



SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF **SMART LEADERS IAS**

TNPSC **SANGAMAM**

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SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF SMART LEADERS IAS

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TATA POWER AND TAMIL NADU INKS A PACT TO ESTABLISH A SOLAR MANUFACTURING FACILITY

- Tata Power revealed that it has reached a deal with the Tamil Nadu government to invest Rs. 3000 crore in the construction of a new solar cell and module manufacturing facility in the state's Tirunelveli district. According to the agreement, both parties will endeavour to promote the switch to renewable energy and the creation of jobs in the state. The investment in the facility must take place over a period of more than 16 months and must result in the creation of jobs, the majority of which will be for women.

DISTRICT CLIMATE CHANGE MISSIONS

The Tamil Nadu government has established District Climate Change Missions in all 38 districts.



About:

- The missions will be headed by the Collectors as Mission Directors.
- The District Forest Officers will function as Climate Officers. The missions will help strengthen the government's climate response at the grassroots, said Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forest.
- The missions will create strong policy support across all sectors of governance, devise strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and bench-mark industries to move towards green manufacturing. They will also promote eco-friendly technologies, such as solar and wind energy technologies,

biodegradable packaging and e-vehicles.

- The Collectors will have to prepare district-level climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, build capacity and provide inputs for low-carbon, climate-resilient development plans.
- Another key deliverable is strengthening the 'Meendum Manjappai' campaign against the use of single-use plastics. The Collectors will also work towards strengthening Climate Smart Villages and creating bio-shields in coastal areas.
- The government has initially sanctioned ₹3.80 crore for 38 district missions which will function under the supervision of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.

TAMIL NADU TOPS IN SMART CITY FUND UTILISATION

- Tamil Nadu tops the list of states so far as utilisation of funds under the government's flagship Smart City Mission is concerned. While Tamil Nadu has spent over Rs 3932 crore out of the Rs 4333 crore released by the Centre, Uttar Pradesh is in the second position with the utilisation of Rs 2699 crore out of the Central share release of Rs 3142 crore. As on 8 July 2022, the Centre has released Rs 30,751.41 crore for 100 Smart Cities, out of which Rs 27,610.34 crore (90%) has been utilised.
- About the Smart Cities Mission (SCM):
- The Central government launched the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) on 25 June 2015. One hundred Smart Cities have been selected through 4 rounds of competition from January 2016 to June 2018. As per SCM guidelines, the Central government will provide financial support to the extent of Rs 48,000 crore over five years which is on an average Rs 100 crore per city per year. An equal amount on a matching basis will be contributed by the state government or urban local body.

RAJA SERFOJI AND SIVAJI

A 19th century painting of Raja Serfoji and his son Sivaji, which was stolen from Saraswathi Mahal, Thanjavur, a few years ago has been traced by the Idol Wing CID police to the Peabody Essex Museum, Massachusetts, in the U.S



The painting of Raja Serfoji and his son Sivaji stolen from Saraswathi Mahal in Thanjavur.

- History of the painting:
- For long, the rulers of Thanjavur had been devoid of absolute power. Serfoji, placed by the British on the throne over his step-brother Amar Singh, died in 1832.
- His only son Sivaji ruled until 1855. However, he had no male successor.
- Thanjavur became a casualty of Lord Dalhousie's infamous 'Doctrine of Lapse', and it got absorbed into British-ruled Indian provinces.
- The painting, which has Raja Serfoji and his young son, according to some historians, was probably painted between 1822 and 1827 and kept in the Saraswathi Mahal.

AR RAHMAN UNVEILS ANTHEM 'VANAKKAM CHENNAI' FOR 44TH INTERNATIONAL CHESS OLYMPIAD

- Grammy and Oscar-winning music composer, AR Rahman has come up with the 'Vanakkam Chennai' (Welcome Anthem) for the upcoming International Chess Olympiad, 2022. Directed by Vignesh Shivan, the music video features chief minister MK Stalin, grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand, and music maestro AR Rahman, who has composed and sung the theme song. The music video also features director Shankar's daughter as a Bharatanatyam artiste. The terrific music video has been praised by netizens for showing the culture of Tamil Nadu impressively.
- About the 44th International Chess Olympiad:
- This year, the Fédération Internationale des Échecs will organise the 44th International Chess Olympiad in Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu.
- The 44th International Chess Olympiad, the world's biggest chess event, will be held at Poonjeri Village in Mamallapuram from

July 28 to August 10. The venue is a UNESCO heritage site, located about 50 kilometres from Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- The prestigious chess tournament has generated tremendous buzz on social media. The hype around the event is growing with each update on social media.

TAMIL NADU GOVT ROLLS OUT 'CHIEF MINISTER'S BREAKFAST SCHEME'

- Tamil Nadu government has issued an order to implement the first phase of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme at 1,545 government primary schools for the benefit of over 1.14 lakh children in Classes I-V during 2022-23. The cost would be Rs. 33.56 crores. Breakfast consisting of a meal with sambar and vegetables will be provided to children in all working schools.
- About the scheme:
- Every student is to be provided a 150-500 gram breakfast with sambar with vegetables. On two days, the breakfast will be made of millets.
- More than 43,600 students studying in schools in Municipal Corporations, more than 17,400 studying in those in Municipalities, more than 42,800 in village panchayat limits and more than 10,100 students in remote and hilly areas would benefit under the scheme, which is said to be "first-of-its-kind in the country."
- The noon meal scheme saw improvements and it evolved into the nutritious meal scheme. The food scheme for school children is set to move up to the next level now in his party-led government's tenure.

PRESIDENT'S COLOUR TO TAMIL NADU POLICE

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu presented the President's colour to the Tamil Nadu Police.



About:

- The President's Colour is the highest hon-

our given to the military, paramilitary and police forces of States and Union Territories.

- The State of Tamil Nadu ranks second in the list of more women in the police force and the State was the first to create a women commando force.
- Tamil Nadu is the only State to have a police unit to investigate smuggling of idols and statues.

44th CHESS OLYMPIAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 44th Chess Olympiad at Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

About:

- International, National and State level Chess masters participated in the inaugural event.
- The Olympiad torch which crossed the 75 iconic cities of the Country was brought to the Stadium by five-time world chess champion Vishwanathan Anand and was handed over to Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister MK Stalin and was later given to the chess prodigy Grandmaster Rameshbabu Pragnananda.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

According to figures tabled in Lok Sabha, the number of road accidents, and the resultant deaths and number of people injured declined from 2018 to 2020, with the fall particularly sharp from 4.5 lakh accidents (1.5 lakh deaths) in 2019 to 3.5 lakh accidents (1.3 lakh deaths) in 2020.

