's economy by 4.7% above the projected baseline growth in GDP terms by 2036, worth a total of \$371 billion.





#### About:

- This was stated by a report commissioned by the High-level Policy Commission on Getting Asia to Net Zero. This could create as many as 15 million new jobs by 2047.
- The Getting India to Net Zero report, as it is called, contains new research and modelling, and finds that policies to initiate the clean energy transition will be crucial in determining when India achieves net zero emissions and how much it could benefit from it.
- Positive economic impacts are driven in part by an improved trade balance amounting to \$236 billion due to reduced demand for fossil fuels.
- Ending new coal as soon as possible by 2023 and transitioning from unabated coal power by 2040 would be particularly impactful to get India to net zero emissions sooner.
- By reaching net zero by 2050, India could boost annual GDP by as much as 7.3% (\$470 billion), and create nearly 20 million additional jobs by 2032, compared with current policies.
- Net zero emissions by 2070 would require an economy-wide investment of \$10.1 trillion from now; 2050 calls for \$13.5 trillion, the research finds.

### DEFINITION OF FORESTS

The Union Ministry of Environment has objected to the transfer of thousands of hectares of land without following due process by Chhattisgarh from its Forest to the Revenue Department for setting up industries and for building road, rail, and other infrastructure.

#### About:

- While the Chhattisgarh government has described these areas as non-forest land that were earlier given “by mistake” to the Forest Department, the Environment Ministry has warned that the land in question is “undemarcated protected forests”, which cannot be used for non-forest purposes without clearance under the Forest Conservation (FC) Act, 1980.
- Broadly, state Forest Departments have ju-

risdiction over two types of forests notified under the Indian Forest (IF) Act, 1927: Reserve Forests (RF), where no rights are allowed unless specified; and Protected Forests (PF), where no rights are barred unless specified. Certain forests, such as village or nagarpalika forests, are managed by state Revenue Departments.

- The FC Act, 1980, applies to all kinds of forests, whether under the control of the Forest or the Revenue Department, and it requires statutory clearance before forests can be used for any non-forest purpose such as industry, mining, or construction. In 1976, forests were included in List III (Concurrent List) under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

### NON-FOSSIL FUEL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that by 2030, 50 percent of India’s energy production will be met by non-fossil fuel, and by 2070 it plans ‘Net Zero’

#### About:

- PM Modi said that a silent revolution is taking shape in India with rising demand for electric vehicles (EV). Prime Minister was addressing a function at Gandhinagar to mark on the completion of 40 years of Suzuki Motor Corp in India.
- Meanwhile, Suzuki Motor Corporation president Toshihiro Suzuki has announced the setting up of a new company, Suzuki R&D Centre India, a wholly-owned arm of Suzuki Japan. He said the Japanese company aims to strengthen its R&D competitiveness and capabilities in new fields of technologies not only for India but also for the global markets.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### **INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY & ASTROPHYSICS OLYMPIAD: INDIA RANKS 3RD**

- Indian team secured the third rank in the medal tally at the 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA). India held the third position jointly with Singapore with students winning three gold and two silver medals.
- In the medals tally, India was placed jointly in the third position along with Singapore, behind Iran's official team (5 golds) and guest team (4 golds, 1 silver).

### **INDIA OVERTAKES CHINA AND UK TO BECOME WORLD'S 10TH LARGEST LIFE INSURER**

- The most recent report tracking the performance of the industry by Benori Knowledge, a cutting-edge provider of custom research and analytics solutions, highlighted the life insurance sector's growth at a CAGR of 11% from 2017-2022 and is projected to grow at a CAGR of 9% in the following five years.
- The COVID-19 pandemic's unpredictability made it more important than ever for customers to spend money on items that would strengthen their financial security, one of which is life insurance.





### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: IN JUDO, VIJAY KUMAR BAGGED THE BRONZE MEDAL**

- Vijay Kumar Yadav handed India second medal in Judo of the Commonwealth Games 2022 as he beat Petros Christodoulides of Cyprus in the men's 60kg tie to clinch bronze.
- Earlier, India's Vijay Kumar Yadav defeated Dylon Munro of Scotland to enter the bronze medal match.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: IN JUDO, SHUSHILA DEVI LIKMABAM WON THE SILVER MEDAL**

- Shushila Devi Likmabam got a silver in the women's judo 48kg final, giving India its seventh medal of the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- Shushila had defeated Harriet Bonface in the quarterfinal, and notched up a second win by beating Priscilla Morand of Mauritius in the semis to assure herself a medal.
- Shushila was in for a gold finish but came up short against South Africa's Michaela Whitebooi in the final.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: WEIGHTLIFTER HARJINDER KAUR CLAIMED THE BRONZE MEDAL**

- India's Harjinder Kaur claimed the bronze medal in the women's 71kg weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games 2022 at Birmingham.
- England's Sarah Davies won gold with a Commonwealth Games record of 229kg, while young Alexis Ashworth of Canada won silver with a total lift of 214kg.

### **LAWN BOWLS**

In the Commonwealth Games, in a major first for India, the women's fours lawn bowls team of Nayanmoni Saikia, Pinki, Lovely Choubey and Rupa Rani Turkey, scripted history as they won a gold medal by defeating South Africa 17-10 in the finals. This is India's first medal in the sport.

#### **About:**

- Bowls, also known as lawn bowls or lawn

bowling, is a sport in which the objective is to roll biased balls so that they stop close to a smaller ball called a "jack" or "kitty".

- It is played on a bowling green, which may be flat (for "flat-green bowls") or convex or uneven (for "crown green bowls").

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: SUDHIR WON THE GOLD MEDAL IN MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT PARA POWERLIFTING**

- Sudhir claimed the gold medal in the men's heavyweight para powerlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- Sudhir, an Asian Para Games bronze medallist, lifted 208kg in his first attempt before increasing it to 212kg in his second effort to gather 134.5 points and break the Games record.
- Ikechukwu Christian Obichukwu won the silver with 133.6 points, while Micky Yule bagged the bronze with 130.9 points.
- The 27-year-old Sudhir, who has an impairment due to the effects of polio, thus opened India's para sports medal account in the ongoing CWG.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: MURALI SREESHANKAR WINS SILVER IN LONG JUMP**

- Murali Sreeshankar has clinched a silver in the men's long jump to give India its second medal in athletics at the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- Sreeshankar has soared to 8.08m in his fifth attempt to finish second behind Laquan Nairn of Bahamas in a nerve-racking men's long jump final.
- Nairn also had the best jump of 8.08m but his second best of 7.98m was better than the 7.84m of Sreeshankar.
- Jovan van Vuuren (8.06m) of South Africa took the bronze.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: SAURAV GHOSAL WINS INDIA'S FIRST-EVER SINGLES MEDAL IN SQUASH**

- India's Saurav Ghosal has clinched the bronze medal in squash men's singles by

beating James Willstrop of England 11-6, 11-1, 11-4 to take India's Commonwealth Games 2022.

- This was also India's first-ever medal in squash singles at the Games.
- He had lost the men's singles semi-final 3-0 (11-9 11-4 11-1) to New Zealand's Paul Coll.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: TEJASWIN SHANKAR WINS INDIA'S FIRST HIGH JUMP MEDAL**

- India's Tejaswin Shankar won India's first medal in athletics at the Commonwealth games 2022, by clinching a historic bronze in the men's high jump final.
- Tejaswin, competing for India for the first time in four years nailed a landing of 2.22m to secure a podium finish.
- He did not have trouble clearing 2.5m and 2.10m in the opening two jumps. Then 2.19m and 2.22m quite easily on the first try.
- He though failed to clear 2.25 but clinched the bronze medal after being quicker to jump 2.22m against the fourth-placed athlete.
- He attempted 2.28m on his last jump but failed.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: TULIKA MAAN WINS SILVER IN WOMEN'S 78KG JUDO EVENT**

- Indian judoka, Tulika Maan settle for a silver medal in the women's 78kg category in the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- Tulika Maan gets India's second silver medal in Judo and third overall in the Judo, as she conceded a defeat by Ippon to Scotland's Sarah Adlington in the Women's +78kg final.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: INDIAN WEIGHTLIFTER GURDEEP SINGH WINS BRONZE IN MEN'S**

- India's Gurdeep Singh won a bronze medal in the men's 109+kg weightlifting event. Gurdeep lifted a total weight of 390kg (167kg+223kg) in the final, as he won India's 10th weightlifting medal at the ongoing edition of the Games.
- Gurdeep joined Gururaja Poojary and Lovepreet Singh to add a third bronze medal in weightlifting for India.
- The gold went to Pakistan's Muhammad Nooh Butt for his Games record-breaking lift of 405kg (173kg+232kg). New Zea-

land's David Andrew Liti clinched the silver for his effort of 394kg (170kg+224kg).

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: LOVEPREET SINGH CLINCHES BRONZE MEDAL IN MEN'S WEIGHTLIFTING**

- Lovepreet Singh has won bronze in the men's 109kg weightlifting final with a total lift of 355kg, taking India's medal tally in the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- Cameroon's Junior has taken the lead with a total lift of 361kg. Samoa's Jack Opeloge is second with a total lift of 358kg. Lovepreet Singh is third with a total lift of 355kg.
- Australia's Jackson is the last man standing, trying to win a bronze. The Indian weightlifting contingent has now won a total of 9 medals.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: INDIAN BADMINTON TEAM CLAIMED THE SILVER MEDAL**

- Indian badminton team claimed the silver medal in the mixed group match of the Commonwealth Games 2022. Indian badminton mixed team suffered a 1-3 defeat against Malaysia and had to settle for silver.
- Only PV Sindhu managed to earn a win in the summit clash against Malaysia in the women's singles match.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: INDIA'S PADDLERS WINS GOLD IN TABLE TENNIS**

- India's paddlers retained their men's team championship title with a convincing 3-1 win over Singapore in the Table-Tennis Final of the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- For India, Harmeet Desai and G Sathiyam gave India a great start by registering a win in the doubles match. However, Chew Zhe Yu Clarence won the next game to level Singapore at 1-1.
- But G Sathiyam and Harmeet Desai ensured India's gold by winning their respective matches.
- India has won the gold medal for the second time in a row in the team event of men's table tennis.
- Indian men's table tennis also won the yellow medal in the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Then the Indian team defeated Nigeria 3-0 in the final match. In the fourth match, Harmeet Desai defeated Chew Zhe Yu Clarence 11-8, 11-5, 11-6.



### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: AUSSIE SWIMMER EMMA MCKEON HAS WON MORE GOLD THAN 56 COUNTRIES**

- 28-year-old swimmer, Emma McKeon from Australia, has set a unique record of sorts at the Commonwealth Games 2022 as she bagged more medals than 56 nations/territories at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- She won one bronze, one silver, and six gold medals across various events in swimming at the Commonwealth Games.
- Out of the 72 countries/territories that took part in the CWG 2022, only 16 won eight or more medals.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: INDIA'S FINAL MEDAL TALLY AND RANK**

- India contingent completed its Commonwealth Games 2022 campaign in Birmingham. India won 61 medals in the overall Commonwealth Games 2022 medal table.
- India finished its CWG 2022 campaign as the fourth-best country on the medals table. India won 22 gold medals, 16 silver and 23 bronze medals at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
- India's Commonwealth Games 2022 campaign is its fifth-best in terms of the number of medals won. India's best finish was at its home games in Delhi in 2010, where it won 101 medals

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: PV SINDHU WON THE GOLD MEDAL IN WOMEN'S SINGLE BADMINTON**

- India's shuttler P V Sindhu has clinched a gold medal in the final of women's single at the Commonwealth Games 2022. The double Olympic medalist beat Michelle Li of Canada to win the Gold. PV Sindhu beat Michelle Li by 21-15, 21-13. This is the first-ever Commonwealth Games singles gold of Sindhu's career.

### **CHESS PRODIGY V PRANAV BECOMES INDIA'S 75TH GRANDMASTER**

- The Chennai-based chess prodigy V Pranav became India's 75th Grandmaster by winning a tournament in Romania.
- The Chennai-based Pranav won the Limpedea Open in Baia Mare, Romania to secure his third and final GM norm and attain the

Grandmaster title.

- Pranav is the 27th Grandmaster from Tamil Nadu, a list that includes the legendary Viswanathan Anand and teen sensations D Gukesh and R Praggnanandhaa among others.
- A student of Velammal school here, he has won the state championship thrice and won the bronze medal in the world rapid event in 2021. A student of Velammal school in Chennai, he has won the state championship thrice and won the bronze medal in the world rapid event in 2021.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: ELDHOSE PAUL BECOMES THE FIRST INDIAN TO WIN GOLD IN THE TRIPLE JUMP**

- India's Eldhose Paul scripted history by winning the first-ever gold medal in Men's Triple Jump at the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- With the best effort of 17.03m, he left everyone in awe of his stunning jump. Paul's statemate Aboobacker won silver with a 17.02m jump (wind assistance +1.2) in his fifth attempt. Bermuda's Jah-Nhai Perinchief won bronze with a jump of 16.92m.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: BOXER NITU GHANGAS WINS GOLD IN WOMEN'S 48 KG CATEGORY**

- Indian boxer Nitu Ghangas has clinched a gold medal after defeating England's Demie-Jade Resztan in the final of the women's 48 kg category at the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- She won on basis of points by 5-0 over her English opponent. Indian boxer Nitu Ghangas assured the nation of another medal after reaching the final of the Minimum weight (over 45 kg- 48 kg) category by defeating Priyanka Dhillon of Canada in the semifinal at the ongoing Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: AMIT PANGHAL WINS GOLD IN MEN'S 48KG- 51KG FLYWEIGHT BOXING**

- Indian boxer Amit Panghal has won the gold medal in the 48-51kg weight category at Commonwealth Games 2022.
- He defeated England's Kiaran Macdonald by 5-0 in the final match. It is his second CWG medal after Silver in Gold Coast.
- Subedar Amit Panghal is an Indian Army

Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and a boxer. Born in a farming family based in Rohtak, Haryana, Panghal took inspiration from his elder brother Ajay to become a boxer.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: TABLE TENNIS PLAYER BHAVINA PATEL WON A GOLD MEDAL IN THE WOMEN'S SINGLES**

- Star Indian para table tennis player, Bhavina Patel won a gold medal in the women's singles class 3-5 at the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- The 35-year-old from Gujarat, prevailed 12-10 11-2 11-9 over Nigeria's Ifechukwude Christiana Ikpeoyi to cap off. Bhavina Hasmukhbhai Patel is an Indian parathlete and table tennis player from Mehsana, Gujarat.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: NAVEEN WON THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE MEN'S 74KG FREESTYLE WRESTLING**

- Indian wrestler Naveen Malik won the gold medal in the men's 74kg freestyle wrestling at the 2022 Commonwealth Games at the Coventry Stadium and Arena.
- Naveen defeated Muhammad Sharif Tahir of Pakistan. The Indian seemed to have the edge over Tahir in terms of speed and used it to his advantage to open the scoring with a two-point takedown.
- He went for the kill to score two more takedowns and earned a comprehensive 9-0 win.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: VINESH PHOGAT BAGS GOLD MEDAL IN WOMEN'S WRESTLING 53KG**

- Vinesh Phogat won the gold medal in the Women's Freestyle 53 kg category in the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- She defeated Chamodya Keshani Maduravalage Don of Sri Lanka. Phogat won the gold medal match by 4-0 via Victory by fall. She took two minutes and 24 seconds to win India's second gold of the day at the CWG.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: WRESTLER RAVI KUMAR DAHIYA BAGS GOLD FOR INDIA**

- Ravi Kumar Dahiya has created history at

Commonwealth Games 2022 by winning Gold for the country in Men's Freestyle 57kg Wrestling.