MOST ACCIDENTS, 2020

Tamil Nadu	45,484
Madhya Pradesh	45,266
Uttar Pradesh	34,243
Karnataka	34,178
Kerala	27,877
Maharashtra	24,971
Andhra Pradesh	19,509
Telangana	19,172
Rajasthan	19,114
Gujarat	13,398

MOST ROAD DEATHS, 2020

Uttar Pradesh	19,149
Maharashtra	11,569
Madhya Pradesh	11,141
Karnataka	9,760
Rajasthan	9,250
Tamil Nadu	8,059
Andhra Pradesh	7,039
Telangana	6,882
Bihar	6,699
Gujarat	6,170

About:

- Tamil Nadu had the highest number of road accidents in 2020, while Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of deaths as a result of such accidents.



NATIONAL NEWS

15TH PRESIDENT OF INDIA: DRAUPADI MURMU

- Daughter of a tribal family coming from a very ordinary house in Odisha, Draupadi Murmu has been elected as the 15th President of India. The 2022 Indian Presidential Election was the 16th presidential election that was held in India on the 18th of July 2022. Murmu becomes India's first woman tribal president. She also becomes the second woman to hold the post after Pratibha Patil. The tenure of incumbent president Ram Nath Kovind will end on 24 July.

About

- The 64-year-old Droupadi Murmu was born in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district to a family belonging to the Santhal tribe.
- Santhals, also spelt as Santals, are the third largest scheduled tribe community in India after the Gonds and Bhils. Their population is mostly distributed in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- Murmu is the second person belonging to a scheduled tribe, to be nominated as a candidate for the post of President of India.
- She served as the ninth Governor of Jharkhand from 2015 to 2021.
- As a member of the BJP, she was elected to the state assembly twice – in 2000 and in 2009 – from the Rairangpur seat.
- About the Santhals tribes:
- The Santhals are also credited for taking on the force of the East India Company through the Santal Hul (revolution) of 1855-56. The anguished Santhals formed their own troops which included farmers and marched against their oppressors. They destroyed the postal communications along with the rail lines and burgled and vandalised storehouses and warehouses. When the British was made aware of the situation, they sent the military to gun down the Santhals.
- As per the Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI), Bhubaneswar, the word 'Santhal' is derived from two words; 'Santha' meaning calm and peaceful and 'ala' meaning man. The SCSTRTI says that the Santhals led a nomadic life in the past but then settled in the Chhotanagpur plateau. Towards the end of the 18th century, they migrated to the Santhal Parganas of Bihar and then they came to Odisha.

COALITION FOR DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (CDRI)

The Union Cabinet has approved the categorization of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as an 'International Organization' and signing of the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) with CDRI for granting it the exemptions, immunities and privileges as contemplated under the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947.

This will help the CDRI in:

- Deputing experts to other countries, that are particularly vulnerable to disaster risk and / or require support for post disaster recovery and also bringing in experts from member countries to India, for similar purposes;
- Deploying funds globally and receive contributions from member countries, for CDRI activities;
- Providing an independent and international legal persona so that it can efficiently and effectively carry out its functions internationally.

Background:

- On 28th August, 2019, the Cabinet had approved the setting up of CDRI with its Secretariat in New Delhi along with a support of Rs. 480 crore to CDRI.
- The CDRI was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during the United Nations Climate Action Summit on the 23rd September, 2019, at New York.
- Since its launch, thirty-one (31) Countries, six (06) International Organizations and two (02) private sector organizations have joined as members of CDRI.

FLOATING SOLAR POWER PROJECT

India's largest floating Solar Power Project is now fully operational.



About:

- NTPC declared Commercial Operation of the final part capacity of 20 MW out of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, Telangana with effect from July 01, 2022.
- With the operationalisation of 100-MW Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, total commercial operation of Floating Solar Capacity in Southern Region rose to 217 MW.
- Earlier, NTPC declared Commercial operation of 92 MW Floating Solar at Kayamkulam (Kerala) and 25 MW Floating Solar at Simhadri (Andhra Pradesh).
- The solar modules are placed on floaters manufactured with HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) material.

DAK KARMAYOGI

'Dak Karmayogi', an e-learning portal of the Department of Posts was launched by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communications.

About:

- This portal has been developed 'In-House' under vision of 'Mission Karmayogi', which was conceptualized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a view to bring efficiency in actions of all the employees of Government of India and transforming efficiency of bureaucracy with 'Minimum Government' and 'Maximum Governance'.
- 'Dak Karmayogi' portal will enhance the competencies of about 4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks & Departmental employees by enabling the trainees to access the uniform standardized training content online or in blended campus mode to enable them to effectively deliver a number of G2C services for enhanced customer satisfaction.

STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI) CELEBRATES 67TH FOUNDATION DAY

- The oldest commercial bank in the country, State Bank of India, is celebrating its 67th

year on 1st July. SBI descends from the Bank of Calcutta founded in 1806 through the Imperial Bank of India. The Bank of Madras merged into the other two presidency banks, the bank of Calcutta and the bank of Bombay to form the Imperial Bank of India which in turn became the SBI in 1955.

History of SBI

- In the 19th century, three presidency banks were incorporated. The three presidency banks were the Bank of Madras (established on 2nd June 1806), the Bank of Bombay (incorporated on 15 April 1840), and the Bank of Calcutta (incorporated on 1 July 1843).
- These three presidency banks were joint-stock companies. These presidency banks were consolidated on 27 January 1921 and the new entity was named Imperial Bank of India. Even after the consolidation, it remained as the joint-stock company but without government participation.
- RBI in 1955 acquired a controlling interest in the Imperial Bank of India. On 1st July 1955, the imperial bank of India became the State Bank of India. To avoid any conflict of interest since RBI is the country's banking regulatory authority, the government of India in 2008 then acquired the Reserve Bank of India's stake in SBI.
 - SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara.
 - SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
 - SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.

UN PROJECTED INDIA'S URBAN POPULATION TO BE 675 MILLION IN 2035

According to a UN report, India's urban population is expected to reach 675 million in 2035, ranking second only to China's urban population of one billion people. The report also noted that after the Covid-19 pandemic, the world's urban population is once again on track to increase by another 2.2 billion people by the year 2050.

Highlights of the UN Report:

- According to the World Cities Report 2022 by UN-Habitat, the pandemic only momentarily slowed down urbanization's rapid pace.
- According to the report, India's urban population is expected to reach 675,456,000 in 2035, up from 483,099,000 in 2020, 542,743,000 in 2025, and 607,342,000 in 2030. 43.2 percent of India's population will be living in urban areas by the middle of the year in 2035.
- The report underlined the need to address urban inequality and climate change, citing

“heatwaves in Delhi” and Mumbai’s “overcrowded slums.”

GLOBAL FILM TOURISM CONCLAVE

- At the Novotel Mumbai Juhu Beach in Mumbai, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister for Minority Affairs, officially inaugurated the fifth Global Film Tourism Conclave (GFTC).
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) organised the fifth GFTC with the subject “Unleashing the Power of Cinematic Tourism

SURAKSHA MANTHAN-2022

- The Desert Corps of the Indian Army organised the “Suraksha Manthan 2022”, on aspects of Border & Coastal Security at Jodhpur (Rajasthan).
- During the course of the discussions, aspects of interoperability, operational cohesion and logistics were ironed out in order to enhance overall security along the International Boundary (IB) and coastal sectors



VIVEK EXPRESS: INDIAN RAILWAY'S LONGEST TRAIN ROUTE

- The Vivek Express holds the title of the longest train route in the country which runs from Dibrugarh in Assam to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.
- It covers 4247 km of distance and nine States.
- There is a network of more than ten thousand kilometers of railway lines.
- This network connects the far and near states together. The farthest Indian railway network is 4247 km long, which is also the longest train route in the country both in terms of distance and time.