- Ravi defeated Ebikewenimo Welson of Nigeria 10-0 in the final to win his maiden Commonwealth Games gold.
- The match lasted two minutes and 16 seconds. Dahiya was extremely dominant in the first period and did not let his opponent score.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: AVINASH SABLE CLAIMS SILVER IN STEEPLECHASE**

- Avinash Sable claims a silver medal in men's 3000m steeplechase at Commonwealth Games 2022.
- He also becomes the first Indian man to win a medal in the steeplechase in the history Commonwealth Games.
- He finished the race with his personal best timing of 8:11:2 and created new national record timing for steeplechase.
- Avinash Sable becomes the first non-Kenyan athlete to win a medal in steeplechase after six years.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: PRIYANKA GOSWAMI WINS INDIA'S 1ST MEDAL IN RACE WALK**

- Priyanka Goswami wins silver at Commonwealth Games 2022 in a 10000m race walk. She becomes the first Indian woman to win a medal in the race walk, Athletics at Commonwealth Games 2022.
- Priyanka records 43:38:82, which is a new Indian National record in a 10000m race walk.
- The national record in India was previously held by Khushbir Kaur, with 44:35.5 in 2017. Australia's Jemima Montag won Gold in race walk with a record of 42:34:00 at Commonwealth Games 2022. She previously won a 20km race walk at Gold Coast in 2018.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: WRESTLER MOHIT GREWAL BAGS BRONZE IN MEN'S FREESTYLE**

- Indian grappler, Mohit Grewal has clinched the bronze medal in the Men's Freestyle 125kg in the Commonwealth Games 2022 after defeating Jamaica's Aaron Johnson.
- Grewal defeated Johnson 5-0 in the bronze medal match. He bagged the medal in only three minutes and 30 seconds.
- Mohit started his campaign on a winning note against Alexios Kaouslidis of Cyprus



in the quarterfinal bout but lost to eventual champion Amarveer Dhesi of Canada in the semi-final.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: INDIAN GRAPPLER DIVYA KAKRAN WON BRONZE MEDAL**

- Indian wrestler, Divya Kakran has won a bronze medal in the women's 68 kg category at the Commonwealth Games 2022. In the bronze medal match, Kakran defeated Tonga's Tiger Lily Cocker Lemalie in 26 seconds via Victory by Fall. Kakran bagged the medal in only 26 seconds via Victory by Fall.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: ANSHU MALIK CLINCHES SILVER IN WOMEN'S FREESTYLE**

- Indian Grappler or wrestler, Anshu Malik won the silver medal in the Women's Freestyle 57kg category in the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- She faced 3-7 defeat against Nigeria's Adekuoroye in the gold medal match. Malik bagged the first medal for India in the wrestling of the Commonwealth Games 2022.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: INDIA'S DEEPAK PUNIA WON A GOLD MEDAL IN WRESTLING**

- India's wrestler Deepak Punia has won the gold medal in the Commonwealth Games 2022 by defeating Pakistan's Muhammad Inam by 3-0 in the men's 86 kg category in the final.
- In the semifinal earlier, Deepak saw out Canada's Alexander Moore 3-1 as he gained early points. This is India's third gold medal in wrestling.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: SAKSHI MALIK WINS GOLD IN WOMEN'S WRESTLING**

- Star Indian wrestler, Sakshi Malik has won the gold medal in the Women's Wrestling Freestyle 62Kg at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.
- She defeated Ana Godinez Gonzalez of Canada in the final. The 29-year-old defeated England's Kelsey Barnes 10-0 via technical superiority in the quarter-final and then beat Cameroon's Berthe Emilienne Etane Ngolle 10-0 via technical superiority in the semi-final.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022: BAJRANG PUNIA WINS GOLD IN MEN'S 65KG CATEGORY**

- Bajrang Punia has won his 3rd Commonwealth Games medal and his second successive Gold medal in the men's 65kg category.
- The Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist beat Lachlan McNeil of Canada in the final (9-2). He had won silver in his maiden CWG in 2014 and then bettered the colour four years ago in Gold Coast by winning a gold.

### **CWG 2022: NIKHAT ZAREEN AND SHARATH KAMAL INDIA'S FLAGBEARERS AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

- Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced table tennis player Achanta Sharath Kamal and Boxer Nikhat Zareen as the Flagbearers of India for the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2022 at Birmingham.
- Achanta Sharath Kamal won gold in Commonwealth Games 2022 at Birmingham by defeating Liam Pitchford in the finals and Nikhat Zareen also won gold by defeating Mc Naul in the finals of the boxing light flyweight event under the 50kg category at Commonwealth Games 2022.

### **TENNIS LEGEND SERENA WILLIAMS ANNOUNCES HER RETIREMENT FROM TENNIS**

- Tennis legend from the United States, Serena Williams has announced her retirement. Williams focused on her family in the announcement, writing that her nearly five-year-old daughter wants to be an older sister. Williams is married to Reddit founder Alexis Ohanian.

### **CHESS OLYMPIAD 2026 TO BE HOSTED BY UZBEKISTAN**

- Chess Olympiad 2026: According to a tweet from the International Chess Federation (FIDE), Uzbekistan will host the 2026 Chess Olympiad.
- In Chennai's ongoing Chess Olympiad, their young team is now in the lead. Teams from around the world compete in the Chess Olympiad, a biennial chess competition.
- The event is organised by FIDE, which

also chooses the host nation. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, FIDE hosted an online chess tournament in 2020 and 2021 with a quick time limit that harmed competitors' online ratings.

#### About Chess Olympiad 2026:

- Each chess association recognized by FIDE is permitted to enter a team into the Olympiad.
- Up to five players can make up a team: four active players and one reserve. Each team used to play every other team at first, but as the event developed over time, this became impossible.
- Prior to the competition, teams were first seeded. Later, once several flaws in seeding were discovered, a Swiss tournament system was implemented in 1976.
- The Hamilton-Russell Cup, presented by English tycoon Frederick Hamilton-Russell as a prize for the first Olympiad, is the trophy for the winning team in the open division (London 1927).
- The victorious team keeps the cup until the following competition, after which it is given to the subsequent victor.

#### TAMARA WALCOTT LIFTS 737.5 KG TO BREAK POWERLIFTING GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

- Tamara Walcott, a female powerlifter from Maryland in the United States broke according to sources in the investigating agency for the heaviest cumulative lift for bench/squat and press in competition (female) after lifting a total of 737.5 kg across three compound lifts – the squat, the bench press, and the deadlift.
- She was honoured at the 2022 World Raw Powerlifting Federation American Pro in Manassas, Virginia last month. GWR compared the weight she lifted with a female adult giraffe that weighs about 680.3 kg.

#### SUNIL CHHETRI, MANISHA KALYAN NAMED MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

- Sunil Chhetri and Manisha Kalyan have been named the 2021-22 All India Football Federation (AIFF) Men's Footballer of the Year and the 2021-22 Women's Footballer of the Year, respectively.

Manisha had won the Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year for last season, while this is the 7th time that Sunil won the award, having



last won it in 2018-19.

#### 44TH CHESS OLYMPIAD: UZBEKISTAN WIN GOLD IN OPEN SECTION, UKRAINIAN WOMEN TRIUMPH

- The team Uzbekistan has won the gold medal in the Open section of the 44th Chess Olympiad which concluded. Team Armenia won silver while the India-2 team settled for bronze in Open Section. In the women's section, Ukraine won the gold medal. Team Georgia won the silver, while the India-1 team won the bronze medal.



#### 44th Chess Olympiad:

- The 44th Chess Olympiad was organised by the International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation (FIDE) in Chennai, India from July 28 to August 09, 2022.
- India hosted the Chess Olympiad for the first time. It consisted of open and women's tournaments.
- The total number of participants was 1,737, including 937 in the Open and 800 in the Women's event.
- Overall 188 teams were registered from 186 nations in the Open section and 162 from 160 nations in the Women's section.
- The main venue of the Chess Olympiad was the convention centre at the Four Points by Sheraton.
- The opening and closing ceremonies were held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

#### 1ST EDITION OF WOMEN'S IPL TO BE HELD IN MARCH 2023

- The 1st Edition of Women Indian Premier



League will be starting from March 2023 to be held in a one-month window and in all likelihood with five teams, a senior BCCI official confirmed.

- The BCCI bigwigs have discussed the issue and a March window has been found for the tournament after the Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

### **1ST KHELO INDIA WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE (U-16) TO BE HELD AT MAJOR DHYANCHAND STADIUM**

- The first Khelo India Women's Hockey League under-16 is scheduled to be held at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi from August 16 to 23, 2022.
- The Khelo India Women's Hockey League (U-16) is yet another endeavour by the Khelo India's Sports for Women component, which takes the most necessary steps to power in more female participation in a wide array of sports competitions.
- The support extends to not only giving grants but also helping in the proper organization and execution of the events.

### **DURAND CUP 2022: ASIA'S OLDEST FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT BEGINS**

- Asia's Oldest Football Tournament Durand Cup has begun.
- The 131st edition of the Durand Cup 2022 has been kicked off, the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Army Staff General Manoj Pande will visit Manipur to be a spectator of the inaugural match.
- The inaugural match will be held at the Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal.

#### **Key points**

- West Bengal, Assam, and Manipur are hosting the Durand Cup 2022.
- Out of 20 teams, 11 teams will be from various clubs that play Indian Super League, five teams from I-league, and four teams from Armed Forces.
- In Kolkata the matches will be played in the Salt Lake Stadium, Naihati Stadium, and Kishore Bharati Stadium.
- In Imphal, the match will take place in the Khuman Lampak Stadium.
- In Assam the match will take place in the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium at Guwahati.

#### **Durand Cup: History**

- The former Foreign Secretary of British India, Mortimer Durand founded the Durand Cup in 1888.
- The Durand Cup was initially played only

by the Armed services but in later years, the game was officially made open for the Professional Football Clubs.

- The Durand Cup is annually organized by the Durand Cup Football Tournament in association with the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- The winner of the tournament is facilitated with three trophies, the Durand Cup, the President's Cup, and the Shimla Trophy.

### **BENGALURU TO HOST FIBA U-18 WOMEN'S ASIAN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

- Bengaluru will host the FIBA U-18 women's Asian Basketball Championship beginning on September 5.
- According to Dr. Narayanagowda, the minister of sports and youth empowerment for Karnataka, Bengaluru will host the FIBA U-18 women's Asian Basketball Championship from September 5 to 11.
- Dr. Narayanagowda, the minister, presented sports equipment to the Indian men's team travelling to Iran to compete in the FIBA U-18 Men's Basketball Championship during the press conference.

#### **FIFA**

Late on August 15, world football's governing body FIFA suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) indefinitely for "undue interference by a third party" in the process to finalise a new constitution and elect office-bearers.

#### **About:**

- FIFA is an international governing body of association football, beach football and futsal.
- It was founded in 1904 to oversee international competition among the national associations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.
- Headquartered in Zürich, Switzerland, its membership now comprises 211 national associations; Russia was suspended in 2022.
- These national associations must each also be members of one of the six regional confederations into which the world is divided: Africa, Asia, Europe, North & Central America and the Caribbean, Oceania and South America.

### **UEFA LEAGUE: MANISHA KALYAN BECOMES 1ST INDIAN TO PLAY IN THE LEAGUE**

- Young striker Manisha Kalyan became the

first Indian footballer to play at the UEFA Women's Champions League when she made her debut for Apollon Ladies FC in the European Club competition in Engomi, Cyprus.

- In November 2021, the 20-year-old had become the first ever Indian footballer to score a goal in the AFC Women's Club Championship.

### **FORMER OLYMPIC FOOTBALL CAPTAIN SAMAR 'BADRU' BANERJEE PASSES AWAY**

- Former India football team captain, Samar 'Badru' Banerjee, who led the country to a historic fourth-place finish in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, has passed away recently. He was 92.
- He was bestowed with the Mohun Bagan Ratna in 2009.
- Banerjee has also won the Santosh Trophy twice as a player in 1953 & 1955 and once as a coach in 1962.
- The West Bengal Government honoured Badru Banerjee with the Lifetime Achievement Award in sports in 2017.

### **ANTIM PANGHAL: INDIA'S FIRST-EVER U-20 WORLD CHAMPION IN WRESTLING**

- Antim Panghal, a 17-year-old wrestler from Haryana, defeated Kazakhstan's Atlyn Shagayeva 8-0 to win the title of Under-20 world champion, making her the first Indian woman to do so.
- The U-20 World Wrestling Championship was held in Sofia, Bulgaria. With an opening-round victory of 11-0 over German Amery Olivia, Antim Panghal prevailed because to her superior technical skills.

### **FTX CRYPTO CUP: R PRAGGNANANDHAA DEFEATED WORLD CHESS CHAMPION MAGNUS CARLSEN**

- Indian chess master Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa has defeated world champion, Magnus Carlsen, in the FTX Crypto Cup in Miami, an international chess Championship.
- Pragganandhaa's winning run came to an end at the hands of China's Quang Liem Le in the fifth round. He suffered his second loss after he went down to Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda via the tie-break in the sixth round.

### **FIFA LIFTED BAN WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION (AIFF)**

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) was suspended by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) as a result of inappropriate external influence. AIFF's ban was lifted by the FIFA Council Bureau on August 25 with immediate effect in order to allow India to host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2022.



### **NEERAJ CHOPRA WINS LAUSANNE DIAMOND LEAGUE WITH 89.08M THROW**

- Olympic champion and javelin thrower, Neeraj Chopra scripted history as he became the first Indian to clinch a Lausanne Diamond League.
- In his first attempt, he hurled the spear 89.08m to seal his victory in his own style. His 89.08m throw was his third career-best effort, followed by a second throw measuring 85.18m.
- Meanwhile, Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch finished second with a best throw of 85.88m, followed by USA's Curtis Thompson was third with a best effort of 83.72m.

### **GRANDMASTER ARJUN ERIGAISI WINS 28TH ABU DHABI MASTERS**

- In the 28th Abu Dhabi, Masters Chess Tournament Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi defeated David Anton Guijarro from Spain in the ninth and final round.
- Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi won the 28th Dhabi Masters Chess Tournament with 7.5 points.
- Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi is in the third position in the live rating list and has gained an impressive 35 Elo rating points after the recent Chess Olympiad in India.
- In the 28th Dhabi, Masters Chess Tournament Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi won six matches and drew three other games.



### **14TH ASIAN U-18 CHAMPIONSHIP: INDIAN MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM WON BRONZE MEDAL**

- Indian men's volleyball team has won the bronze medal by defeating Korea 3-2 in the 14th Asian U-18 Championship in Tehran, Iran.
- In the preliminary league match too, India defeated Korea but lost to Iran in the semi-final. The Indian U-18 team has qualified for the FIVB World U-19 Men's Volleyball Championship.
- Japan clinched the gold after beating Iran in the final match. China finished fifth and Chinese Taipei was placed sixth at the end of the competition.





## JAGDEEP DHANKHAR



National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate Jagdeep Dhankhar has been elected as India's 14th Vice-President of India.

### About:

Jagdeep Dhankhar (born 18 May 1951) is an Indian politician, who is the 14th vice president-elect of India.

- He served as the Governor of West Bengal. He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- He served as the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in the Chandra Shekhar ministry. He was the 2022 Vice Presidential election of India candidate by the National Democratic Alliance and subsequently won the Vice Presidential election.
- Mr Dhankhar will take oath of office on 11th August, a day after the term of the incumbent Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu ends. Mr Dhankhar will also be appointed the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

## PROF RAMADHAR SINGH BECOMES 1ST INDIAN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGIST ON US HERITAGE WALL OF FAME

- Ahmedabad University Professor, Ramadhar Singh becomes the first Indian Social Psychologist on the US Heritage Wall of Fame of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) in the United States. He is currently a professor at the Amrut Mody School of Management, Ahmedabad University.

## CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA (CJI)

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was appointed the 49th Chief Justice of India (CJI) after President Droupadi Murmu signed his warrant of appointment.

### About:



Justice Lalit will assume charge on August 27, a day after Justice N.V. Ramana demits office as the CJI. Justice Lalit will have a brief tenure as he will demit office on November 8 after holding the charge as the CJI for a little under three months.

- Justice Lalit will be the second CJI who was directly elevated to the apex court Bench from the Bar.
- Justice S.M. Sikri was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court Bench in March 1964 and went on to become the 13th CJI in January 1971.
- While Supreme Court judges retire on attaining the age of 65, judges of the 25 High Courts superannuate at the age of 62.
- Justice Lalit has been part of several landmark judgments, including the one which held the practice of divorce through instant triple talaq among Muslims illegal and unconstitutional.
- Before his elevation as a judge, he was appointed a special public prosecutor for the CBI to conduct trial in the 2G spectrum allocation case.
- Starting out at the Bombay High Court, he shifted his practice to Delhi in January 1986, and in April 2004, he was designated as a senior advocate by the apex court. He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court on August 13, 2014.

## AIADMK'S FIRST MP MAYA THEVAR PASSES AWAY

- Former Member of Parliament (MP) and senior All India Anna Dravida Munnetra



Kazhagam (AIADMK) politician K. Maya Thevar has passed away due to an age-related illness. He was 87. He was the first MP of the AIADMK. He led the party to enter the world of politics by registering the party's first victory by contesting a by-election to the Dindigul Lok Sabha constituency in 1973. Also, it was Mr. Maya Thevar who chose the iconic 'two-leaves' symbol of the AIADMK party. Later, he left AIADMK and joined the DMK.

## WOMEN FREEDOM FIGHTERS



In his ninth Independence Day address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to women freedom fighters for showing the world the true meaning of India's "nari shakti".

### About:

- Rani Laxmibai: The queen of the princely state of Jhansi, Rani Laxmibai is known for her role in the First War of India's Independence in 1857.
- Jhalkari Bai: A soldier in Rani Laxmibai's women's army, Durga Dal, she rose to become one of the queen's most trusted advisers.
- Durga Bhabhi: A member of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha, she helped Bhagat Singh escape in disguise from Lahore after the 1928 killing of British police officer John P Saunders.
- Rani Gaidinliu: Born in 1915 in present-day Manipur, Rani Gaidinliu was a Naga spiritual and political leader who fought the British. She joined the Heraka religious movement which later became a movement to drive out the British.

## PINGALI VENKAYYA

Sri Pingali Venkayya will always be remembered for his immense contribution to design of National Flag, says Andhra Pradesh Governor.

### About:

- Pingali Venkayya (1876 – 1963) was an

Indian freedom fighter.