EASTERN RAJASTHAN CANAL PROJECT (ERCP)

Centre has directed to stop the work on the proposed Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) in view of

“lack of consent” by other States.

Hydropolitics in Desert State

Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project is all set to get Union Cabinet approval within this month

The ₹40,451-crore project will be done in 3 phases and is proposed to be completed in seven years



About:

- The proposed Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) is set to benefit 13 districts of Rajasthan through interlinking of three rivers. The project stipulates transfer of excess water from the Chambal river basin to the regions facing water scarcity.
- Rajasthan has been demanding the national project status for ERCP for quite some time.

INDIA'S SERVICE SECTOR ACTIVITY GREW AT ITS FASTEST RATE IN 11 YEARS

- In June, the services industry in India had its highest level of activity in 11 years because to growing demand, capacity development, and favourable economic conditions.
- The S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for services increased to 59.2 in June from 58.9 in May, which is the highest level since April 2011.
- The results demonstrate a solid rebound in the services sector, which is reflected in good GST receipts.

PEOPLE CAN RECEIVE R. 10 LAKH WITHOUT TELLING AUTHORITIES AFTER CENTER MODIFIES FCRA

- Indians are now permitted to receive up to Rs. 10 lakh annually from relatives who live overseas without telling the authorities thanks to changes made by the Union Home Ministry to certain rules relating to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).
- The previous cap was Rs. 1 lakh. The home ministry also stated in a notification that instead of 30 days, if the sum surpasses, the people would now have 90 days to

notify the government.

- The new regulations, known as the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2022, were published in the gazette by the home ministry.

NARI KO NAMAN'

- Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur has launched 'Naari Ko Naman' scheme to provide 50 % concession on fares in Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses to women commuters within the state boundaries.
- Seema Thakur, the first woman bus driver in the state, drove him in a state transport bus to the event venue.
- The chief minister had announced the 50 per cent concession on bus fares to women on April 15, Himachal Day.
- CM has announced the minimum bus fare will also be reduced from Rs.7 to Rs.5 for all passengers. The government of HP will also sanction 25 new posts for female drivers in 'Ride With Pride Government Taxi service'. The service is for female passengers and senior citizens of HP.

VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

The Election Commission of India on July 5 issued the notification for the election of the Vice President of India. The term of office of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu comes to an end on August 10.

About:

- Article 63 of the Constitution states that "there shall be a Vice-President of India".
- Under Article 64, the Vice-President "shall be ex officio Chairman of the Council of the States" (Rajya Sabha).
- Article 65 says that "in the event of the occurrence of any vacancy in the office of the President by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise, the Vice-President shall act as President until the date on which a new President...enters upon his office".

Election of the Vice-President

- Article 66 lays down the process of the election of the Vice-President.
- It says the Vice-President "shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot".
- Article 66(3) says "No person shall be eligible for election as Vice-President unless

he — (a) is a citizen of India; (b) has completed the age of thirty-five years; and (c) is qualified for election as a member of the Council of States".

WHEAT CONSUMPTION TRENDS IN INDIA

Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have demanded more wheat in place of rice and asked the Centre to restore their original allocations under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, or change the wheat-rice allocation ratio that was revised by the Union Food Ministry in May.



What was this revision?

- On May 14, Food Secretary announced that "after consulting with the states", the Centre has reallocated some quantities by changing ratios of wheat and rice under the NFSA.
- For example, states getting wheat and rice at a 60:40 ratio will now get it at 40:60, while those getting allocations at 75:25 would now get these at 60:40. States where rice allocation has been zero will continue to get wheat.
- For small states, NE states and special category states, allocation has not been changed. According to the Food Ministry, the move would save about 61 lakh tonnes of wheat over the remaining 10 months (June-March) of the current financial year.

Which states are affected by the revision?

- Wheat allocation under NFSA was revised downward for 10 states: Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- These states account for about 55.14 crore (67%) of the 81.35 crore beneficiaries under the NFSA.
- Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, which have demanded restoration of their original allocations, are primarily wheat-consuming states.

NOMINATED MEMBERS OF THE RAJYA SABHA

Legendary athlete P T Usha and music maestro Ilaiyaraaja were among prominent personalities nominated to Rajya Sabha.



About:

- Philanthropist and administrator of the Dharmasthala temple Veerendra Heggade and noted screen writer V Vijayendra Prasad were also nominated to the Upper House of Parliament.
- The Rajya Sabha had vacancies in the nominated category.
- Twelve members are nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the President of India for six-years term for their contributions towards arts, literature, sciences, and social services. This right has been bestowed upon the President according to the Fourth Schedule (Articles 4(1) and 80(2)) of the Constitution of India.

INDIA ANIMAL HEALTH SUMMIT 2022

Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying inaugurated First India Animal Health Summit 2022 at NASC Complex, New Delhi.

About:

- It is being organized by Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and the Agriculture Today Group to understand the significance of animal health towards the broader objective of the country's food and nutrition security, rural incomes and prosperity and overall economic development.
- The two-day event will host a plethora of panel discussions ranging from topics such as Animal Health policy initiatives to Business environment & investment opportunities in the Animal Health sector. The deliberations evolved will later be documented and presented to authorities.

INDIA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASE TO 7.80 PERCENT, HARYANA AND RAJASTHAN AT TOP

- The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) released a report according to the figures, the nation's jobless rate increased to 7.83% in April from 7.60% in March. According to the figures issued, the jobless rate in urban areas was higher at 9.22% compared to 8.28% in March. India's unemployment rate increased to 7.80 percent, with Haryana and Rajasthan at top in list in unemployment rate.
 - In April, the unemployment rate in rural areas was 7.18 percent, down from 7.29 percent in March.
 - According to the report, Haryana had the highest unemployment rate (34.5%), followed by Rajasthan (28.8%), Bihar (21.1%), and Jammu & Kashmir (15.6%).

CHHATTISGARH SCHOOL PROJECT (FUNDED BY WORLD BANK)

The Chhattisgarh government has received an in-principle nod from the Centre to go ahead with a \$300 million (approximately ₹2,100 crore) school education project the State is negotiating with the World Bank.

About:

- If it goes through, the initiative will allow the Chhattisgarh government to borrow \$300 million over a period of five years at significantly lower than market rates, and repay it over a period of 20 years.
- An in-principle nod means that the Centre has no objection to the State borrowing money from an external financial institution such as the World Bank. This is not the final approval but it paves the way for the State to proceed with subsequent discussions.
- The World Bank has been associated with India's school education system since 1994, according to its website. One of its more recent projects, inked in 2021, is the \$500 million Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian States. That list, however, does not include Chhattisgarh.