- He was a staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi and the designer of the flag on which the Indian national flag was based.
- He designed the National Flag and presented it to Mahatma Gandhi during the latter's visit to Vijayawada city on 1 April 1921



## NATION CELEBRATES 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SRI AUROBINDO

- India is celebrating the 75th year of its Independence and to add more glory to this day, India is also celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo, who is a spiritual icon.
- Sri Aurobindo was one of the greatest revolutionaries in India and later became a legendary Spiritual Master.
- He has left behind great philosophical and political writings to learn from.
- For the 150th Birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo, over 10,000 devotees across the world paid their tribute to one of the greatest spiritual leaders of India.
- Several devotees stood in long lines to visit the Samadhi of Sri Aurobindo and some visited Sri Aurobindo's room.
- The residents of Auroville held various events and a light mandala and sacred fire offering at the Inuksuk near the Visitors Centre at Auroville.

### About Sri Aurobindo:

- Sri Aurobindo was born on 15th August 1872 in Kolkata, India. His original name was Aurobindo Ghose.
- He was a great poet, philosopher, Poet, and Indian nationalist. He was also a journalist and he used to edit the Vande Mataram newspaper.
- Until 1910 he was one of the most influential leaders when he joined the Indian movement for Independence, later he became a spiritual reformer, introducing his vision of human progress and spiritual evolution throughout the country.

- Sri Aurobindo studied for Indian Civil Service at King's College, Cambridge, England.
- When he returned to India, he took up various civil service works under the Maharaja of the Princely state of Baroda.
- He became greatly involved in the nationalist politics in the Indian National Congress.
- Sri Aurobindo was arrested for being one of the members behind several bombings linked to his organization in a public trial.
- He was charged with treason for Alipore Conspiracy; however, he was released when no evidence was found against him.

#### Auroville:

- Auroville was founded by the mother, who was the spiritual collaborator of Sri Aurobindo.
- The mother was entrusted to give a concrete form to the vision of Sri Aurobindo. She has undertaken the work of creating a new world, new humanity, and a new society expressing and embodying the new consciousness.

### LORD CURZON

The 119-year-old Curzon Gate in Bardhaman in West Bengal is at the centre of a political row after the Trinamool Congress (TMC)-run Bardhaman municipality has decided to erect a statue of Bardhaman's Maharaja Bijay Chand Mahatab and his wife Radharani in front of the city's prominent landmark.



#### About:

- Of all the Viceroys of India, Curzon is possibly the most criticised — he is the man who partitioned Bengal in 1905, and triggered a wave of Bengali nationalism that contributed to the wider Indian national movement.
- He was also one of the more openly imperialist of viceroys, and a man who saw Britain's rule over India as critical to the survival of empire. In 1900, Curzon famously stated, "We could lose all our [white settlement] dominions and still

survive, but if we lost India, our sun would sink to its setting."

- He served as Under-Secretary of State for India (1891-1892), and for Foreign Affairs (1895-1898), before being appointed Viceroy of India in 1899.
- Curzon created a separate Muslim majority province of the North-West Frontier Province, sent a British expedition to Tibet, established a separate police service, and established the Archaeological Survey of India, in order to study and protect historical monuments.

### SADBHAVNA DIWAS 2022: BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF RAJIV GANDHI

- India celebrates Sadbhavna Diwas in memory of Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary. Sadbhavna Diwas 2022 commemorates the 78th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi on 20th August 2022. Sadbhavna Diwas was instituted after the death of Rajiv Gandhi in 1992, by Congress. Sadbhavna Diwas promotes peace, harmony, empathy, and unity among all citizens of India. On this several cultural events and contests are organized across the country.
- About Rajiv Gandhi
- Rajiv Gandhi was born on 20th August 1944, and he was an Indian politician representative of the Indian National Congress.
- Rajiv Gandhi served as Prime Minister of India from 1984 to 1989. He was the youngest Prime Minister of India; he was only 40 years old when he was appointed as the Prime minister of India. He comes from the family of India's greatest politicians.
- He was the grandson of the first Prime minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and was the son of the first female prime minister of India Indira Gandhi.
- Rajiv Gandhi, the youngest Prime Minister always promoted communal harmony, unity, and integrity in India.
- He was also considered as the Ambassador of Goodwill in the rest of the World. He belonged to a modern mindset and has always seeded the idea of India being a developed nation.

### SATYAMURTI

- Satyamurti was one of the stalwarts of the Indian National Congress during the pre-Independence years. He was a famous lawyer, renowned orator, debater and brilliant parliamentarian.



- Satyamurti was born at Pudukkottai on 19 August 1887.
- After graduating from the Madras Christian College with a BA degree, he went on to study law at the Madras Law College.
- He forayed into politics at a young age starting from his college elections.
- He became a lawyer, but got involved in politics after a 1919 Congress meeting.
- He went on to lead the nationalist faction of Congress then based in Madras.
- In 1919, he went as a delegate in the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the United Kingdom to protest against the Rowlatt Act and the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms.
- His powerful speech opposing an array of distinguished leaders marked him as a parliamentarian in the making.
- In 1923, he was elected to the Madras Legislative Council. He served the Council for two terms, from 1923 to 1929.
- He was one of the founding members of the Music Academy. He was one of the vice presidents of the executive committee of the All India Music Conference held at Madras in 1927.
- An outstanding orator in English and Tamil, he was regarded as an exceptional debater in the Indian Legislative Assembly in Delhi to which he was elected in 1935.
- He was also a theatre artist & of his more frequently performed dramas was Manohara, a didactic historical play.

### NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was an Indian Nationalist whose patriotism towards India has left a mark in the hearts of many Indians.
- He founded the 'Azad Hind Fauj' and his famous slogan is 'Tum Mujhe Khoon Do, Main Tumhe Aazadi Dunga'.

#### About Netaji:

- Subhash Chandra Bose was born on 23rd January 1897 in Cuttack, Odisha.
- In the year 1919, Bose went to London to prepare for the Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination and was also selected there.
- However, he resigned from the civil service as he believed that he could not work with the British.
- In the year 1923, Bose was elected the President of the All India Youth Congress as well as the Secretary of the Bengal State Congress.
- Subhash Chandra Bose was twice elected President of the Indian National Congress, (1938-Haripur and 1939-Tripuri) the country's most important political force for freedom from the British rule.

- Owing to political differences, he resigned from the Congress Presidentship in 1939 and organised the All India Forward Bloc a faction within the Congress in Bengal.
- The purpose was to consolidate the political left and major support base in his home state Bengal.
- In Calcutta, Bose organised mass protests and was arrested. He was later put under house arrest from where he escaped and went to Germany.
- On 21 October 1943, Subhas Bose, who was now popularly known as Netaji, proclaimed the formation of the provisional government of independent India (Azad Hind) in Singapore.
- Netaji went to the Andaman which had been occupied by the Japanese and hoisted the flag of India over there.
- In early 1944, three units of the Azad Hind Fauj (INA) took part in the attack on the north-eastern parts of India to oust the British from India.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was known for his courage and sacrifice in the Indian independence movement. Mahatma Gandhi called him the 'Prince among the Patriots'.
- It was believed that Subhas Chandra Bose died on 18 August 1945, in a plane crash near Taiwan.

### P. JEEVANANDAM

- P. Jeevanandam was a great social reformer, national activist, communist leader and the man who gave shape to art & literature in Tamil Nadu.
- A Tamil writer and a critic associated with the Progressive Writers Movement in Tamil Nadu once referred to Jeeva as 'living Bharathi' ( nadamadum Bharathi ).

#### More about his life:

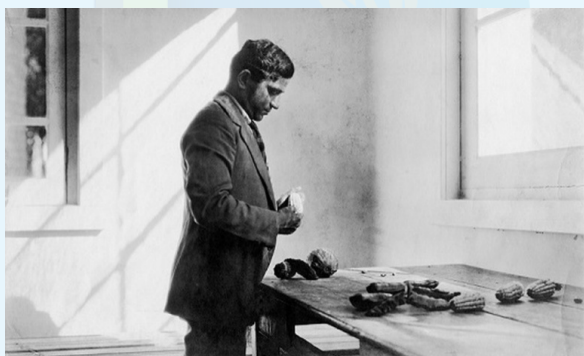
- He was born in 1907 in Kanyakumari district.
- Jeeva led a simple life. He used public transport and lived in a hut till the end of his life.
- In Madras legislative assembly elections, 1952, Jeeva contested from the Communist Party and won from Washermanpet constituency in North Madras.
- While he was the Member of Legislative Assembly, Jeeva campaigned for education in Tamil and supported the linguistic reorganisation of states.
- In 1955, Jeeva opposed in the Assembly regarding publishing the original version of Bharathi poems, which delineated the socialism and criticism of caste.
- It was Jeeva who established the social

perspectives of Bharathi for the first time.

- In 1959 he edited Thamarai, the literary organ of Communist Party of India in Tamil Nadu which a number of progressive and young writers contributed.
- Jeeva strived to create a 'united front' in the cultural sphere embracing writers and artists in Tamil Nadu with a democratic and progressive outlook.
- He had a great democratic spirit & participated in different movements ranging from anti-colonial nationalist movement under the leadership of Gandhi, social reformist Self-Respect Movement with Periyar and the communist movement.
- Jeeva's lasting contribution to Tamil Nadu is the founding of Tamil Nadu Art-Literary Federation (Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumandram) in 1961, a forerunner of all progressive art and literary movements.

### PANDURANG KHANKHOJE

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who is currently in Canada for the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, will travel to Mexico where he will unveil statue of Maharashtra-born freedom fighter and agriculturalist Pandurang Khankhoje (1883-1967).



#### About:

Khankhoje had a close connection with Mexico, the country in which he sought refuge due to his association with the radical pro-Indian independence Ghadar Party.

- Born in Wardha, Maharashtra, in the late 19th century, Pandurang Khankhoje came in contact with other revolutionaries early on.
- Khankhoje was one of the founding members of the Ghadar Party, established by Indians living abroad in 1914, mostly belonging to Punjab. Its aim was to lead a revolutionary fight against the British in India.
- The Mexican Revolution of 1910 had led to the overthrow of the dictatorial regime, and this inspired Khankhoje.

### ANNA MANI

Google on August 23, 2022 celebrated the 104th birth anniversary of Indian physicist and meteorologist Anna Mani, one of the country's first female scientists, with a special Doodle.

#### About

- Anna Mani (1918 – 2001) was an Indian physicist and meteorologist.
- She retired as the Deputy Director General of the Indian Meteorological Department and further served as a visiting professor at the Raman Research Institute.
- She made several contributions to the field of meteorological instrumentation, conducted research and published numerous papers on solar radiation, ozone and wind energy measurements.

### VIKRAM DORAISWAMI APPOINTED TO UK AS INDIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER

- Vikram K. Doraiswami, a seasoned diplomat appointed as India's new High Commissioner to the United Kingdom which is seen as a significant position given the two nations' expanding strategic alliance.
- Vikram K. Doraiswami is Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh currently. He is an Indian Foreign Service officer from the 1992 batch. At May 1994, Vikram K.
- Doraiswami was appointed Third Secretary in the Indian High Commission in Hong Kong after completing his in-service training in New Delhi between 1992 and 1993.

### KRISHNAMURTHY V SUBRAMANIAN

Former chief economic adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy V Subramanian will take over as the next executive director (ED) for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from November 1. He will replace economist Surjit Bhalla

#### About:

- According to an order by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Subramanian's term will continue for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Bhalla was appointed in 2019 after then ED for India and former RBI deputy governor Subir Gokarn died in July that year.
- After completing a three-year tenure as the CEA in December 2021, Subramanian returned to ISB Hyderabad where he is serving as a professor.
- A PhD in financial economics from the Booth School of Business, University of



Chicago, and an alumnus of IIM Calcutta as well as IIT Kanpur, Subramanian is an expert in banking, corporate governance and economic policy.

### INDIAN SCIENTIST SAMIR V KAMAT APPOINTED AS DRDO CHAIRMAN

- According to a Personnel Ministry order, Distinguished scientist Samir V Kamat was appointed as Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Kamat, who is Director General, Naval Systems & Materials, at the DRDO will succeed G Satheesh Reddy who has been named as scientific adviser to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

#### About the DRDO:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation is the premier agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development in the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in Delhi, India. It was Founded in 1958.

#### Mother Teresa

- Mother Teresa is known and celebrated for devoting her life to charity and service to others.
- More about her life:
  - - Mother Teresa was born on August 26, 1910.
  - - She studied in a convent and at the age of 12, she took part in her first pilgrimage to the shrine of Letnice.
  - - At the age of 18, Mother Teresa left home to join the Sisters of Loreto in Dublin.
  - - After a few months' training in Dublin she was sent to India, where on May 24, 1931, she took her initial vows as a nun.
  - - From 1931 to 1948 Mother Teresa taught at St. Mary's High School in Calcutta.
  - - In 1948, she received permission from her superiors to leave the convent school and devote herself to working among the poorest of the poor in the slums of Calcutta.
  - - Although she had no funds, she depended on Divine Providence, and started an open-air school for slum children.
  - - While teaching poor children in Calcutta, she did not have any supplies or equipment. She helped children read and write by writing in the dirt with wooden sticks.
  - - On October 7, 1950, Mother Teresa received permission from the Holy See to

start her own order, "The Missionaries of Charity", whose primary task was to love and care for those persons nobody was prepared to look after.

- - She brokered a temporary cease fire between Israel and Palestine to rescue 37 children trapped in a front-line hospital.
- - She travelled through the war zone to the destroyed hospital to evacuate the young patients.

#### Honorary Achievements

- - Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, however, she refused to take the Nobel honour banquet and requested that the \$192,000 prize money be used to help the poor in India.
- - She received many awards including the Pope John XXIII Peace Prize (1971) and the Nehru Prize for her promotion of international peace and understanding (1972).
- - She also received the Balzan Prize (1979) and the Templeton and Magsaysay awards.
- - A special Rs 5 coin was also released by the government of India to commemorate the birth centenary of Mother Teresa.

### ABHIJIT SEN

Abhijit Sen, former Member of the Planning Commission, former Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and eminent economist, died following a heart attack.



ABHIJIT SEN: 1950-2022

#### About:

- Professor Sen had been a faculty at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP) at Jawaharlal Nehru University from 1985 to his superannuation in 2015.
- Politicians, academics, students, farmers' leaders and activists remembered him for his contributions in areas such as minimum support price, rural economy and rural employment.
- Professor Sen is survived by his wife, eminent economist Jayati Ghosh, and daughter, Jahnvi Sen, a journalist.

## MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader who brought the Cold War to a peaceful end, has died aged 91.

### About:

- Mikhail Gorbachev (1931 – 2022) was a Russian and Soviet politician who served as the last leader of the Soviet Union.
- As the country's head of state from 1988 to 1991, he served as Chairman of the Supreme Soviet from 1989 to 1990 and President of the Soviet Union from 1990 until the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.
- Ideologically, Gorbachev initially adhered to Marxism–Leninism, but he moved towards social democracy by the early 1990s.
- Gorbachev believed significant reform was necessary, particularly after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.
- He withdrew from the Soviet–Afghan War and embarked on summits with United States president Ronald Reagan to limit nuclear weapons and end the Cold War.
- Domestically, his policy of glasnost (“openness”) allowed for enhanced freedom of speech and press, while his perestroika (“restructuring”) sought to decentralize economic decision-making to improve efficiency.
- The recipient of a wide range of awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize, he was widely praised for his pivotal role in ending the Cold War.





## AWARDS

### **LIBERTY MEDAL 2022 TO BE AWARDED TO UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT ZELENSKY**

- The Liberty Medal 2022 will be awarded this fall to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The National Constitution Center has announced that Zelenskyy will be honoured in a ceremony in October for what it called “his heroic defence of liberty in the face of Russian tyranny.”
- President Zelenskyy has bravely led the Ukrainian people in their defence of freedom against Russian tyranny, and his courage has inspired people around the world to defend liberal democracy and the rule of law.

### **CANADIAN JEFFREY ARMSTRONG RECEIVED ‘DISTINGUISHED INDOLOGIST FOR 2021’ AWARD**

- Canadian scholar, Jeffrey Armstrong has been awarded the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Distinguished Indologist for 2021.
- He has presented the award in a ceremony by Manish, India’s consul-general in Vancouver.
- The citation for the award states that it has been conferred upon Armstrong “in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the study/teaching/research in India’s philosophy, thought, history, art, culture, Indian languages, literature, civilisation, society, etc”.
- He becomes the seventh recipient of this award and joins the earlier recipients from Germany, China, Japan, the UK, South Korea and the USA.

#### **About the ICCR Distinguished Indologist for 2021:**

- The annual award was instituted in 2015 during the First World Indology Conference hosted by the then President of India bringing prominent Indologists from the world over to a single platform with Indian scholars to deliberate upon the scope of promoting Indian studies abroad.
- The award is conferred upon a foreign scholar for “their outstanding contribution in the study, teaching and research in any of

the fields of Indian Studies”.

- The first recipient of the award in 2015 was Professor Heinrich Freiherr Von Stietencron from Germany.
- The award comprises a citation, a gold-plated medallion, and US\$ 20,000 (approximately ₹1.6 million).

### **SPIRITUAL LEADER DALAI LAMA HONoured WITH LADAKH’S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD**

- Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama was honoured with the ‘dPal rNgam Duston’ award, the highest civilian honour of Ladakh.
- This award is given for his immense contribution to humanity, especially towards the union territory.
- The sixth award was conferred by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh which celebrated the ‘dPal rNgam Duston’ with great fervour on the occasion of its foundation day at Sindhu Ghat

### **SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER SHASHI THAROOR TO RECEIVE FRANCE’S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD**

- Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, set to be conferred with France’s highest civilian award Chevalier de la Legion d’Honneur.
- The French government is honouring him for his writings and speeches and the French Ambassador here Emmanuel Lennain has written to Tharoor informing him about the award.
- In 2010, Tharoor had received a similar honour from the Spanish government, when the King of Spain had bestowed upon him the Encomienda de la Real Order Espanola de Carlos III.

### **MARINA TABASSUM, FIRST SOUTH ASIAN TO GET LISBON TRIENNALE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

- As the first recipient from the global south and the first South Asian, renowned Bangladeshi architect, researcher, and educator

Marina Tabassum received the prestigious Lisbon Triennale Millennium bcp Lifetime Achievement Award.

- The Lisbon Architecture Triennale panel commended Marina Tabassum for providing an inspiring example of work with local communities that may have a beneficial impact all over the world even in the most challenging circumstances when announcing the award.

## **NATIONAL GOPAL RATNA AWARDS -2022**



Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has invited applications for National Gopal Ratna Awards - 2022 online through the National Award portal.

### **About:**

- The last date for the submission of applications is 15th of next month.
- The awards will be conferred on the occasion of National Milk Day, 26th November.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is making all efforts to provide sustainable livelihood to the farmers.
- The Rashtriya Gokul Mission was launched in December 2014 for the first time in the country, with a view to conserve and develop indigenous bovine breeds in a scientific manner.

## **FORMER GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL WINS UNESCO PEACE PRIZE 2022**

- Former German chancellor Angela Merkel has been awarded the Unesco Peace Prize 2022 for “her efforts to welcome refugees”.
- In the summer of 2015, as refugees were streaming into Europe, Merkel opened her country’s borders and famously declared to Germans “Wir schaffen das”, “We can do this.”

### **About the Unesco Peace Prize:**

- The honour, which is officially called Felix Houphouet-Boigny-Unesco Peace Prize, is named after the former president of Ivory Coast.
- It has been awarded each year since 1989 to individuals, organisations or institutions that have made a special effort to promote, research or secure peace. It is awarded annually.
- The prize includes a cheque of USD 150,000, a gold medal and a peace diploma. If there are multiple recipients, the cheque is shared equally.

## **BANGLADESHI FAHMIDA AZIM WON THE PULITZER PRIZE 2022**

- Bangladesh-born Fahmida Azim working for the Insider online magazine of the US has been selected for the Pulitzer Prize 2022.
- She will be awarded under the category of Illustrated Reporting and Commentary. She is among the four journalists including Anthony Del Col, Josh Adams and Walt Hickey of Insider being published from New York, selected for their work on the Chinese oppression of the Uyghurs. The work ‘I escaped a Chinese internment Camp’ has illustrations by Fahmida Azim.

### **About the Fahmida Azim:**

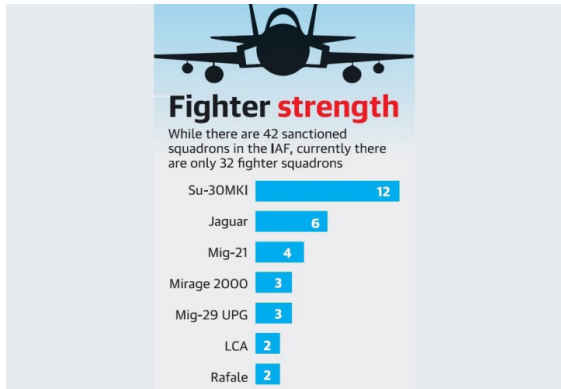
- Fahmida Azim was born in Bangladesh and is now settled in the US. She is an illustrator and storyteller. Her work centres on themes of identity, culture and autonomy.
- Her artworks have been seen in several international journals like the NPR, Glamour, Scientific American, The Intercept, Vice, and The New York Times among others.
- She has illustrated a number of books including her own notable project ‘Muslim Women Are Everything’





## IAF FIGHTER SQUADRONS

In a tragic accident, a MIG-21 trainer jet of the IAF crashed in Rajasthan killing both the pilots onboard.



### About:

- The MIG-21 was inducted into the IAF in the early 1960s. Currently, there are four MIG-21 squadrons in service. IAF officials have stated that there is technical life still left in them.
- The IAF has an authorised strength of 42 fighter squadrons. As time passes, the draw-down is increasing as the total technical life is completed.
- However, the rate of new inductions is not matching the drawdown, depleting the overall number of fighter squadrons.
- In addition to the indigenous aircraft coming up, the IAF is confident that increasing the low availability rates of Su-30 and other fighters in service will offset some of the shortfall in the interim.

## JAPAN, US, AND SOUTH KOREA PARTICIPATE IN MISSILE DEFENCE DRILL

- A joint ballistic missile defence exercise between South Korea, the US, and Japan will begin this week in the waters off Hawaii as part of increased security cooperation against North Korea's growing military threats, a media outlet claimed. According to the sources, the biannual Pacific Dragon drill will take place.
- Australia and Canada will also take part in the exercise in the edition of 2022, in addition to the three other nations.

### About

- The exercise, which involves the mobilisation of eight warships and two planes, aims to improve coordination between the participating nations in the identification, tracking, and reporting of ballistic missile targets.
- The exercise was planned after the defence chiefs of South Korea, the United States, and Japan decided to improve their security coordination during their trilateral meeting on June 11 in Singapore, which was held in conjunction with the annual Shangri-La Dialogue.
- The South Korea-US-Japan missile warning and ballistic missile search and tracking exercises will go forward, the three parties decided at the meeting.



- The trainings had been going on quietly since 2018 as part of initiatives to promote diplomacy with North Korea.

## INAS 314

Indian Navy's all-women crew creates history by completing first independent maritime surveillance mission over Arabian Sea.

### About:

- Indian Navy's women officers have created history after they completed the first-ever all-women independent maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea onboard a Dornier 228 aircraft.
- The mission was carried out by five officers of the Indian Navy Air Squadron (INAS) 314 based at Naval Air Enclave at Gujarat's Porbandar.
- The aircraft was captained by the Mission Commander, Lt Cdr Aanchal Sharma, who

had pilots, Lt Shivangi and Lt Apurva Gite, and Tactical and Sensor Officers, Lt Pooja Panda and SLt Pooja Shekhawat in her team.

- The INAS 314 is a frontline Naval Air Squadron based at Porbandar, Gujarat. This “first-of-its-kind military flying mission” is expected to pave the way for women officers in the aviation cadre to assume greater responsibility and aspire for more challenging roles.

### **LASER-GUIDED ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILES ATGM**

The indigenously developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missiles ATGM were successfully test-fired from Main Battle Tank MBT Arjun by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army at KK Ranges with support of Armoured Corps Centre and School Ahmednagar in Maharashtra.

#### **About:**

- The missiles hit with precision and successfully destroyed the targets at two different ranges. Telemetry systems have recorded the satisfactory flight performance of the missiles.
- The all-indigenous Laser Guided ATGM employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour ERA protected armoured vehicles.
- The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has complimented DRDO and Indian Army for successful performance of the Laser Guided ATGMs.

### **EXERCISE ‘PITCH BLACK’**

Continuing the series of military exercises with countries in the Indo-Pacific, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will join 16 other nations, including Quad partners, later this month for Exercise Pitch Black, the biennial exercise hosted by the Australian Air Force.

#### **About:**

- About 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations will arrive in the Northern Territory in two weeks to commence Exercise Pitch Black 2022.
- The 2020 edition of the exercise was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **INDIA-US ARMIES TO HOLD MEGA MILITARY EXERCISE “YUDH ABHYAS” IN UTTARAKHAND’S AULI**

- The Indian Army and the US Army will conduct the 18th edition of the fortnight-long mega military exercise “Yudh Abhyas” from October 14 to 31, 2022, at Auli in Uttarakhand.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the two armies. The previous edition of the exercise took place in Alaska, the US, in October 2021.

#### **About the exercise:**

- The exercise is aimed at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the armies of India and the US.
- The “Yudh Abhyas” exercise is taking place in the backdrop of India’s lingering border row with China in eastern Ladakh.
- The Indo-US defence ties have been on an upswing for the past few years.
- In June 2016, the US designated India a “Major Defence Partner”.
- Defence history of two countries:
- The two countries have also inked key defence and security pacts over the past few years, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 that allows their militaries to use each other’s bases for repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provides for deeper cooperation.
- The two sides also signed the COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018 which provides for interoperability between the two militaries and provides for the sale of high-end technology from the US to India.
- In October 2020, India and the US sealed the BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) to further boost bilateral defence ties.
- The pact provides for sharing of high-end military technology, logistics and geospatial maps between the two countries.

### **INDIA NAVY AND FRANCE NAVY CONDUCTED EXERCISE IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN**

- The Indian Navy guided-missile frigate INS Tarkash, while on her long-range overseas deployment, conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French naval ships in the North Atlantic Ocean on July 29 and 30.



- INS Tarkash and French Fleet Tanker FNS Somme carried out a replenishment at sea, followed by cooperative air operations with the maritime surveillance aircraft Falcon 50, taking part in several mock missile engagements and air defence drills.

### INDIAN AIR FORCE WILL RETIRE ALL SQUADRONS OF MIG-21 BY 2025

- The Indian Air Force will retire one of its four remaining squadrons, MiG-21 (Russian combat aircraft) fighter jets by 2022 September and the other three are scheduled to be phased out by 2025. The old MiG-21s will be replaced with newer fighter jets.
- Six MiG-21s have been lost in crashes in the last 20 months, killing five pilots. The IAF also plans to start the phasing out of the three squadrons of MiG-29 fighter jets in the next five years.

#### History of MiG-21s:

- The MiG-21s were supposed to be retired a long time ago but delays in induction of the LCA Tejas aircraft have forced the IAF to continue flying these planes.
- The air force received its first single-engine MiG-21 in 1963.
- The fighter jet has participated in many operations like Safed Sagar (Kargil, 1999), the operation of India in Pakistan in February 2019. Currently, the IAF has around 70 Mig-21 aircraft and 50 Mig-29 variants.

### PARVAZ

The innovative Market Linkage scheme- PARVAZ possesses tremendous potential for uplifting the economic conditions of the farmers across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

#### About:

- The scheme was launched by the Government with an aim to create market linkage support for the shipment of Agriculture and Horticulture perishables being harvested in Jammu and Kashmir through Air Cargo.
- Under the scheme, 25 per cent subsidy on freight charges is given for carrying perishable fruits harvested in Jammu and Kashmir for shipment through Air Cargo. The subsidy is provided to farmers through DBT mode.
- Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC), the implementing agency of the scheme is regularly creating awareness among the farmers about the significance of this scheme so that ample number of them can take benefit from it.

### US NAVY SHIP (USNS) CHARLES DREW



In a first, a U.S. Navy Ship, Charles Drew, arrived in India for carrying out repairs and allied services at Larsen & Toubro's (L&T) Shipyard at Kattupalli, Chennai, adding a new dimension to the fast expanding Indo-U.S. strategic partnership.

#### About:

- This is the first ever repair of a U.S. Navy ship in India.
- The U.S. Navy had awarded a contract to L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli for undertaking maintenance of the ship.
- The USNS Charles Drew will be at the Kattupalli shipyard for a period of 11 days and undergo repairs in various areas.
- The event signifies the capabilities of Indian shipyards in the global ship repairing market.
- At the India-U.S. 2+2 in April, both sides agreed to explore the possibilities of utilising Indian shipyards for the repair and maintenance of ships of the U.S. Maritime Sealift Command to support mid-voyage repair of U.S. Naval ships.

### INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFTS

The Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari flew three indigenous aircrafts in Bengaluru.

#### About:

- Indian designed developed and manufactured Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Light Combat Helicopter and Hindustan Turbo Trainer 40 aircrafts are being inducted into IAF as part of its drive towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The Air Chief Marshal himself flew these three Made in India combat and training aircraft.

### INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTS PAN-INDIA DRILL 'SKYLIGHT' TO TEST OPERATIONAL READINESS

- The Indian Army has conducted a pan-India satellite communication exercise named

‘Ex Skylight’, in the last week of July. The main objective of this exercise was to test the operational readiness and robustness of its hi-tech satellite communication systems, in the event of an attack by an adversary.

#### About

- The Indian Army is preparing to have its own multi-band dedicated satellite, with added security features by 2025.
- The dedicated GSAT-7B satellite of the Army is a first-of-its-kind indigenous multi-band satellite, designed with advanced security features. It will support tactical communication requirements for troops deployed on the ground, remotely piloted aircraft, air defence weapons and other mission-critical and fire support platforms.
- ISRO and various agencies responsible for space and ground segments also participated in the exercise.
- The IAF and Navy already have their own GSAT-7 series satellites.

### INDIAN NAVY'S ALL-FEMALE CREW COMPLETES FIRST SOLO MARITIME MISSION

- Women officers in the Indian Navy made history when they flew a Dornier 228 on the first-ever all-female autonomous maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea.
- Five officers from the Indian Navy Air Squadron (INAS) 314 stationed at the Naval Air Enclave in Porbandar, Gujarat, completed the mission.

#### About the Maritime Surveillance Mission over Arabian Sea:

- Lt Cdr Aanchal Sharma, the mission commander, piloted the plane while assisted by Lt Shivangi and Lt Apurva Gite, Lt Pooja Panda, and SLt Pooja Shekhawat, tactical and sensor officers.
- The women officers underwent extensive mission briefings and months of ground training in preparation for this historic sortie, according to a statement from the Ministry of Defence.
- Frontline Naval Air Squadron INAS 314 is stationed in Porbandar, Gujarat.
- This “first-of-its-kind military flying operation” is anticipated to open doors for female aviation cadre officers to take on more responsibility and strive for more difficult roles.

### EXERCISE VAJRA PRAHAR 2022

The 13th Edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces

exercise “Ex Vajra Prahar 2022” commenced at the Special Forces Training School at Bakloh of Himachal Pradesh.

#### About:

- The Vajra Prahar series of joint exercise aims to share best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics as also to improve inter-operability between the Special Forces of both the Nations.
- This annual exercise is hosted alternatively between India and the United States. The 12th edition was conducted at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington (USA) in October last year

### INDIAN ARMY & DFI LAUNCHED ‘HIM DRONE-A-THON’ PROGRAMME

- The Indian Army has launched the Him Drone-a-thon programme in collaboration with the Drone Federation of India.
- The initiative is in line with self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- It is aimed at providing opportunities to the Indian drone ecosystem to develop path-breaking drone capabilities for meeting the requirements of frontline troops. In the 1st phase, drones will be developed for use in Army operations in the Himalayas.

### 12TH EDITION OF DEFENCE EXPO TO BE HELD IN GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT

- The Ministry of Defence has announced that the 12th edition of the Defence Expo, India’s flagship exhibition on Land, Naval and Homeland Security systems, will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The event will be held between October 18 and 22, 2022. The theme for this edition is ‘Path to Pride’ invoking nationalistic pride and encouraging citizens to partake in nation-building through establishing a capable indigenous Defence industry.

### IAF TO PARTICIPATE IN MILITARY DRILLS ‘UDARASHAKTI’ WITH MALAYSIA

- Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent left for Malaysia to participate in a four-day bilateral exercise ‘Udarashakti’ with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF).
- The exercise will give an opportunity to the IAF contingent members to share and learn best practices with some of the best professionals from the RMAF, while also discussing mutual combat capabilities.
- The exercise will witness various aerial combat drills between the two Air Forces,



the IAF said, adding that it would fortify the long-standing bond of friendship and enhance the avenues of defence cooperation between the two Air Forces, thereby augmenting security in the region. From the Indian Air Force Su-30, MKI and C-17 aircraft will be participating while the RMAF will be flying Su-30 MKM aircraft.

### ADVANCED TOWED ARTILLERY GUN SYSTEM (ATAGS)



In a first, an indigenously developed howitzer gun, ATAG, became part of the 21-gun salute during the Independence Day ceremony at the Red Fort.

#### About:

- Developed by the DRDO, the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) was used alongside the traditional British-origin '25 Pounders' artillery guns.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also referred to the gun while speaking about the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative of the Centre during his Independence Day speech.
- The ATAGS is an indigenous 155 mm x 52 calibre howitzer gun developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with its Pune-based facility Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) being the nodal agency.
- The ATAGS project was started in 2013 by DRDO to replace older guns in service in the Indian Army with a modern 155 mm artillery gun.
- Howitzers is an umbrella term for a category of long-range artillery guns.

### INS SATPURA TO 75 LAP "AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV RUN" AT SAN DIEGO

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Satpura reached the San Diego Harbour North American Continent on 13th August to celebrate the 75 years of Independence of India.
- The INS Satpura conducted a 75 Lap Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Run at the San Diego US Navy Base on the Independence Day of India.

- The ship hoisted the Indian Tricolour flag in the presence of the Indian diaspora and distinguished local dignitaries in the North American Continent on the historic occasion of 75 years of Independence of India.

### INDIGENOUSLY-DEVELOPED EQUIPMENT FOR INDIAN ARMY

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh handed over indigenously-developed equipment and systems to the Indian Army in New Delhi.