FOREST RIGHTS ACT (FRA)

The Odisha government is chasing an ambitious target of completing implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) by granting all kinds of rights mandated under the historic Act by 2024.

- About:

- Scheduled Tribes And Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is also known as the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
- The Act recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs.
- The Act further enjoins upon the Gram Sabha and rights holders the responsibility of conservation and protection of bio-diversity, wildlife, forests, adjoining catchment areas, water sources and other ecologically sensitive areas as well as to stop any destructive practices affecting these resources or cultural and natural heritage of the tribals.

SHERPA

Former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant will be the new Sherpa of G-20. Commerce minister Piyush Goel will give up the position as Sherpa of G-20. With the G-20 presidency coming to India, a full-time Sherpa is required who would be needed to devote a lot of time to meetings that will be held in different parts of the country.

Key facts

- Who are they? A Sherpa is a personal representative of the leader of a member country at an international Summit meeting such as the G8, G20, the Nuclear Security Summit etc.
- Task: The Sherpa engages in planning, negotiation and implementation tasks through the Summit. They coordinate the agenda, seek consensus at the highest political levels, and participate in a series of pre-Summit consultations to help negotiate their leaders' positions.
- Who are appointed Sherpas? Sherpas are career diplomats or senior government officials appointed by the leaders of their countries.
- Etymology: The term is derived from the Nepalese Sherpa people, who serve as guides for mountaineers in the Himalayas.

MANGARH HILLOCK TO BE DECLARED MONUMENT OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

- A team from National Monuments Authority lead by Shri Tarun Vijay, Chairman, National Monuments Authority, submitted a report on declaring Mangarh hillock in Rajasthan as a monument of National Im-

portance in the year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. This report carries relevant details about the Mangarh hillock and recommendations by National Monuments Authority.

MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

National Monuments Authority has recommended two sites associated with architect of the Indian Constitution Bhabhaheb Ambedkar to be declared as Monuments of National importance.

About:



- Culture Ministry said, Sankalp Bhumi Banyan tree campus in Vadodara, where Dr. Ambedkar had taken a resolve to eradicate untouchability on 23th September, 1917 be declared as Monument of National Importance.
- This place is more than hundred years old and a witness to the beginning of social respect revolution heralded by Dr. Ambedkar.
- The National Monuments Authority has also recommended a place in Satara in Maharashtra where Dr Ambedkar received his primary education in Pratap Rao Bhosle High School to be declared as monument of National importance.

POLAVARAM IRRIGATION PROJECT

The Polavaram irrigation project across the Godavari in Andhra Pradesh has been receiving huge inflows of flood waters owing to heavy rain in Maharashtra in the past few days.



About:

- The Polavaram Project is an under construc-

tion multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in the Eluru District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh.

- The project has been accorded National project status by the Union Government of India.
- Its reservoir back water spreads up to the Dummugudem Anicut (i.e. approx 150 km back from Polavaram dam on main river side) and approx 115 km on Sabari River side.
- Thus back water spreads into parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha States.
- It gives major boost to tourism sector in Godavari Districts as the reservoir covers the famous Papikonda National Park.

DEFENCE EXPORTS

India's defence exports for 2021-22 were estimated at ₹13,000 crore, the highest ever, the Defence Ministry said.

About:

- The U.S. was a major buyer, as also nations in Southeast Asia, West Asia and Africa.
- The private sector accounted for 70% of the exports, while public sector firms accounted for the rest. Earlier, the private sector used to account for 90% but now the share of defence public sector units had gone up.
- While India's defence imports from the U.S. have gone up significantly in recent years, Indian companies have been increasingly becoming part of the supply chains of U.S. defence companies.
- In January, India signed a \$374.96-million deal with the Philippines, its single biggest defence export order, for the supply of three batteries of shore-based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

UP BECOMES FIRST STATE TO HAVE 13 EXPRESSWAYS IN THE NATION

- Uttar Pradesh's largest expressway network now has a foundation thanks to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- The state will soon have better highway connectivity from many other nations throughout the world.
- The state now boasts 13 expressways, making it the first state in the nation to do so. Six of the 13 expressways totaling 3200 km are in use while the other seven are under construction.

AKHIL BHARTIYA SHIKSHA SAMAGAM

- According to a press release from the Prime

Minister's Office, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam on the National Education Policy in Varanasi. The Prime Minister told the audience that "our education system and young generation carry a large role of realising the vows of the "Amrit Kaal." He bowed to Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya, wishing the Samagam all the best. The Prime Minister opened the Akshay Patra Mid-Day Meal Kitchen at LT College earlier in the day.

Shiksha Samagam:

- The Shiksha Samagam is being put on by the Ministry of Education. Eminent academics, policymakers, and academic leaders will have a forum to deliberate, exchange their experiences, and discuss the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation roadmap.
- More than 300 Academic, Administrative, and Institutional Leaders from Universities (Central, State, Deemed, and Private), and Institutes of National Importance (IIT, IIM, NIT, IISER) from around the nation are participating in the event as part of improving their capacities.
- The progress of NEP implementation in each participant's institution would be discussed, along with notable implementation tactics, best practises, and success stories.
- Panel discussions on the nine topics chosen for higher education under NEP 2020 will be held during the course of the three-day Shiksha Samagam.

SVANIDHI MAHOTSAV

- On the occasion of second anniversary of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, the Housing and Urban affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'SVANidhi Mahotsav,' which will be celebrated from 9th to 31st of July.
- The festival will be organized in 75 cities across all states and Union Territories, and showcase various cultural activities, digital training activities and loan melas. It will also have functions for felicitation of distinguished Street vendors.

INDIA'S FIRST RIGHT-TO-HEALTH BILL

- The Rajasthan government is soon likely to introduce in the Assembly the Right to Health Bill, "the first of its kind in India", which aims to commit to quality and affordable health care services through government and private health care providers.

- In January, the government had prepared a draft bill that defines the rights of patients, their attendants and health care providers, as well as a system for addressing grievances of the stakeholders

Important points of the bill:

- The right to health bill is part of the Rajasthan government's bid to expand and strengthen medical services in the state.
- Recently, the chief minister approved Rs 117 crore towards expansion of the facilities in Mahila Chikitsalaya (women's hospital) at Sangneri Gate in Jaipur.
- The state has also ensured health security of every family by providing free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh to the people through Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana.
- Along with this, an accident insurance of up to Rs 5 lakh is being given to the families registered in the scheme.
- Also, medicines and tests of the patients coming to government health facilities are being provided free of cost.

START-UPS

With funding starting to dry up due to global macro-economic factors, the start-up ecosystem in India is bracing itself for a "long and bitter winter" and potential mass layoffs in the next 12 to 18 months, particularly in sectors such as edtech and gaming that got a significant push during the pandemic.