#### About:

- Future Infantry Soldier, new generation anti-personnel mine, upgraded sights system for tanks, high mobility Infantry Protected Vehicles and Assault Boats are among the state-of-the-art equipment's.
- The equipment/systems have been jointly developed by Indian Army in collaboration with Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Industry, in line with the Prime Minister's vision to modernise the Armed Forces, under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.

### VOSTOK-2022: INDO-CHINA MILITARY DRILLS TO BE HELD IN RUSSIA

- The People's Liberation Army of China will take part in the Vostok-2022 strategic command and staff exercise in Russia, which also includes the armies of India, Belarus, Tajikistan, and Mongolia, according to the country's defence ministry.
- China's People's Liberation Army will send some troops to Russia to participate in the Vostok-2022 (East) strategic exercise, in accordance with the two countries' yearly military cooperation plan and agreement.

#### About

- India, Belarus, Tajikistan, and Mongolia will also contribute troops for the Vostok-2022 drill, according to the China's Ministry of Defense, but the Indian Army has not issued an official statement on the matter.
- China's military's participation in the exercise has nothing to do with the current international and regional situation, but is instead intended to strengthen practical and cordial ties with the militaries of other participating nations, raise the bar for strategic coordination, and increase capacity to respond to a range of security threats.
- The Vostok-2022 strategic command and staff exercise will be conducted at 13 training facilities in the Eastern Military District under the direction of Valery Gerasimov,

the head of the Russia's General Staff, according to the Russia's news agency TASS. Between August 30 and September 5, the drills are anticipated to take place.

- The participating soldiers would rehearse maintaining military security in the eastern region, the Russia's Defense Ministry had earlier indicated.

#### **Vostok-2022: Russia-China Relations**

- Russia's most important ally is China. Since the 1990s, China has been a dependable buyer of Russian military hardware, accounting for 25 to 50 percent of all sales of Russian military hardware abroad, according to Fox News.
- Russia's accusations that China has stolen intellectual property in the past have occasionally strained relations between the two nations, but despite these disagreements, the two nations have grown closer and the joint military drills have persisted.
- China and Mongolia participated in the final Vostok military drills, which were attended for the first time by nations outside the former Soviet Union.
- The most participants since the Soviet Union's days participated, together with 36,000 vehicles, 1,000 aircraft, and 80 warships.

#### **VERTICAL LAUNCH SHORT RANGE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE (VL- SRSAM)**



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

#### **About:**

- The VL-SRSAM, a ship-borne weapon system, is meant for neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges, including sea-skimming targets, and was last test-fired in June.
- The flight test was carried out from an Indian naval ship against a high-speed un-

manned aerial target for demonstration of vertical launch capability. The missiles, equipped with indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker, intercepted the target with high accuracy.

- During the test launch, flight path and vehicle performance parameters were monitored using flight data captured by various range instruments, the statement said.

#### **INDIA'S FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND NAVAL SHOOTING RANGE INAUGURATED AT INS KARNA**

- A first-of-its-kind, Composite Indoor Shooting Range (CISR) was inaugurated by Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta at INS Karna.
- The CISR is a state-of-the-art, self-contained, 25 m, six-lane, live firing range for all primary and secondary weapons in the Navy. With advanced target systems and associated control software, this range would enable personnel to hone their firing skills, enabling them to challenge and take on adversaries in demanding scenarios.

#### **Key points:**

- INS Karna is the first in the Navy & the only military unit in the country to set up and use a facility of this kind.
- The range has been set up to contemporary international standards by an Indian firm and is a shining example of Atma Nirbhar Bharat in the year of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The entire facility was set up in a record time of 120 days from the award of the contract to the firm.

#### **ZORAWAR' LIGHT TANK**

With the experience of deploying armour at an altitude of 15,000 ft. to outmanoeuvre the movement of Chinese forces during the stand-off in eastern Ladakh, the Indian Army is prioritising the procurement of the indigenous Indian light tank named 'Zorawar', for deployment in the mountains.





#### About:

- In addition to the light tank, the Army will induct niche technologies such as loitering munitions, anti-drone capabilities and next generation Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.
- The recent experiences along the northern borders have shown that armour equipment profile is one of the most prominent factors in defining the operational capability of land forces.

### INDIAN NAVY'S AK-630 GUN GETS FIRST MADE IN INDIA AMMUNITION

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India in the defence sector received a major boost as the Indian Navy received the first-ever completely made-in-India 30mm ammunition.
- The ammunition will be used in AK-630 guns, which is fitted on warships. This is a major achievement for the country that private industry has developed fully indigenous ammunition.
- It has been done in 12 months, and all components are indigenous.

### INS VIKRANT TO BE COMMISSIONED ON SEPT. 2

- The first indigenous carrier which has been constructed by Cochin Shipyard Ltd, will soon be commissioned as INS Vikrant on September 2.
- The warship will play the role of ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The aircraft landing trials on board INS Vikrant will begin in November and will be completed by mid-2023

#### PORT KLANG

As part of the Indian Navy's long-range operational deployment, Indian Naval Ship, INS Sumedha visited Port Klang of Malaysia.

#### About:

- Port Klang is a town and the main gateway by sea into Malaysia. Known during colonial times as Port Swettenham but renamed Port Klang in July 1972, it is the largest port in the country.
- INS Sumedha is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel deployed for multiple roles independently and in support of Fleet Operations.

### LIGHT COMBAT HELICOPTERS (LCHs)

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to formally raise

its first unit of indigenous Light Combat Helicopters (LCHs) in Jodhpur in the first week of October coinciding with Air Force Day on October 8.



#### About:

- Ten LCHs will be inducted in the first batch completing one unit.
- The IAF is still working out the total number of LCHs to be acquired, the official stated.
- The IAF operates the older Russian Mi-25 and Mi-35 attack helicopters, of which one squadron has been phased out following the induction of 22 Boeing AH-64E Apache attack helicopters.
- The existing Mi-35 squadron is in the process of being sent for overhaul which will extend its life by many years.
- The Army had already raised its first LCH squadron on June 1 in Bengaluru. The unit will move to the Eastern Command along the Line of Actual Control (LCH) on completion of the raising next year.
- The Army plans to acquire 95 LCHs of which seven units, each having 10 helicopters, are planned to be deployed for combat role in the mountains.
- The LCH is the first dedicated attack helicopter of the Army, which otherwise operates 75 Rudra helicopters, the weaponised variant of the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter.

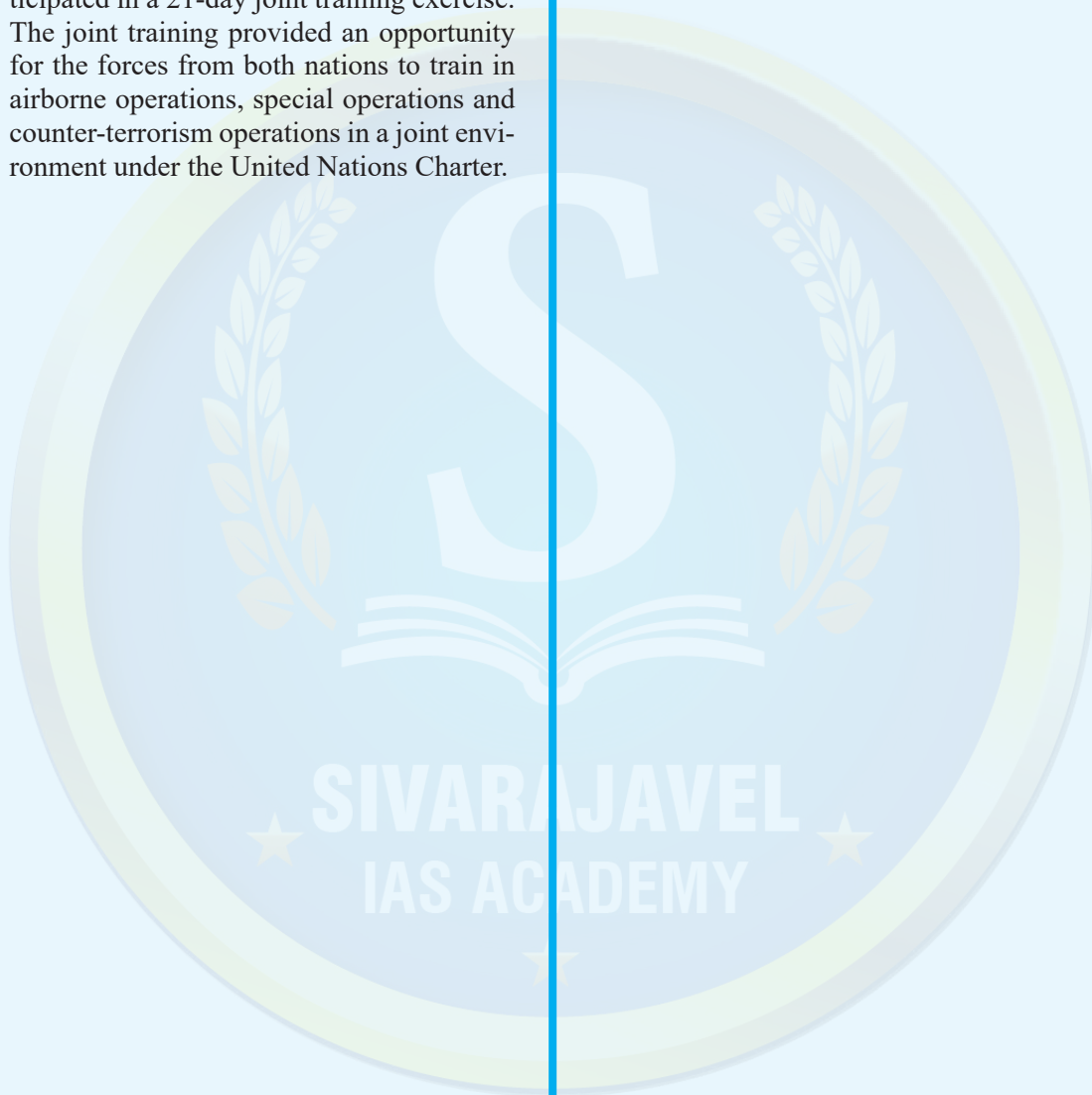
### SAREX-2022: 10TH NATIONAL MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE-22 CONDUCTED IN CHENNAI

- The 10th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise SAREX-22 was carried out by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in Chennai.
- Along with other organisations and foreign participants, the chief of the Indian Coast Guard, VS Pathania, assessed the exercise "SAREX-2022."

- In an emergency, ICG Dornier aircraft demonstrated to viewers how to rescue passengers from ships and aeroplanes

### **VAJRA PRAHAR 2022: INDIA AND USA JOINT EXERCISE CONCLUDED IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

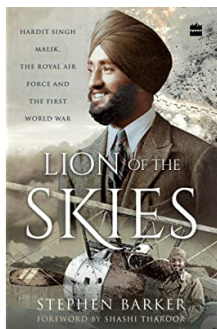
- The 13th edition of the India-US joint special forces exercise Vajra Prahar 2022 concluded at Himachal Pradesh's Bakloh. Special forces from the two countries participated in a 21-day joint training exercise.
- The joint training provided an opportunity for the forces from both nations to train in airborne operations, special operations and counter-terrorism operations in a joint environment under the United Nations Charter.







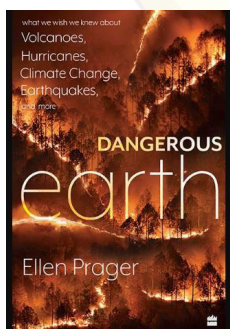
### A BOOK TITLED “LION OF THE SKIES: HARDIT SINGH MALIK” BY STEPHEN BARKER



A book titled “Lion of the Skies: Hardit Singh Malik, the Royal Air Force and the First World War” is all about an “India’s first fighter pilot” who participated in the World War, long before the Indian Air Force was born.

- The book has been written by author Stephen Barker, who describes in great detail, how challenging it was for an Indian to serve in the British armed forces, fighting racial discrimination – both institutional and interpersonal.
- During the First World War, Hardit Singh Malik served as a fighter pilot for both Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Air Force (RAF) for fighting the Germans.
- He is also the first Indian Ambassador to France.

### A BOOK TITLED “DANGEROUS EARTH” BY MARINE BIOLOGIST ELLEN PRAGER



Marine biologist Ellen Prager has come up with a book titled “Dangerous Earth: What we wish we knew about volcanoes, hurricanes, climate change, earthquakes and more”.

- In the book, the author seeks to respond to the most compelling question: Why can’t we better predict natural disasters?

### UNION MINISTER DR JITENDRA SINGH RELEASES BOOK ‘RUSTY SKIES & GOLDEN WINDS’

- Union Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr. Jiten-

dra Singh, launched a poetry book titled ‘Rusty Skies and Golden Winds’ written by 11 years old Sannidhya Sharma, student of class 7th, here at Jammu.

- The book is published by Blue-Rose Publishers. The Union Minister lauded the efforts of the little author in crystallising his thoughts in the shape of a collection of his poems and his rare achievement at this tender age and wished him a bright future.

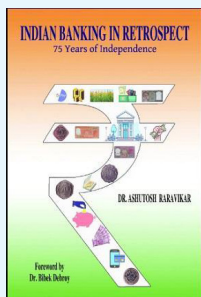
### NETANYAHU’S AUTOBIOGRAPHY ‘BIBI: MY STORY’ DUE OUT IN NOVEMBER

- Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has a memoir coming out this fall.
- “Bibi: My Story” will be published November 22, in Israel.
- Born a year after the founding of the Jewish state, I have dedicated my life to combat the forces that seek its destruction and make peace with those that do not.”
- My story is one of tragedy and triumph, setbacks and successes, lessons learned and loved ones cherished.
- It is woven with that of Israel, which has proven that faith and resolve can overcome insurmountable odds to forge a brilliant future, Netanyahu, 72, said in a statement.

### M VENKAIAH NAIDU LAUNCHED A BOOK TITLED “A NEW INDIA: SELECTED WRITINGS 2014-19”

- Former Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu has released a book titled “A New India: Selected Writings 2014-19”, a compilation of selected articles of former Union Minister and Padma Vibhushan Arun Jaitley on his death anniversary.
- The event was also attended by Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and Union civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who also released the book along with Naidu. The book has been published by Juggernaut.

**A BOOK TITLED “INDIAN BANKING  
IN RETROSPECT – 75 YEARS OF  
INDEPENDENCE” BY DR ASHUTOSH  
RARAVIKAR**



- Director of the Department of Economic & Policy Research (DEPR), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Dr Ashutosh Raravikar has authored a new book titled “Indian Banking in Retrospect – 75 years of Independence”.
- The book is published by Aswad Prakashan Private Limited. Bibek Debroy, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India has written the foreword of the book





## APPOINTMENT

### CSIR APPOINTS NALLATHAMBY KALAISELVI ITS FIRST WOMAN DIRECTOR GENERAL

- Senior electrochemical scientist, Nallathamby Kalaiselvi has become the first woman director general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- Her appointment is for a period of two years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Kalaiselvi succeeds Shekhar Mande, who superannuated in April.
- Kalaiselvi has risen through the ranks in CSIR and had broken the proverbial glass ceiling by becoming the first woman scientist to head the Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI) in February 2019.

#### Experience of Nallathamby Kalaiselvi:

- Kalaiselvi's research work of more than 25 years is primarily focused on electrochemical power systems and in particular, the development of electrode materials, and electrochemical evaluation of in-house prepared electrode materials for their suitability in energy storage device assembly.
- Her research interests include lithium and beyond lithium batteries, supercapacitors and waste-to-wealth driven electrodes and electrolytes for energy storage and electrocatalytic applications. She is currently involved in the development of practically viable Sodium-ion/Lithium-sulfur batteries and supercapacitors.
- CSIR Founded: 26 September 1942;
- CSIR President: Prime Minister of India.

### INDIAN CHESS LEGEND VISWANATHAN ANAND BECOMES FIDE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

- Indian chess legend, Viswanathan Anand was elected deputy president of the International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation (FIDE), the sport's world gov-

erning body.

- While incumbent president Arkady Dvorkovich was re-elected for a second term. Five-time world champion Anand was part of Dvorkovich's team.



### CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSIONER (CVC)

#### Suresh N Patel sworn in as Central Vigilance Commissioner

- Vigilance Commissioner, Suresh N. Patel was appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner. He has been working as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) since June this year. He was sworn in as the chief of the Central Vigilance Commission by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- Previous Central Vigilance Commissioner:



- Former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Sanjay Kothari had completed his term as the CVC on June 24 last year.

#### About the Central Vigilance Commission:

- The Central Vigilance Commission is headed by a Central Vigilance Commissioner and it can have two vigilance commission-

ers. At present, there is no vigilance commissioner working in the Commission. A three-member selection panel headed by the Prime Minister had met in July to decide on the CVC and vigilance commissioners. The other two members on the panel are Union Home Minister and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.