Investment dips | Funding raised by Indian start-ups declined from \$10.3 billion in January-March to \$6.9 billion in April-June this year



SOURCE: TRACXN, NEWS REPORTS

About:

- In the April-June quarter, start-up funding fell by about 40% to about \$6-7 billion. Prior to this, start-ups were seeing investments of about \$10-11 billion per quarter.
- As start-ups look to extend the runway with existing funds, estimates peg the job losses in them at over 10,000 this year.
- Some of the key factors include the Rus-

sia-Ukraine conflict, supply chain disruptions, consequent inflationary pressures, and rising cost of capital, amongst others.

- Over the past years, India's strong digital boom, along with the relative ease of obtaining funding, fuelled the rise of Indian start-ups, and with an intent to ramp-up growth through new offerings – including products and solutions, they went on a rapid expansion of their product and tech teams.

RENEWABLE ENERGY TO REDUCE REVENUES

The global transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources could trigger financial challenges for India and major developing countries such as Russia, Brazil and China because of their high dependence on revenues from fossil fuel, according to a study by the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD).

About:

- Though India is a net importer of petroleum products, it earns substantial revenues — via cesses and taxes — from the consumption of petrol, diesel and oil.
- The study finds that by 2050, overall fossil fuel revenues in Brazil, Russia, Indonesia, India and China could be as much as \$570 billion, lower than a business-as-usual scenario where governments fail to phase down fossil fuels enough to avoid the worst climate impacts.
- The widest gaps are expected to occur in India (\$178 billion), China (\$140 billion), and Russia (\$134 billion).
- Public revenues from fossil fuel production and consumption currently account for 34% of general government revenue in Russia, 18% in India, and 16% in Indonesia. This includes only direct, first-order, government financial revenues. By comparison, such revenues form a smaller fraction of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in developed countries.
- However, Fossil fuel revenue streams were "unreliable and erratic" and undermined by the negative economic impacts of fossil fuel use, such as health costs due to air pollution and damage from climate change.

AIR POLLUTION IN RURAL INDIA

- To bolster measurement of air pollution in rural India, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, is embarking on a \$2.5-million project to install nearly 1,400 sensors in the rural blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

About:

- The three-year project is expected to be a pilot that, going ahead, could pave the way for a national network of air quality sensors in rural India.
- Air pollution in India is largely framed as an urban blight though causes of pollution, such as biomass burning and reliance on diesel generators for electricity, are worsening air quality in villages too.
- In 2019, the government launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to reduce particulate matter air pollution by 20-30% by 2024. This, however, is primarily aimed at 122 cities that have been categorised as India's most polluted cities.
- Cities, because of their population density and industrial establishments, continue to be the overwhelming source of emissions. The country's current annual safe limits for PM 2.5 and PM 10 are 40 micrograms/per cubic metre (ug/m³) and 60 micrograms/per cubic metre.
- Under NCAP, ₹375.44 crore was provided to 114 cities from 2018-19 to 2020-21 and ₹290 crore was allocated to 82 cities for the financial year 2021-22. The programme has an allocation of RS. 700 crore envisaged for 2021-26.

INDIA BECOMES 68TH COUNTRY TO JOIN INTERPOL'S CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE DATABASE

- India has joined Interpol's international child sexual exploitation (ICSE) database which will allow it to draw links between victims, abusers, and crime scenes using audio-visual data. The CBI, which is India's nodal agency for Interpol matters, joined the database making India the 68th country to connect to it, according to a statement from Interpol.

Key points:

- An intelligence and investigative tool, the database allows specialized investigators to share information on cases of child sexual abuse.
- Through the image and video comparison software, the investigators can nail down the criminals by identifying victims and places of crime.
- The database avoids duplication of effort and saves precious time by letting investigators know whether a series of images has already been discovered or identified in another country, or whether it has similar features to other images.

IN RURBAN MISSION'S DELTA RATING, JHARKHAND RANKS FIRST

- According to a formal announcement, Jharkhand came out on top in the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Rurban Mission's delta ranking for the month of June with a composite score of 76.19.
- As a result, the state has moved up to number eight in the mission's overall ranking. The state's score in the delta ranking increased by 1.93 points from the previous month, the most increase among the 34 states and union territories

INDIA SETS WORLD RECORD FOR BUILDING LONGEST DOUBLE-DECKER BRIDGE IN NAGPUR

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Maharashtra Metro achieved the world record for constructing the longest double-decker viaduct with a length of 3.14 km in Nagpur.
- The longest viaduct with highway flyover and metro rail supported on single column piers. The maximum metro stations constructed on a double-decker viaduct are recognized by the Asia Book of Records & India Book of Records.
- The development is the fulfilment of the promise by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Government on building world-class infrastructure in New India.

PM NARENDRA MODI UNVEILS NATIONAL EMBLEM ON THE ROOF OF NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the National Emblem cast on the roof of the New Parliament Building.
- He also interacted with the Shramjeevis involved in the construction work of the new Parliament. It has been cast at the top of the Central Foyer of the New Parliament Building.



About the National Emblem:

- The National Emblem is made of bronze with a total weight of 9500 kilograms and is 6.5 meters in height.
- A supporting structure of steel weighing around 6500 kilograms has also been con-

structed to support the Emblem.

- The concept sketch and process of casting the National Emblem on the roof of the New Parliament Building has gone through eight different stages of preparation from clay modelling and computer graphics to bronze casting and polishing.

CHILD LABOUR

The Centre does not have any data on child labour in the country and a reason for this is the drying up of budgetary provisions meant for the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), which had been monitoring the issue for about three decades.

About:

- Since the NCLP was merged with the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in 2016, the labour Ministry has no records of child labour. The currently available data is of the 2011 Census, which says the country has more than a million child labourers.
- Education Ministry also does not have a mechanism to find out the number of children engaged in child labour.
- Though India has a legislation, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, since 1986 the menace of child labour is continue unchecked.

UTTARAKHAND BECOMES FIRST STATE IN INDIA TO IMPLEMENT NEP AT PRE-PRIMARY LEVEL

- Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to initiate the process of implementing the Centre's New Education Policy. Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has initiated this process by inaugurating 'Bal Vatikas' at Anganwadi Kendra across the state to strengthen the pre-primary education system.
- About the Bal Vatika:
- The 'Bal Vatikas' will function at 4,457 Anganwadi Kendra in the state and will be equivalent to the nursery classes at a private school.
- The implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP) marks the beginning of culture-based education in the country focusing on the overall personality development of students.
- The NEP replaces the Macaulay system of education which was followed in the country for decades. "It offers children an opportunity to pursue choice-based education. They can now study the subjects of their choice in the language they are conversant with.

INDIA'S CLEAN ENERGY TARGETS

India has achieved clean energy targets nine years ahead of schedule, Union Power Minister R.K. Singh said at the Sydney Energy Forum in Sydney.

About:

- India has installed 162 GW (1 GW is 1,000 MW) of renewable energy capacity, which is 41% of the 402 GW of electricity installed.
- "We reached this target on November 2021 and what our Prime Minister did was ask us to raise our ambition and so in Glasgow (at the UN COP-21) our Prime Minister committed to installing 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, which would then be 50% of the installed capacity." Mr. Singh said.
- In 2015, India committed to ensuring that 40% of its energy would be from renewable sources by 2030 as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

Sydney Energy Forum

- Ministers from the United States, Japan, India, Indonesia, and the Pacific Island nation of Samoa are attending the forum along with leaders of major companies that are committed to low emissions technologies.
- The forum will "foster connections between investors, business and government with a focus on innovations in key clean energy technologies such as solar, hydrogen, critical minerals and batteries".

HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION

The total horticulture production in 2021-22 is estimated to be 341.63 million tonnes (MT), an increase of about 7.03 MT or 21% over the 2020-21 figure, according to the second advanced estimates of area and production of various horticultural crops released by the Union Agriculture Ministry.

About:

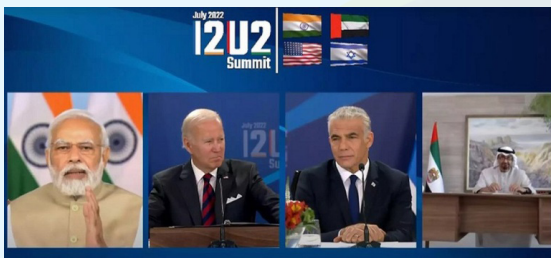
- Last year, the total horticulture cultivation was on 27.48 million hectares and according to the second advanced estimates, in 2021-22, it could be 27.74 million hectares.
- The Centre said that while there could be an increase in the production of fruits, vegetables and honey, the cultivation of spices, flowers, medicinal plants and plantation crops could decrease over previous year.
- The fruit production is estimated at 107.1 MT compared to 102.48 MT in 2020-21. The production of vegetables is estimated to be 204.61 MT, compared to 200.45 MT in 2020-21.
- In the case of onion, the production is estimated to be 31.7 MT against 26.64 MT

in 2020-21. Potato production is likely to be 53.58 MT, from 56.17 MT in 2020-21. Tomato yield is expected to be 20.34 MT, from 21.18 MT in 2020-21. Farmers of the three crops had agitated against the drop in prices last year.

I2U2-BACKED FOOD PARKS

India will provide “appropriate land” for “food parks” across the country that will be built in collaboration with Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

About:



- The plan for the “integrated food parks” was announced in a joint statement after the leaders of the I2U2 grouping — India, Israel, the UAE and the U.S. — held a summit recently.
- The leaders said they would bring in private capital for specific projects in the fields of water, energy, transportation, health, space and food security.
- S. and Israeli private sectors will be invited to lend their expertise and offer innovative solutions that contribute to the overall sustainability of the project. These investments will help maximise crop yields which, in turn, will help tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East. India will “facilitate farmers’ integration into the food parks.
- The food parks aimed at cutting down “food waste and spoilage” are a few of the collaborations that the four countries declared after the summit.
- The UAE will invest \$2 billion in India to create the food parks.

PLATFORM OF PLATFORMS (POP) UNDER eNAM

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the Platform of Platforms (POP) under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) on the sidelines of the State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers’ Conference in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

About:

- Equity grant of over Rs 37 crore was also

released to 1,018 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) that will benefit about 3.5 lakh farmers.

- With the introduction of POP, farmers will be facilitated to sell the produce outside their state borders. This will increase farmers’ digital access to multiple markets, buyers and service providers and bring transparency in business transactions with the aim of improving price search mechanism and quality commensurate price realisation.
- e-NAM integrates the platform of Service Providers as “Platform of Platforms” which includes Composite Service Providers, Logistics Service Provider, Quality Assurance Service Provider, Cleaning, Grading, Sorting & Packaging Service Provider etc.

RIGHT TO REPAIR

In a bid to develop an overall framework for the Right to Repair, the Department of Consumer Affairs has set up a committee chaired by Additional Secretary Nidhi Khatri.

About:

- The committee includes Anupam Mishra, Joint Secretary DoCA; Justice Paramjeet Singh Dhaliwal; G.S. Bajpai, Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala; Ashok Patil, Chair of Consumer Law and Practice; and representatives from stakeholders including ICEA, SIAM, consumer activists and consumer organisations as members.
- The key sectors identified for this framework include Farming Equipment, Mobile Phones/ Tablets, Consumer Durables and Automobiles & Automobile Equipment.
- The committee also believes that manufacturers encourage a culture of ‘planned obsolescence’. “This is a system whereby the design of any gadget is such that it lasts a particular time only and after that particular period it has to be mandatorily replaced.
- The right to repair has been recognised in many countries, including the US, the UK and the European Union.

NAMSAI DECLARATION

The boundary line shown on 29 topo-sheets by a high-powered committee in 1960 will be taken as the basis for the realignment of the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam boundary towards resolving decades of dispute.



About:

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu recently signed the Namsai Declaration for minimising the inter-State boundary dispute involving 123 villages.
- A list of these villages had been placed before a local commission by Arunachal Pradesh on December 26, 2007.
- According to the declaration, all border issues between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh will be confined to those raised before the local commission in 2007.
- Namsai is the headquarters of Namsai district in southern Arunachal Pradesh.

Background

- Present-day Arunachal Pradesh, which attained Statehood in February 1987, used to be the North East Frontier Tract, administered by the Governor of Assam as an agent of the President of India.
- It was renamed North East Frontier Agency and brought under the Central government's control in 1954.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Young people face higher health risks from alcohol consumption than older adults, according to a new analysis published in The Lancet. The analysis from the Global Burden of Disease is the first study to report alcohol risk by geographical region, age, and sex.



About:

- The analysis found males between ages 15-39 at the greatest risk of harmful alcohol consumption. Among people who consumed unsafe amounts in 2020, 59.1% were in the 15-39 age group, and 76.7% of these were male.
- In India, 1.85% females and 25.7% males

in the 15-39 age group consumed unsafe amounts of alcohol in 2020. This was lower than 1.79% females and 23% males in the 40-64 age group who consumed unsafe amounts.

- However, the authors note that consuming a small amount of alcohol (for example, between one and two 3.4-ounce glasses of red wine) can provide some health benefits for people in this age group, such as reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease, stroke, and diabetes.

UNPARLIAMENTARY EXPRESSIONS

Ahead of the Monsoon session beginning July 18, a major row erupted over a 50-page compilation of words deemed unfit for use in Parliament, released by the Lok Sabha secretariat.