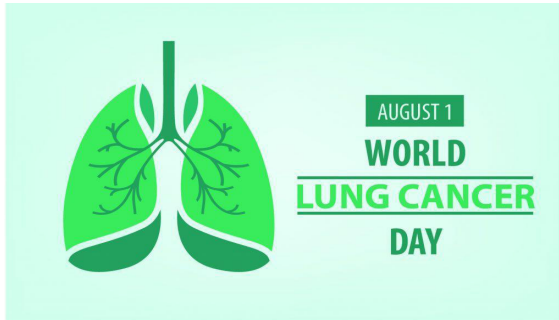
- Central Vigilance Commission Formed: February 1964;
- Central Vigilance Commission Objectives: To address governmental corruption;
- Central Vigilance Commission Jurisdiction: Government of India;
- Central Vigilance Commission Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Central Vigilance Commission First executive: Nittoor Srinivasa Rau;
- Central Vigilance Commission Appointer: President of India.





## IMPORTANT DAYS

### WORLD LUNG CANCER DAY OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 01ST AUGUST



Every year, World Lung Cancer Day is observed on 01st August to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer and highlight the issues of lack of sufficient research funding for the ailment. Lung cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths among men and women.

#### World Lung Cancer Day: History

- The campaign was first organised in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), in collaboration with the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) and also the American College of Chest Physicians.
- The IASLC is the largest organisation in the world of its kind that only deals with lung cancer.

#### Lung cancer can be broadly classified into two main types:

- Small cell lung cancers (SCLC)
- Non-small lung cancers (NSCLC)
- Most common symptoms of Lung Cancer:
- Lung cancer causes pain in the chest and ribs.
- The most common symptom includes coughing which can be chronic, dry, with phlegm or blood.
- It can cause fatigue and loss of appetite.
- Lung cancer increases the risk of respiratory infections, wheezing, and shortness of breath.
- Other common symptoms include weight loss, hoarseness, swollen lymph node, and weakness.

### MUSLIM WOMEN'S RIGHTS DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 01ST AUGUST

- Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed every year on the 01st of August to celebrate the enforcement of the law against the 'Triple Talaq' rule among Muslims.
- According to the Shariat or Muslim Personal Law, Muslim men were given the privilege to end their marriage anytime by uttering the word Talaq three times in a row.
- But the law was repealed by the Indian Government in 2019.

#### Muslim Women's Rights Day: History

- The Central Government of India on 01 August 2019, enacted a law against the Triple Talaq according to which Instant or Triple Talaq was declared a criminal offence.
- The new law was welcomed by all the women in India, especially the Muslim women and since then 01 August is observed as Muslim Women's Rights Day.
- This year marks the second anniversary of Muslim Women's Rights Day in India.

#### Muslim Women's Rights Day 2022: Significance

- The day is celebrated to recognize and honour the enactment of the law against the Triple Talaq.
- The Triple Talaq rule has been declared illegal by the Government of India under the Act of 2019, Protection of Marriage Rights.
- The Muslim women celebrate the day with utmost happiness and have welcomed the law wholeheartedly.

### NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY



8th National handloom day is being observed on August 7, 2022.



### About:

- The day has special significance in the history of the freedom struggle in the country.
- On the same day in 1905 Swadeshi Andolan was started.
- Announcing the date to celebrate National Handloom Day in 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that all families in the country must keep at least one product of khadi and one of handloom.

### National Handloom Day 2022: Schemes

- These initiatives include the Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS), National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS), and Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS).

### National Handloom Day 2022: History

- The Union government officially declared August 7 as NHD in July 2015. In 2015 the Honorable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi declared August 7 as National Handloom Day.
- It was on this day in 1905, that the Swadeshi Movement was launched in the Calcutta Town hall to protest against the partition of Bengal by the British Government.
- India, as a country is rich in culture and craftsmanship and the fashion industry over the years, has also played an integral role in reviving age-old crafts with a contemporary twist.
- This movement encourages the Indians to wear the clothes made by handlooms. The Ministry of Textiles will be celebrating National Handloom Day at Dilli Haat which is celebrated from August 1 to August 15.

### INDIA OBSERVES 2ND 'JAVELIN THROW DAY' ON AUGUST 07, 2022

- The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is celebrating the second 'Javelin Throw Day' on August 7, 2022. The day was first observed in 2021 in honour of Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who won India's first Olympic gold medal in athletics at Tokyo. This decision to observe Javelin Throw Day is also an attempt to attract more youth towards the sport and get champions ready for a bright future in athletics ahead.
- Neeraj Chopra has scripted history at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo when he threw the javelin to a distance of 87.58m to end India's medal drought in athletics at the Olympics. This is India's first-ever gold

medal in athletics in the history of the Olympics. AFI's bid to name August 7 as Javelin Throw Day is an attempt to attract more youth to the sport.

### WORLD OBSERVED NAGASAKI DAY ON 09TH AUGUST

- Japan commemorates the 9th of August every year as Nagasaki Day. On August 9, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan.
- It was code-named "Fat Man" due to the design of the bomb as it had a wide, round shape.
- On August 9, 1945, a US B-29 bomber dropped an atomic bomb on the city, killing nearly 20,000 people.
- The year 2022 will mark the 77th anniversary of the incident and will pay tribute to all those who lost their lives in the attack or were left alive to die slowly in the horrible nuclear radiation.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: 09 AUGUST

- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on 09th August across the world. The celebration highlights the role of indigenous people and the importance of preserving their rights, communities and knowledge they gathered and passed down over centuries.

### International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2022: Theme

- The theme of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples this year is "The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation and Transmission of Traditional Knowledge."

### WORLD BIOFUEL DAY OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 10 AUGUST

- World Biofuel Day is commemorated on 10 August every year to raise awareness about the use of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. During this day, the government and private organisations come together to spread awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as a different source of energy.

### Biofuel Types

- Bioethanol, biodiesel, and biogas are the three types of biofuels used in India. Bioethanol is made from sugar and starch-

heavy crops and surplus agricultural waste and biomass.

- Biodiesel is produced from various types of vegetable oil and biomass wastes from agricultural farms and forests. Biogas is produced via anaerobic digestion of biomass wastes and animal wastes.

#### **World Biofuel Day: History**

- August 10 was chosen as World Biofuel Day since it was on this date in 1893 that German inventor Sir Rudolf Diesel successfully ran his diesel engine on peanut oil.
- This was a path-breaking discovery as it created a safer, renewable and sustainable alternative to fossil fuels.
- In India, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) started celebrating World Biofuel Day, 2015 onwards.

#### **WORLD LION DAY OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 10TH AUGUST**

- World Lion Day is observed globally on 10th August.
- The day aims to spread awareness of lions and the urgent need to strive toward their conservation. Lions are silently in danger of going extinct worldwide.
- Lions supposedly wandered amiably through Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East some three million years ago.

#### **The lion population in India:**

- With the exception of Africa, the number of wild lions has drastically decreased worldwide, but the big animals have settled naturally in India.
- It is interesting to note that particularly in Gir Forest, which is home to the only wild population of lions outside of Africa, their population has continuously expanded in India.
- The population of Asiatic lions has steadily increased in Gujarat's Gir forest and the larger Saurashtra protected area after experiencing a long period of decline.
- Between 2015 and 2020, their population increased from 523 to 674. The much larger African lions are a distant relative of the Asiatic lions of India.

#### **World Lion Day: History**

- In 2013, the first World Lion Day was observed. Dereck and Beverly Joubert, from the Big Cat Initiative and National Geographic, founded it. Their objective was to safeguard lions in their natural environment. Additionally, they aimed to collabo-

rate on safety measures with localities that are close to wild cats.

#### **WORLD ELEPHANT DAY OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 12 AUGUST**

- World Elephant Day is celebrated on 12 August every year to raise awareness about the plight of elephants all over the world.
- The day tries to highlight why these animals should be protected and what laws and measures can be enacted to ensure their survival.
- The main objective of World Elephant Day is to create awareness on elephant conservation and to share knowledge and positive solutions for the better protection and management of wild and captive elephants.



#### **World Elephant Day: History**

- On 12 August 2012, World Elephant Day was co-founded by Canadian filmmaker Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation of Thailand, an initiative of HM Queen Sirikit.
- This day was observed for the first time on 12 August 2012. And since then, World Elephant Day has been celebrated every year.

#### **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATES ON 12TH AUGUST**

- International Youth Day is celebrated on 12 August every year. This day is celebrated to raise awareness regarding issues that are faced by the world's youth.
- The objective of International Youth Day 2022 is to amplify the message that action is needed across all generations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and leave no one behind.
- It will also raise awareness of certain barriers to intergenerational solidarity, notably ageism, which impacts young and old persons while having detrimental effects on society as a whole.

#### **International Youth Day 2022: Theme**

- The theme for 2022's edition of International Youth Day is "Intergenerational solidarity: creating a world for all ages." Coop-



eration and harmony between the youth and older generations is necessary to achieve sustainable development goals, as per Agenda 2030 of the United Nations (UN).

### International Youth Day: History

- Young people, who attended the first session of the UN's World Youth Forum in Vienna, Austria, in 1991, suggested that an International Youth Day be declared to help raise money for the United Nations Youth Fund.

### WORLD SANSKRIT DIWAS

On the auspicious occasion of Shraavana Poornima occurs the World Sanskrit Diwas.

#### About:

- This year it falls on August 12, 2022.
- The mother of all languages, Sanskrit, is one of the oldest languages in the world.
- It seems to be the first spoken language in ancient India.

### INTERNATIONAL LEFTHANDERS DAY OBSERVED ON 13TH AUGUST

- International Lefthanders Day is observed on August 13 across the world. The day is observed to raise awareness about the lefty people's experience with living in a right-hand dominant world. The day also spreads awareness on issues faced by left-handers, eg the importance of the special needs for left-handed children and the likelihood for left-handers to develop schizophrenia.

### WORLD ORGAN DONATION DAY CELEBRATES ON 13TH AUGUST

- World Organ Donation Day is observed globally on the 13th of August. This day is observed to spread awareness about the importance of donating organs.
- It also plays a pivotal role in debunking various misconceptions about donating organs. Donating organs of the deceased like kidneys, heart, pancreas, eyes, lungs, etc can help save the lives of those who are facing chronic illnesses.
- However, it is important to ensure those who donate their organs do not suffer from HIV, cancer, or any heart disease.
- World Organ Donation Day 2022: Theme
  - This year's theme for World Organ Donation Day 2022 is "let's pledge to donate organs and save lives". The Day is celebrated to raise awareness of the need for donating organs and to thank donors for their life-saving contributions.

### PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIVAS

The 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2023 will be held at Indore in January next year.

#### About:

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year on 9th January to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India.
- It also commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9th January 1915.

### WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY OBSERVED ON 19TH AUGUST

- World Humanitarian Day is celebrated on August 19 every year to recognise all aid and health workers who volunteer to help victims of disasters and crises against all odds.
- The day aims to spread awareness about the need for humanitarian assistance worldwide. The UN hopes that the day will serve as a reminder to people of the risk taken by some to save lives and support humanitarian causes.

#### World Humanitarian Day 2022: Campaign

- The 2022 campaign, according to the United Nations, shines a light on "thousands of volunteers, professionals and crisis-affected people who deliver urgent health care, shelter, food, protection, water and much more."

### WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY CELEBRATES ON 19TH AUGUST

- World Photography Day is celebrated on August 19 each year.
- The aim of World Photography Day is to create awareness, share ideas and encourage people to take up photography.
- The annual celebration pays tribute to the art of photography and also encourages those who are passionate about it to come together and share their work. It also serves as a motivating day for enthusiasts to pursue photography as a career.

### WORLD MOSQUITO DAY 20 TH AUGUST

- World Mosquito Day: The monsoon season is when mosquito-borne illnesses including malaria, dengue fever, and chikungunya are most prevalent.
- World Mosquito Day reminds us of the Millions of people worldwide are in danger of dying from it, despite the fact that it is treat-



able and preventable.

- The illness has wreaked havoc on people every year including this. According to the World Health Organization, there was a 69,000% increase in malaria-related deaths between the years of 2019 and 2020.

#### **World Mosquito Day: WHO Report**

- The World Health Organization reports that there was an increase in malaria-related mortality between the years of 2019 and 2020 of 69,000.
- Therefore, six lakh twenty-seven thousand deaths are anticipated in the year 2020.
- The studies also showed that the WHO African Region had disproportionately the highest rates of malaria.
- Both 96% of malaria deaths and 95% of cases occurred in the relevant regions. Eighty percent of the fatalities involved youngsters under the age of five.

### **AKSHAY URJA DIWAS 2022: INDIA OBSERVES RENEWABLE ENERGY DAY**

#### **Akshay Urja Diwas 2022**

- Every year on the 20th of August India observes Akshay Urja Diwas or Renewable Energy Day. Akshay Urja Diwas 2022 or Renewable Energy Day aims to spread awareness about the development and adoption of renewable energy in India.
- Akshay Urja Diwas 2022, marks its importance by promoting and lining up the alarming rate of depletion of Natural resources.
- This day makes people aware of the use of natural resources like wind energy, solar energy, and hydropower.

#### **Akshay Urja Diwas 2022: Objectives of the Campaign**

- The campaign aimed to target school students and college students to promote awareness with the help of the young generation.
- Children were the main focus as they are the upcoming future of India, and it is important to make them aware first.
- Several schools and colleges, participated in this campaign with a huge number of participation of students.
- Under the campaign, various activities were included such as cultural programs, debates, drawing competitions, and rallies too were conducted during the Akshay Urja Diwas campaign.

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM**

- International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on August 21 each year in memory of the victims of terrorism.
- The day is observed to show the victims of terrorism that they are not forgotten and they are respected and recognised across the world.
- The theme for 2022's International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is "memories," as mentioned in a United Nations (UN).
- The theme was selected after consulting with victims of terrorism and victims' associations.

### **WORLD SENIOR CITIZEN DAY 2022 CELEBRATES ON 21ST AUGUST**

- World Senior Citizens' Day is celebrated on August 21 every year.
- It is also known as National Senior Citizens' Day in the United States (US).
- The day is observed with the intent to highlight the contributions of elderly people in human society and honour them.
- The day is also celebrated to bring attention to various issues that affect the elderly, such as health issues and abuse by younger people, whether family or outsiders.

#### **About**

- As noted by the United Nations (UN), the elderly population is projected to reach more than 1.5 billion by 2050.
- This rise will be prominently seen in East Asia and South-East Asia. Less developed nations will host more than two-thirds of the planet's elderly people by 2050. With a growing elderly population, it is pertinent that a robust system exists which supports their all-around wellbeing.
- World Senior Citizens' Day has its roots back in the August 19, 1988 proclamation by the then President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan.

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF**

- International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, observed on August 22.
- On this day, the international community

honours the survivors and victims of religious-based violence.

- The day aims to remember the victims and survivors of evil acts on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.

### **WORLD WATER WEEK 2022: 23 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER**

- World Water Week 2022 takes place from 23 August to 1 September. The World Water Week is an annual event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991 to address the global water issues and related concerns of international development.
- The theme of the 2022 World Water Week is: "Seeing the unseen: The value of water", which helps us view water in new and fascinating ways.

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION**

- The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is an international day celebrated on August 23 of each year.
- The day was chosen by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade
- The theme for this year is 'Decolonisation.' The fundamental right to self-determination is identified by the United Nations as core to decolonization, allowing not only independence, but also other ways of decolonization.

### **INTERNAUT DAY CELEBRATES EVERY YEAR ON 23 AUGUST**

- Internaut Day is being celebrated around the world to mark the invention of the World Wide Web.
- An "internaut" is a person who possesses a thorough knowledge of how to use the Internet and its history.
- August 23 marks the day when the World Wide Web was opened to the public back in the year 1991 for the first time by WWW inventor Tim Berners Lee as he allowed its access, CERN announced that the internet would be free to everyone and there would be no fee for its use.

### **WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY 2022- 26 th AUGUST**

- Women's Equality Day 2022 is celebrated all over the world to celebrate women's empowerment and equality.
- This year, Women's Equality Day will be celebrated on 26th August 2022. In 1973, the first Women's Equality Day was celebrated across the world.
- Every year 26th August is celebrated as Women's Equality Day because on this day the United States gave women the right to vote.
- The day highlights the continuous efforts of women to achieve complete equality in society.
- Women's Equality Day 2022 is dedicated to every woman, who has fought for her equal position in this society and to all who are continuing the battle for equality in society.
- This day is celebrated to always remember how our society has evolved from not giving equality to men and women, to celebrating a day for women's equality
- Women's Equality Day 2022 will be celebrated on the 26th of August and every year it is based on themes. Women's Equality Day 2022 theme is "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow".

### **INTERNATIONAL WHALE SHARK DAY 2022: AUGUST 30**

- International Whale Shark Day 2022: International Whale Shark Day is observed on August 30, and to commemorate this occasion in (International Whale Shark Day 2022), try to understand the purpose.
- The International Whale Shark Day 2022 is to raise awareness of the value of whale sharks and the need for their conservation.
- People can learn about the magnificent species on this day and take action to protect them on International Whale Shark Day 2022.

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT : 31ST AUGUST**

- The International Day for People of African Descent is celebrated on 31 August globally.
- The day was first celebrated in 2021, halfway through the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), which calls for concrete actions on the part

of states and other members of the international community to promote recognition, justice and development.

- The United Nations aims to promote the extraordinary contributions of the African diaspora around the world and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people of African descent







### **NEWS 1- ALPHAFOLD**

DeepMind, a company owned by Google, announced this week that it had predicted the three-dimensional structures of more than 200 million proteins using AlphaFold.

#### **About:**

- AlphaFold is an AI-based protein structure prediction tool. It used processes based on “training, learning, retraining and relearning” to predict the structures of the entire 214 million unique protein sequences deposited in the Universal Protein Resource (UniProt) database.
- The Indian community of structural biology needs to take advantage of the AlphaFold database and learn how to use the structures to design better vaccines and drugs.

### **NEWS 2 -LOCKDOWN LYRICS**

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has released a book titled Lockdown Lyrics’, a collection of poems written by Sanjukta Dash. The poems are an unadulterated narration of the author’s experiences and exasperations during the pandemic. She has reflected all the trauma & tribulations and hope and aspirations of humanity during this most critical journey of society in a long time.

#### **About the Sanjukta Dash:**

- Sanjukta Dash is a well-known name in Odia literature. She has three anthology of poetries in Odia- Antaswar, Amrut Anwesha and Apekshare Ebe Bi. Lockdown Lyrics is her debut endeavour in English literature published by Authors Press New Delhi.

### **NEWS 3- AYMAN AL-ZAWAHIRI**

Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed in a CIA drone strike in Afghanistan over the weekend, US officials said.

#### **About:**

- The killing of Zawahiri is considered the biggest blow to the militant group since its founder Osama bin Laden was killed in 2011.
- Zawahiri, an Egyptian who had a 25 mil-

lion dollar bounty on his head, helped co-ordinate the 9/11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in the US in 2001. One of the US officials said the CIA carried out a drone strike in the Afghan capital Kabul on Sunday.

- US President Joe Biden addressed the nation from the White House on the operation. The drone attack is the first known US strike inside Afghanistan since US troops and diplomats left the country in August 2021.
- In a statement, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that a strike took place and strongly condemned it, calling it a violation of international principles.

### **NEWS 4 -SWEDEN AND FINLAND APPROVED TO JOIN NATO BY US SENATE**

- With 95 senators voting in favour of the measure, the US Senate decisively approved the NATO membership of Sweden and Finland. Republican Senator Josh Hawley of Missouri cast the lone dissenting vote, contending that the threat posed by China should receive considerably more attention than European security. Finland and Sweden’s membership in NATO has the strong support of US President Joe Biden, who in July forwarded the issue to the Senate for consideration.

### **NEWS 5- NITISH KUMAR RESIGNED AS NDA CHIEF MINISTER IN BIHAR**

- Nitish Kumar has submitted his resignation as the NDA chief minister in Bihar to the state governor Phagu Chauhan. He also submitted a support letter of 160 MLAs to stake claims to form a new government. In the 243-member assembly, the BJP has 77 lawmakers and JD (U) 45. The RJD is currently the single-largest party with 79 MLAs, Congress 19 and the CPI(ML)-led Left Front 17.

### **NEWS 6- TRANSGENDER PILOTS**

In a big win for aspiring pilot Adam Harry and the entire transgender community, the aviation safety

regulator has for the first time framed new medical guidelines that allow transgender persons who have completed gender transition therapy or surgery to be declared fit to fly.

**About:**

- An ongoing hormone therapy will also not be a ground for disqualification.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued guidelines for aeromedical evaluation of transgender persons for obtaining medical clearance for all categories of pilot's licence — private pilot's licence, student pilot licence and commercial pilot licence.
- These say that candidates who have completed their hormone therapy and gender affirmation surgery more than five years ago will be declared medically fit provided they clear screening for mental health in accordance with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.
- If transgender applicants have completed the treatment within the past five years, they will have to undergo a psychological and psychiatric evaluation apart from providing a detailed report from their treating endocrinologist as well as a report from the surgeon, if there has been a surgery within the past year.

### **NEWS7- NITISH KUMAR STEPS DOWN AS CM OF BIHAR, DISSOLVES COALITION WITH BJP**

- Nitish Kumar resigned from the position of chief minister of Bihar, which he had been in an alliance with the BJP. At Raj Bhavan, Nitish Kumar went to see Governor Phagu Chauhan alone before announcing his resignation to the awaiting media.
- As per the information, Nitish Kumar has presented the governor of Bihar with the signatures of his party's MLAs and the Mahagathbandhan, and he is hoping for an invitation to form the government once more

### **TALC**

Pharmaceutical giant Johnson and Johnson (J&J) announced that it would discontinue the sale of its talc-based baby powder globally in 2023.

**About:**

- The announcement came amidst the tens of thousands of lawsuits from women who claim that the product caused them to have ovarian cancer, due to the alleged contamination of asbestos, a known carcinogen.
- Talc is the softest known mineral and is mined from underground deposits. Chem-

ically, it is hydrous magnesium silicate, according to the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA), and is used in a variety of cosmetic and personal care products, like baby powder, lipstick, eyeshadow and foundation.

- When reduced to a fine powder, it is able to absorb moisture and reduce friction which keeps the skin dry, helps prevent rashes, stops makeup from caking and generally helps improve the feel and texture of a product.

**Does it cause cancer?**

- Asbestos, the name for another group of naturally occurring silicate minerals, can also be found near talc deposits.
- There is the potential for contamination of talc with asbestos. Asbestos has been used in construction and manufacturing, and is known to cause lung cancer, ovarian cancer, mesothelioma and other health conditions.

### **NEWS 8- WORLD'S HIGHEST CHENAB RAILWAY BRIDGE INAUGURATED**

- The golden joint of the world's highest railway bridge over River Chenab was inaugurated.
- For the first time ever since independence, Srinagar will be linked to the rest of India after the overarch deck on the world's highest single-arch railway bridge over River Chenab.
- The bridge will be 35 meters higher than the Eiffel Tower

### **NEWS 9 -REGISTRIES OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

National Health Authority has announced performance-based fund allocation to State and Union Territories for strengthening the registries of healthcare professionals and health facilities.

**About:**

- This performance-based fund allocation will help in structured implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.
- CEO of National Health Authority Dr RS Sharma said, the benefits of digital health services can be further extended to masses with the enthusiastic support from the States and UTs in registering more healthcare professionals and health facilities.
- He said, States and UTs support will help in building national-level registries of healthcare professionals and health facilities. Five hundred crore rupees had been demarcated for setting up of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission's offices at State and UTs by the financial year 2025-26.



### NEWS 10- MEGHALAYA SPORTS DEPARTMENT SET TO HOST 2ND EDITION OF NORTH EAST OLYMPICS

- Meghalaya is all set to host the upcoming 2nd edition of the North East Olympics from 30th October.
- Meghalaya Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, and the North East Olympic Association was held last evening to finalize the list of sports disciplines.
- The first edition of the Games was held in Manipur in 2018, with 12 disciplines.

### NEWS 11- MEDICINE FROM THE SKY': FIRST PILOT PROJECT LAUNCHED IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- First Piolet Project: 'Medicine from the sky'
- 'Medicine from the sky' pilot project drone service launched by the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu.
- 'Medicine from the sky' is also a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The first successful flight was conducted from Sep-pa to Chaoyang Tajo in the East Kameng district.
- This pilot project was a result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to introduce new technologies in the health care sector of India.

### NEWS 12- HUMAN-TO-ANIMAL TRANSMISSION OF MONKEYPOX

The first case of human-to-animal transmission of monkeypox has been reported in a dog, according to research published in the medical journal The Lancet on August 10.

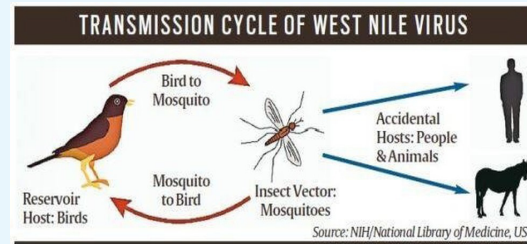
#### About:

- Following the news, the United States public health agency, the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, has updated its prevention recommendations on infected persons having pets at home.
- The infected dog showed symptoms such as lesions on the skin, specifically "mucocutaneous lesions, including abdomen pustules and a thin anal ulceration".
- It is unclear right now if dogs can further spread the disease to other dogs or humans.

### NEWS 13- WEST NILE VIRUS

The New York City Health Department announced that the West Nile virus had been detected in two people, one in Brooklyn and another in Queens, as

well as in a "record number" of infected mosquitoes throughout the city.



#### About:

- West Nile Virus (WNV) can cause neurological disease and death in people. WNV is commonly found in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia.
- WNV is maintained in nature in a cycle involving transmission between birds and mosquitoes. Humans, horses and other mammals can be infected.
- West Nile Virus (WNV) is a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae.

### NEWS 14- DAHI-HANDI" RECOGNISED AS AN OFFICIAL SPORT OF MAHARASHTRA

- Dahi-Handi' is Now an Official Sport in Maharashtra
- Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announces that 'Dahi-Handi' will be recognized as an official sport in Maharashtra. The state is set to organize a 'Pro- Dahi Handi' completion. The Maharashtra Government also announces that the Govindas will get a job under the sports category and if any Govinda loses his life insurance of Rs 10 lakh will be given, also if they end up being partially handicapped insurance of Rs 5 lakh will be given by the Government of Maharashtra.

### NEWS 15- SCOTLAND BECOMES FIRST NATION TO MAKE PERIOD PRODUCTS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE

- Local governments of Scotland are now required by law of Scotland to offer free sanitary products (Period Products) like tampons and pads to anyone who needs them.
- As the Period Products Act takes effect in Scotland, goods will be supplied through councils and educational institutions.
- The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill was unanimously approved by MSPs in November 2020.
- Labour MSP Monica Lennon, who has



been working to eradicate period poverty since 2016, introduced the bill.

#### **NEWS 16- GREECE'S LEFT ENHANCED EU SCRUTINY AFTER 12 YEARS OF PAIN**

- Greece's exit from the EU's enhanced surveillance framework for Greece's economy, ending 12 years of suffering and giving it more flexibility to make its own policies.
- Greece's economic performance and policies have been rigorously watched under the framework since 2018 to ensure it carried out the reforms pledged during three multilateral bailouts from the European Union (EU) and the IMF between 2010 and 2015, totaling more than 260 billion euros (\$261 billion).

#### **NEWS 17- PUNJAB & HARYANA AGREE TO BE NAME CHANDIGARH AIRPORT AFTER BHAGAT SINGH**

- The Punjab and Haryana governments have agreed to name the Chandigarh International Airport in Mohali after Shaheed Bhagat Singh.
- The decision was taken during a meeting between Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann & Haryana deputy CM Dushyant Chautala.
- The Punjab government has already declared a state holiday on March 23, the martyrdom day of legendary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.

#### **NEWS 18- CHHATTISGARH GOVERNMENT TO SET UP 300 RURAL INDUSTRIAL PARKS IN THE STATE**

- The Chhattisgarh government will set up rural industrial parks in the state. In the first year of the project, there will be 300 such parks. This move aimed to strengthen the rural economy and make the "gauthan" (cattle shed) a centre of livelihood. The project will be launched on Gandhi Jayanti, October 2. The first such park in Chhattisgarh came up in Kulgaon, Kanker district, which has been named Gandhi Gram.

##### **Rural industrial parks:**

- The district administration, along with women's self-help groups, has developed the park.
- The forest department has started a residential training centre, based on the value addition of minor forest produce. Chhattisgarh has set up 8,404 gauthans of the 10,624 sanctioned.
- The state government is procuring cow

dung at Rs 2 a kg for making vermicompost. Production will increase once the 300 parks take shape.

- The state government has been developing basic infrastructures, such as interlocking, cement/concrete roads, dormitories, residential rooms, kitchen halls, building sheds for women's self-help groups, and underground irrigation pipelines. The government is planning to use District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds for this.

#### **NEWS 19- UP GOVERNMENT TO BUILD INDIA'S FIRST EDUCATION TOWNSHIP**

- The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to build an education township in the state. As per the Yogi Adityanath government, the education township will be developed on the idea of 'Single Entry, Multiple Exit'. The move will provide high-quality education to the youth and equip them with a variety of professional skills in a single place. Besides, it will provide accommodation and many other facilities to both students and teachers.
- The objective of the education township:
- The Government's objective behind the education township is to provide high-quality education to the youth and equip them with a variety of professional skills in one place. Built on the idea of 'Single Entry, Multiple Exit' (come like a blank paper and carry multiple skills), the focus of this township will be on high-end education, which will cater to students from not only the country but also African, Latin American and Central Asian countries.

#### **NEWS 20- INDIA'S FIRST EARTHQUAKE MEMORIAL**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Gujarat. During this visit, Mr Modi will inaugurate several projects in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Kutch.

##### **About:**

- On the first day of his visit, Mr Modi will address a gathering at the Khadi Utsav to be held on Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. As many as seven thousand five hundred weavers from across the state will participate in this historic event and spin the charkha at a same time throughout the event.
- From the same venue, the PM will inaugurate the pedestrian-only 'Atal Bridge' on the Sabarmati river in Ahmedabad city.
- PM will also inaugurate and lay foundation

stone for several projects at Kutch which include country's first earthquake memorial named as smriti van. The memorial has been built as a tribute to more than 13,000 people who had died in the, Gujarat earthquake of 2001.

### **NEWS 21- NAGALAND GETS ITS 2ND RAILWAY STATION IN 119 YEARS**

- North-east state, Nagaland got its second railway station after a gap of more than 119 years with the commissioning of a new facility at Shokhuvi.
- Dimapur Railway Station, in the heart of the commercial hub of the state, was inaugurated in 1903.
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio flagged off the Donyi Polo Express from Shokhuvi Railway Station during the day.
- The Donyi Polo Express ran daily between Guwahati in Assam and Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The train service has now been extended till Shokhuvi, a few kilometres from Dimapur.
- Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh will be directly connected by train service with the extension of Donyi Polo Express till Shokhuvi Railway Station.
- Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) General Manager Anshul Gupta said it is a proud moment for the Indian Railways and NFR which is working to connect all the capitals of the northeastern states with railways in a time-bound manner.
- The foundation stone for the 90-km-long broad gauge route from Dhansiri in Assam to Zubza in the Kohima district of Nagaland was laid in 2016, and work is under-way. The deadline was extended from 2020 to 2024.

### **NEWS 22- ALL 23 AIIMS TO BE NAMED AFTER LOCAL HEROES, MONUMENTS, GEOGRAPHICAL IDENTITIES**

- The government of India has approved a proposal to give specific names to all the AIIMS, based on regional heroes, freedom fighters, historical events or monuments of the area, or their distinct geographical identity.
- The majority of the 23 All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has submitted a list of names. All the AIIMS are known by its generic name and distinguished only by their location.
- Six new AIIMS — Bihar (Patna), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Odisha (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur), and Uttarakhand (Rishikesh) were approved in Phase 1 of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) and are fully functional.

### **CM ASHOK GEHLOT KICKS OFF RURAL OLYMPIC GAMES IN RAJASTHAN**

- Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot has inaugurated a month-long Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympic Games in Jodhpur.
- The village Olympics is expected to see the participation of 44,000 villages across Rajasthan, with nearly 30 lakh people across various age groups already registering themselves for the games. Out of the 30 lakh participants, 9 lakh are women.



## NAVROZ

On August 16, 2022, Navroz or the Parsi New Year is being celebrated.



### About:

- It is the most widely celebrated festival of the Parsi community.
- This is seen as a harbinger of peace and prosperity. In Mumbai and its suburbs, which host a considerable population of Parsi community, the festival is celebrated with grand lunch and dinner with the best and finest variety of Parsi cuisine.
- Parsis see this festival as the great occasion to get together, eat and mingle.
- On this day, the Parsis visit the Agyaris or the fire temples to offer prayers. They feed the poor on this day, as the new year has to start on a good note. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar have greeted the people on the occasion.

## UNESCO'S INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE LIST: INDIA NOMINATED GARBA

- India has nominated the Indian dance form Garba to be inscribed on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list. Last year, Durga Puja was included in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list and for 2022, India has nominated 'Garba'.
- The next UNESCO meeting will be held in November. In July, India was elected by UNESCO to serve on the distinguished intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- A total of 14 elements from India are inscribed on UNESCO'S list of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Humanity. These elements include music, dance, theatre, festi-

vals, rituals, and storytelling.

What is UNESCO'S list of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Humanity?

- The UNESCO'S list of Intangible Cultural Heritage was established in 2008 after the convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003 came into effect. This list is made up of those intangible heritage elements that help to demonstrate the diversity of cultural heritage.

### List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in India

- Buddhist Chanting
- Kalbelia
- Chhau Dance
- Koodiyattam
- Kumbh Mela
- Mudiyyett
- Nawruz
- Ramlila
- Sankirtana
- Ramman
- Traditional Brass and Copper Craft of Utensil making
- Vedic Chanting
- Yoga
- Durga Puja

### About Garba

- Garba is a dance form which has originated in Gujarat, India. The term Garba has derived from the Sanskrit term Garbha, which means womb.
- Garba traditionally is performed around clay lanterns with a light inside called Garbha Deep or Womb lamp.
- It is believed that the lantern represents life and the fetus in the womb of a mother. The dance honors goddess Durga, the feminine form of divinity.
- Garba is performed in circles which symbolizes the Hindu view of time.
- The rings of dancers revolve in cycles, as time in Hinduism is cyclical.
- As these cycles of time revolve, from birth to life, to death, and again to rebirth, the Goddess remains constant.