About:

EXAMPLES OF EXPUNGED WORDS		
'CHAMCHAGIRI' EXPUNGED IN: Karnataka legislative council, March 17, 2021 CONTEXT: A heated exchange in which MLAs from rival sides used it as personal attacks	'GREED' EXPUNGED IN: Rajya Sabha, March 18, 2021 CONTEXT: A member had said, "even though they talk about Hindutva, their religion is greed"	'SNOOPGATE' EXPUNGED IN: Lok Sabha, on August 9 and 10, 2021 CONTEXT: It was used in the context of the Pegasus snooping allegations to target ministers
'KICK OUT' EXPUNGED IN: Punjab assembly on March 9, 2021 CONTEXT: A member said, "they did not resign, the people of Punjab kicked them out and made them resign"	'CORRUPT' EXPUNGED IN: Lok Sabha, on February 10, 2021; in Australia lower house, on Feb 6, 2020 CONTEXT: A member said, "this is the worst, worst, worst corrupt govt" in the Indian case; in Australia, a leader said, "this corrupt minister should resign"	'COWARD' EXPUNGED IN: Lok Sabha, on February 8, 2021 CONTEXT: One of the members used it as a direct attack

- With opposition terming the unparliamentary words list a "gag order" meant to shield the Narendra Modi government against "criticism", Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla clarified that "no words had been banned". He said that the decision to expunge words is the prerogative of the Chair.
- The new list has words and phrases disallowed not only in the Indian Parliament, but also in various state assemblies, as well as some parliaments of other countries.

The rules

- While Article 105(2) of the Constitution lays down that "no Member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or any committee thereof", MPs do not enjoy the freedom to say whatever they want inside the House.
- Rule 380 ("Expunction") of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha says: "If the Speaker is of opinion that words have been used in debate which are defamatory or indecent or unparliamentary"

tary or undignified, the Speaker may, while exercising discretion order that such words be expunged from the proceedings of the House.”

FLAG CODE OF INDIA, 2002

The Flag Code of India, 2002 was amended vide Order dated December 30, 2021, and National Flag made of polyester or machine made flag have also been allowed



About:

- Now, the National Flag shall be made of hand-spun, hand-woven or machine-made cotton/polyester/wool/silk/khadi bunting, as per the amended flag code.
- The amended flag code will facilitate the availability of flags on such a large scale and also make them affordable for the general public.
- The government will soon launch ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’— a nationwide campaign to encourage people to hoist the Tricolour at their homes to mark the 75th Independence Day.

Flag Code

- The use, display and hoisting of the National Flag in the country is guided by an overarching set of instructions called the ‘Flag Code of India 2002’. It brings together all laws, conventions, practices, and instructions for the display of the National Flag.
- It governs the display of the National Flag by private, public, and government institutions.
- The Flag Code of India took effect on January 26, 2002.
- As per Clause 2.1 of the Flag Code of India, there shall be no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of the general public, private organizations, educational institutions etc. consistent with the dignity and honour of the National Flag.

TO ENCOURAGE AGRICULTURAL TRADE, NARENDRA TOMAR

LAUNCHES E-NAM PLATFORM

- On the eve of the State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers’ Conference in Bengaluru, Karnataka, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, unveiled the Platform of Platforms (POP) under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM). A total of 1,018 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) received equity grants totaling more than Rs 37 crore, which will help 3.5 lakh farmers.

KEY POINTS:

- Along with Shri Tomar, other dignitaries in attendance included Shri Basavaraj Bommai, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Ms. Shobha Karandlaje and Shri Kailash Choudhary, the Union Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, respectively, Shri BC Patil, the Agriculture Minister of Karnataka, and other senior officers.
- Farmers will now have easier access to markets outside of their own states thanks to POP.
- In order to improve the price search mechanism and quality commensurate with price realisation, this would expand farmers’ digital access to a wider range of marketplaces, buyers, and service providers as well as provide transparency to business transactions.
- POP covers 41 service providers from multiple platforms who provide a range of value chain services, such as trade, quality assurance, warehousing, fintech, market intelligence, transportation, etc.
- A digital ecosystem that will be created by the POP will profit from the knowledge of many platforms in various areas of the agricultural value chain

COVID-19 VACCINATION

On July 17, 2022, India crossed the milestone of administering two billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine within 18 months of launching the vaccination drive in January last year.

About:

- World Health Organisation (WHO) has hailed India for administering over two billion COVID-19 vaccine doses. Earlier last year, the country had administered one billion doses within nine months (October) of the start of the vaccination drive.
- The Centre has announced a special drive ‘COVID Vaccination Amrit Mahotsava’

to be launched to provide free precaution doses at all Government Covid Vaccination Centres for persons aged 18 years and above for 75 days from July 15 to September 30, 2022.



CRYPTO CURRENCIES

The Government has said that the Reserve Bank of India has registered its concern over the adverse effect of Cryptocurrencies on the Indian economy.

About:

- This was informed by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a written reply in Lok Sabha.
- She said that according to the RBI, Cryptocurrencies are not a currency because every modern currency needs to be issued by the Central Bank or government.
- The Finance Minister said that in view of the concerns expressed by RBI on the destabilising effect of cryptocurrencies on the monetary and fiscal stability of the country, RBI has recommended framing of legislation on this sector. She said that the RBI is of the view that cryptocurrencies should be prohibited.
- The Finance Minister said that RBI has been cautioning users, holders and traders of virtual currencies that dealing in these currencies is associated with potential economic, financial and operational, legal, customer protection and security-related risks.

SPRINT CHALLENGES

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled 'SPRINT Challenges', aimed at giving a boost to the usage of indigenous technology in Indian Navy, during Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar 'Swavlamban' in New Delhi on July 18, 2022.

About:

- In a bid to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', NIIO, in conjunction with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), aims to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies/products into the Indian Navy.
- This collaborative project is named SPRINT {Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), NIIO and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC)}.

e-SHRAM PORTAL

The government said around 28 crore unorganised workers have been registered on e-Shram Portal.



About:

- In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameswar Teli said the government had launched e-Shram portal in August last year with an objective to create a national Database of unorganised workers.
- It also facilitates delivery of Social Security Schemes and Welfare schemes to the unorganised workers.
- He said the Centre is also implementing Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) since 1st June 2020 to facilitate collateral-free working capital loan to street vendors to restart their businesses, which were adversely impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Mr Teli said over 33 lakh loans amounting to above three thousand six hundred crore rupees have been disbursed to over 30 lakh beneficiaries under the scheme till 11th of this month.

RAJASTHAN INTRODUCES THE FIRST DIGITAL LOK ADALAT IN INDIA

- During the 18th All India Legal Services Authorities' convention, which was held here, National Legal Services Authority Chairman Uday Umesh Lalit unveiled the first digital Lok Adalat driven by artificial

intelligence. Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority's (RSLSA) digital Lok Adalat was created by Jupitice Justice Technologies, the organization's technological partner.

About

- N V Ramana, the Chief Justice of India, opened the two-day event in the presence of Kiren Rijiju, the Union Minister of Law and Justice, and Ashok Gehlot, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan.
- India's increasing litigation backlog has recently made attention, particularly during the pandemic when courts were temporarily halted.
- The oldest pending case in the nation was recently resolved by a district court in Bihar after 108 years of deliberation.
- The NITI Aayog report also estimated that it would take 324 years to resolve every case now outstanding in India.
- According to the survey, between 5 million and 40 million legal issues arise each month but only between 75% and 97% of them end up in court.