## 2022 AUGUST MONTH QUESTIONS

**1) V.K. Paul task force related to**

- a) Coronavirus
- b) Monkeypox virus
- c) Swine flu
- d) Bird flu
- e) Answer not known

**2) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is an infectious disease in cattle caused by a virus of the family Poxviridae, also known as Neethling virus.
- 2) The disease is characterized by fever, enlarged superficial lymph nodes and multiple nodules

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**3) A book titled Lockdown Lyrics is released by**

- a) Odisha chief minister
- b) Uttarakhand chief minister
- c) Uttar Pradesh chief minister
- d) Rajasthan chief minister
- e) Answer not known

**4) Which one of the following nations is not involved in the missile defence drill?**

- a) US
- b) South Korea
- c) Japan
- d) Australia
- e) Answer not known

**5) Which is the first smart city in India to receive data from Google's EIE ?**

- a) Allahabad
- b) Aurangabad
- c) Ahmedabad
- d) Pune
- e) Answer not known

**6) Canadian Jeffrey Armstrong received 'Distinguished Indologist award for the year \_\_\_\_**

- a) 2019
- b) 2020
- c) 2021
- d) 2022
- e) Answer not known

**7) world lung day is observed on**

- a) August 1
- b) August 2
- c) August 3
- d) August 4
- e) Answer not known

**8) Muslim Women's Rights Day 2022 observed on**

- a) August 1
- b) August 2
- c) August 3
- d) August 4
- e) Answer not known

**9) Vijay Kumar relates to which sports**

- a) Judo
- b) Weightlifter
- c) Wrestling
- d) High Jump
- e) Answer not known

**10) Foodborne Pathogen Survey Network (IC-MR-FoodNet) is inaugurated by**

- a) ICMR
- b) ICAR
- c) AIIMS
- d) Ministry of health
- e) Answer not known

**11) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Shrimad Rajchandra was a renowned Jain poet.
- 2) He wrote much philosophical poetry including Atma Siddhi.

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

**12) India ratified pledges to accelerate the country's reliance on renewable energy to power the economy and be effectively free from use of fossil fuels by the year \_\_\_\_**

- a) 2050
- b) 2060
- c) 2070
- d) 2080
- e) Answer not known

**13) Nayanmoni Saikia, Pinki, Lovely Choubey and Rupa Rani Tirkey related to**

- a) Lawn bowls
- b) Cricket
- c) Volleyball
- d) Badminton
- e) Answer not known

**14) Who designed the National Flag?**

- a) Pingali Venkayya
- b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- c) Vithal bhai patel
- d) Mahatma Gandhi
- e) Answer not known

**15) Wild Life (Protection) Act, was enacted in the year \_\_\_\_.**

- a) 1972
- b) 1973
- c) 1974
- d) 1975
- e) Answer not known

**16) Right to Education Act is enshrined under the article \_\_\_\_ of the constitution**

- a) Article 21
- b) Article 22
- c) Article 21A
- d) Article 24
- e) Answer not known

**17) Hiroshima Day is observed on**

- a) August 5
- b) August 6
- c) August 7
- d) August 8
- e) Answer not known

**18) World's largest floating solar power plant going to be built in \_\_\_\_**

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Tamil nadu
- e) Answer not known

**19) Yudh Abhyas military exercise held at**

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Jammu and Kashmir
- e) Answer not known

**20) Nanda Lake located in**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Goa
- d) Tamil nadu
- e) Answer not known

**21) Chabahar port is located in**

- a) Iran
- b) Iraq
- c) Pakistan
- d) Srilanka
- e) Answer not known

**22) Central Vigilance Commission founded in the year**

- a) 1962
- b) 1963
- c) 1964
- d) 1965
- e) Answer not known

**23) Maritime Partnership Exercise is the military exercise between india and**

- a) France
- b) Japan
- c) US
- d) Russia
- e) Answer not known

**24) Indian Air Force will retire all squadrons of MiG-21 by \_\_\_\_**

- a) 2025
- b) 2026
- c) 2027
- d) 2028
- e) Answer not known

**25) exercise drill "Pitch Black 2022" held at**

- a) Japan
- b) US
- c) Russia
- d) Australia
- e) Answer not known

**26) PESA Act was enacted in the year \_\_\_\_**

- a) 1996
- b) 1997
- c) 1998
- d) 1999
- e) Answer not known

**27) Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act (HMGA) was enacted in the year \_\_\_\_**

- a) 1952
- b) 1953
- c) 1954
- d) 1956
- e) Answer not known

**28) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The innovative Market Linkage scheme-PARVAZ possesses tremendous potential for uplifting the economic conditions of the farmers across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- 2) The scheme was launched by the Govern-

ment with an aim to create market linkage support for the shipment of Agriculture and Horticulture perishables being harvested in Jammu and Kashmir through Air Cargo.

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**29) National Handloom Day is celebrated on**

- a) August 6
- b) August 7
- c) August 8
- d) August 9
- e) Answer not known

**30) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations established in the year**

- a) 1965
- b) 1966
- c) 1967
- d) 1968
- e) Answer not known

**31) International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples observed on**

- a) 09 August
- b) 10 August
- c) 11 August
- d) 12 August
- e) Answer not known

**32) Who is appointed as the first woman director general of CSIR?**

- a) Nallathamby Kalaiselvi
- b) Amrita kumari
- c) Rekha Sharma
- d) Pooja Singh
- e) Answer not known

**33) V Pranav becomes India's \_\_\_\_\_ Grandmaster**

- a) 74 th
- b) 75th
- c) 76 th
- d) 77 th
- e) Answer not known

**34) Mission Vatsalya Scheme is implemented by**

- a) Ministry of Women and children
- b) Ministry of health
- c) Ministry of education
- d) Ministry of finance
- e) Answer not known

**35) India observes Javelin Throw Day on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) August 7
- b) August 8
- c) August 9
- d) August 10
- e) Answer not known

**36) The 80th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement observed on**

- a) August 7
- b) August 8
- c) August 9
- d) August 10
- e) Answer not known

**37) Sakshi Malik related to**

- a) Cricket
- b) Wrestling
- c) Weightlifter
- d) Judo
- e) Answer not known

**38) Ex Vajra Prahar is the military between india and**

- a) US
- b) Russia
- c) France
- d) England
- e) Answer not known

**39) Zoological Survey of India was established by the government of India in the year**

- a) 1915
- b) 1916
- c) 1917
- d) 1918
- e) Answer not known

**40) World Biofuel Day observed globally on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) August 10
- b) August 11
- c) August 12
- d) August 13
- e) Answer not known

**41) World Lion Day observed globally observed on**

- a) 10th August
- b) 11 th August
- c) 12 th August
- d) 13 th August
- e) Answer not known

**42) Chess Olympiad 2026 to be hosted by \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) Uzbekistan
- b) Turkey
- c) Russia
- d) United States of America
- e) Answer not known



**43) Consider the following statement regarding Atal Pension yojana**

- 1) It provides a minimum guaranteed pension ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age.
- 2) The amount of pension is guaranteed for lifetime to the spouse on death of the subscriber.

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**44) World Elephant Day observed globally on**

- a) August 12
- b) August 13
- c) August 14
- d) August 15
- e) Answer not known

**45) International Youth Day celebrates on** \_\_\_\_\_

- a) August 12
- b) August 13
- c) August 14
- d) August 15
- e) Answer not known

**46) Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise' is the initiative of**

- a) Ministry of Social Justice
- b) Ministry of women
- c) Ministry of education
- d) Ministry of rural development
- e) Answer not known

**47) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, or NATO, is a political and military alliance of 28 European countries and two countries in North America (United States and Canada).
- 2) It was set up in 1949 by the US, Canada, and several western European nations to ensure their collective security against the Soviet Union

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**48) National Conference of Rural Co-operative Banks conference held at** \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Kolkata
- b) New Delhi
- c) Lucknow
- d) Mumbai

e) Answer not known

**49) How many Biosphere reserves are there in Tamilnadu?**

- a) Five
- b) Four
- c) Three
- d) Six
- e) Answer not known

**50) International Lefthanders Day observed on**

- a) 13th August
- b) 14th August
- c) 15 th August
- d) 16 th August
- e) Answer not known

**51) World Organ Donation Day celebrates on**

- a) 13th August
- b) 14th August
- c) 15 th August
- d) 16 th August
- e) Answer not known

**52) Find out the personality associated with the following statement**

- 1) She is a member of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha
- 2) She helped Bhagat Singh escape in disguise from Lahore after the 1928 killing of British police officer John P Saunders.

Choose the correct answer

- a) Durga bhai Deshmukh
- b) Durga Bhabhi
- c) Kalpana dutt
- d) Jhalkari Bai
- e) Answer not known

**53) Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is observed on**

- a) August 13
- b) August 14
- c) August 15
- d) August 16
- e) Answer not known

**54) Operation Yatri Suraksha is launched by**

- a) RPF
- b) Indian army
- c) Indian navy
- d) Indian airforce
- e) Answer not known

**55) World's Highest Railway Bridge is constructed in the river** \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Jhelum
- b) Chenab
- c) Ravi
- d) Beas
- e) Answer not known

**56) Ramsar Convention, also known as “The Convention on Wetlands”, an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in \_\_\_\_**

- a) 1970
- b) 1971
- c) 1972
- d) 1973
- e) Answer not known

**57) Tampara Lake is located in**

- a) Odisha
- b) Goa
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Andhra Pradesh
- e) Answer not known

**58) \_\_\_\_\_ is the most widely celebrated festival of the Parsi community.**

- a) Durga puja
- b) Navroz
- c) Makar Sankranti
- d) Pongal
- e) Answer not known

**59) Durand Cup is related to**

- a) Football
- b) Volleyball
- c) Cricket
- d) Table tennis
- e) Answer not known

**60) India to Start Supplying Petrol With 20% Ethanol From April \_\_\_\_**

- a) 2023
- b) 2024
- c) 2025
- d) 2026
- e) Answer not known

**61) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Namaste is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as a joint initiative of the MoSJE and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- 2) Its aim is to achieve Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**62) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is a prior art database of Indian traditional knowledge established in 2001, jointly by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department

of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H, now Ministry of AYUSH).

- 2) The TKDL is a first of its kind globally and has been serving as an exemplary model to other nation

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**63) Orion is a partially reusable crewed spacecraft is launched by**

- a) Nasa
- b) Russian space agency
- c) Japanese space agency
- d) European space agency
- e) Answer not known

**64) North East Olympics is hosted by**

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Mizoram
- c) Nagaland
- d) Assam
- e) Answer not known

**65) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM) was launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 8th December 2021.
- 2) The National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM) aims to provide awareness and training on Intellectual Property (IP).

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**66) Vostok-2022 is the military exercise held between india and \_\_\_\_**

- a) China
- b) Russia
- c) United States of America
- d) Italy
- e) Answer not known

**67) Medicine from the sky is the pilot project implemented in**

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Meghalaya
- e) Answer not known

**68) Consider the following statement**

- 1) West Nile Virus (WNV) can cause neurological disease and death in people.
- 2) WNV is commonly found in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia.

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**69) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Tasmanian Tiger is the only animal in the Thylacinidae family to survive in modern times, was a marsupial mammal that raises young ones in a pouch
- 2) The sharply clawed animal had a dog-like head and ate kangaroos, other marsupials, small rodents, and birds.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**70) India's first E-Double Decker air-conditioned bus in \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) Mumbai
- b) Kolkata
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Pune
- e) Answer not known

**71) \_\_\_\_\_ becomes first nation to make period products available to everyone**

- a) Denmark
- b) Scotland
- c) Netherlands
- d) Newzealand
- e) Answer not known

**72) which has become the first state in India to receive "Har Ghar Jal" certification ?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Goa
- d) Andhra Pradesh
- e) Answer not known

**73) World Humanitarian Day observed on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 19th August
- b) 20th August
- c) 21 st August
- d) 22 nd August
- e) Answer not known

**74) World Photography Day celebrates on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 19th August
- b) 20th August
- c) 21 st August
- d) 22 nd August
- e) Answer not known

**75) Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India.**

- a) 9th January
- b) 10th January
- c) 11th January
- d) 12th January
- e) Answer not known

**76) Akshay Urja Diwas 2022 is observed on**

- a) 20th August
- b) 21st August
- c) 22 nd August
- d) 23rd August
- e) Answer not known

**77) Sadbhavna Diwas 2022 is the birth anniversary of**

- a) Mahatma Gandhi
- b) Indra Gandhi
- c) Rajiv Gandhi
- d) Jawaharlal Nehru
- e) Answer not known

**78) Identify the personality associated with the following statement**

- 1) He was one of the stalwarts of the Indian National Congress during the pre-Independence years.
- 2) He was a famous lawyer, renowned orator, debater and brilliant parliamentarian.
- 3) In 1919, he went as a delegate in the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the United Kingdom to protest against the Rowlatt Act and the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms.

Choose the correct answer

- a) Satyamurthy
- b) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
- c) Jeevanandam
- d) T. Prakasam
- e) Answer not known

**79) Who called netaji as the 'Prince among the Patriots'?**

- a) Mahatma Gandhi
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- d) Rajaji
- e) Answer not known



**80) Mithila Makhana or Makhan (botanical name: Euryale ferox Salisb.) is a special variety of aquatic fox nut cultivated in**

- a) Bihar
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh
- e) Answer not known

**81) 10th National Conference of Women Police held at**

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Sikkim
- d) Ladakh
- e) Answer not known

**82) The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established in the year**

- a) 1965
- b) 1966
- c) 1967
- d) 1968
- e) Answer not known

**83) International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on**

- a) August 20
- b) August 21
- c) August 22
- d) August 23
- e) Answer not known

**84) World Senior Citizen Day 2022 celebrates on**

- a) August 20
- b) August 21
- c) August 22
- d) August 23
- e) Answer not known

**85) India secured the \_\_\_\_ rank in medal tally at the 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)**

- a) 1st
- b) 2nd
- c) 3rd
- d) 4th
- e) Answer not known

**86) India's First Observatory To Monitor Space Activity To Come Up In \_\_\_\_**

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Ladakh
- c) Jammu
- d) Kashmir
- e) Answer not known

**87) International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition observed on**

- a) August 20
- b) August 21
- c) August 22
- d) August 23
- e) Answer not known

**88) "The right to food is a fundamental right available under \_\_\_\_ of the Constitution**

- a) Article 21
- b) Article 19
- c) Article 20
- d) Article 24
- e) Answer not known

**89) The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in \_\_\_\_**

- a) 2001
- b) 2002
- c) 2003
- d) 2004
- e) Answer not known

**90) TIANGONG is the space station set up by**

- a) Russia
- b) Japan
- c) China
- d) India
- e) Answer not known

**91) Internaut Day celebrates every year on \_\_\_\_**

- a) August 20
- b) August 21
- c) August 22
- d) August 23
- e) Answer not known

**92) Unesco Peace Prize 2022 is awarded to**

- a) Obama
- b) Bill Clinton
- c) Bill gates
- d) Angela Merkel
- e) Answer not known

**93) World's first fleet of hydrogen passenger trains by \_\_\_\_**

- a) France
- b) Germany
- c) Japan
- d) India
- e) Answer not known

**94) Garba is a dance form which has originated in \_\_\_\_, India**

- a) Gujarat
- b) Tamil nadu
- c) Punjab
- d) Uttarakhand
- e) Answer not known

**95) U. U. Lalit is appointed as the \_\_\_\_ Chief Justice of India**

- a) 47th
- b) 48th
- c) 49 th
- d) 50th
- e) Answer not known

**96) India's first "Divyang Park" is inaugurated at**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Tamil nadu
- d) Rajasthan
- e) Answer not known

**97) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The GPS-aided GEO augmented navigation (GAGAN) is an implementation of a regional satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS) by the Government of India.
- 2) GAGAN helps aircraft with guided landing at airports that do not have an instrument landing system

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**98) Which country has the world's lowest fertility rate?**

- a) Japan
- b) South Korea
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) US
- e) Answer not known

**99) India's 1st 3D Printed Post Office will be inaugurated at**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Tamil nadu
- e) Answer not known

**100) Women's Equality Day observed on**

- a) August 25
- b) August 26
- c) August 27
- d) August 28
- e) Answer not known

## Answers:

1	b	21	a	41	a	61	c	81	a
2	c	22	c	42	a	62	c	82	b
3	a	23	a	43	c	63	a	83	b
4	d	24	a	44	a	64	a	84	b
5	b	25	d	45	a	65	c	85	c
6	b	26	a	46	a	66	a	86	a
7	a	27	d	47	c	67	a	87	d
8	a	28	c	48	b	68	c	88	e
9	a	29	b	49	a	69	c	89	a
10	a	30	c	50	a	70	a	90	c
11	c	31	a	51	a	71	b	91	d
12	d	32	a	52	b	72	c	92	d
13	a	33	b	53	b	73	a	93	b
14	a	34	a	54	a	74	a	94	a
15	a	35	a	55	b	75	a	95	c
16	c	36	b	56	b	76	a	96	a
17	b	37	b	57	a	77	c	97	c
18	a	38	a	58	b	78	a	98	b
19	a	39	b	59	a	79	a	99	a
20	c	40	a	60	b	80	a	100	b