HATTI COMMUNITY

The Centre is reported to be considering granting "tribal" status to the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district



About:

- The demand to declare Trans-Giri a tribal area is old — and is tied up with the demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the Hatti community which lives in the area.
- The Hattis are a close-knit community who take their name from their traditional occupation of selling home-grown crops, vegetables, meat, and wool at small-town markets known as 'haats'.

tables, meat, and wool at small-town markets known as 'haats'.

- Hatti men traditionally don a distinctive white headgear on ceremonial occasions.
- The Hatti homeland straddles the Himachal-Uttarakhand border in the basin of the Giri and Tons rivers, both tributaries of the Yamuna. The Tons marks the border between the two states, and the Hattis living in the Trans-Giri area in today's Himachal Pradesh and Jaunsar Bawar in Uttarakhand were once part of the royal estate of Sirmaur. Jaunsar Bawar was conquered by the British in 1814.
- The two Hatti clans, in Trans-Giri and Jaunsar Bawar, have similar traditions, and inter-marriages are common.

INDIAN DIASPORA

A total of 1,63,370 Indians relinquished Indian Citizenship in 2021 and received citizenship from other countries, a trend noted highest since 2019

About:

- The number of Indians who relinquished Indian Citizenship in 2019 and 2020 are 1,44,017; 85,256 respectively. A maximum of 78,284 Indians relinquished Indian Citizenship and received citizenship of the USA followed by 23,533 who took citizenship in Australia; 21,597 in Canada; and 14,637 in the UK in 2021.
- Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Tuesday shared the data with the Lok Sabha that mentions "the number of Indians who relinquished Indian Citizenship in 2019, 2020, 2021 are 1,44,017; 85,256; and 1,63,370 respectively".
- Asked about the reasons given by these persons for renouncing Indian citizenship, Rai said "individuals renounced Indian citizenship for reasons personal to them".
- The data provided by the Minister mentions that there are 103 countries where Indians relinquished Indian citizenship.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT

Jawaharlal Nehru Port has become the first 100 per cent Landlord Major Port of India having all berths being operated on PPP model.

About:

- Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, this project will improve the utilization in crane and berth productivity of the terminal.
- The total handling of JNPT will increase to

1.8 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) from the present handling capacity of 1.5 million TEUs in 2020-21.

- The Minister said terminal will also be handling Ro-Ro vessels which will not only lower the logistics cost and reduce transit time but will also contribute in reducing congestion on roads and promoting towards clean environment.

POPULATION STABILIZATION

The Government today clarified that it is not contemplating any legislative measures to control population in the country.

About:

- This was stated by Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Bharati Praveen Pawar in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.
- The Minister said, the government accords top priority to the National Family Planning Programme with the objective of attaining Population Stabilization by the year 2045.
- She said, the government's efforts have been successful in reining in the growth of population and the Total Fertility Rate has declined to 2.0 in 2019-21.
- Pawar said, contraceptive usage has also increased to 56.5 percent in the country and The Crude Birth Rate has declined to 19.7 in 2019.

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

The Government of India informed that Unit 3 of Kakrapar atomic plant is expected to commence commercial operation by December 2022, after obtaining stage-wise regulatory clearances.



About:

- Unit-4 of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP-4) has achieved a physical progress of 93.65% as of June-2022. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station is a nuclear power station in India, which lies in the proximity of Surat and Tapi river in the state of Gu-

jarat.

- Among the other 700 MW PHWRs under construction, RAPP 7&8 at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan have achieved physical progress of 95% and 80.8% respectively. In respect of GHAVP 1&2 at Gorakhpur, Haryana, various buildings and structures are under construction.
- In the ten PHWRs viz., Kaiga 5&6 at Kaiga in Karnataka, GHAVP 3&4 at Gorakhpur in Haryana, Mahi Banswara 1 to 4 at Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan and Chutka 1&2 at Chutka in Madhya Pradesh, pre-project activities at sites and procurement of long delivery equipment have been undertaken. Excavation has also commenced at Kaiga-5&6.

SPACE REFORMS

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said, 10 (Ten) in-orbit operational communication satellites have been transferred from Government of India to M/s. New Space India Ltd (NSIL), a CPSE under Department of Space

About:

- Communication satellites viz. GSAT-8, GSAT-10, GSAT-12R (CMS-01), GSAT-14, GSAT-15, GSAT-16, GSAT-17, GSAT-18, GSAT-30 and GSAT-31 have been transferred at a written down value of Rs 4697.60 crores against issue of equity to Government of India, with 01.04.2021 as the effective date of transfer.
- The Board of NSIL is authorized to price the transponder capacity as per the global trends. NSIL shall carry out the activities related to offering and allocation of capacity, as per the guidelines to be adopted by its Board.
- The transfer of operational satellites is part of the Space Sector reforms, aimed at strengthening the role of NSIL in order to enhance the nation's share in global space economy.
- The Minister also informed that the Government has taken several steps to increase India's share in global space market, through the reforms undertaken in 2020, which seek to augment the space sector in the country with greater participation of Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs).
- The Indian National Space Promotion & Authorization Centre [IN-SPACe] has been created as a single window agency to promote, handhold and authorize the activities of NGEs in the sector, thus providing them with a level playing field.

NITI AAYOG REPORT ON DIGITAL BANKS

NITI Aayog Releases Report on Digital Banks

About:

- NITI Aayog's report makes a case and offers a template and roadmap for a licensing and regulatory regime for digital banks. It focuses on avoiding any regulatory or policy arbitrage and offers a level playing field to incumbents as well as competitors.
- Recommendations: The report recommends a carefully calibrated approach, comprising the following steps -
- Issue of a restricted digital bank licence (to a given applicant) (the license would be restricted in terms of volume/value of customers serviced and the like).
- Enlistment (of the licensee) in a regulatory sandbox framework enacted by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Issue of a 'full-scale' digital bank licence (contingent on satisfactory performance of the licensee in the regulatory sandbox, including salient, prudential and technological risk management).

BANTHIA COMMISSION

The Supreme Court accepted the report of the Banthia Commission and directed the Maharashtra State Election Commission to hold elections as per this report.

About:

- With this, the way for political reservation for candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes in the Local Bodies' Elections in the state has been cleared.
- Apart from this, the top court has also asked to take steps to hold the stalled elections in the state urgently. It has been ordered to announce the Election Schedule in the next two weeks.
- The Jayantkumar Banthia Commission, in its report, recommended that OBCs should be given up to 27 percent reservation in local bodies. As the court accepted this report, OBCs will get 27 percent political reservation in local self-government elections in the state.

GeM (GOVERNMENT E-MARKETPLACE)

Commerce and Industry Minister Sh. Piyush Goyal emphasized that Hon'ble Prime Minister has set a target of 75% procurement to be made through GeM by 15th of August and 100% procurement to be made through GeM by the end of the current financial year.



About:

- Government e Marketplace (GeM) is an online platform for public procurement in India which was envisaged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- The initiative was launched on August 9, 2016 by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with an objective to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers.
- The portal has transformed public procurement in India by driving its three pillars viz. inclusivity, transparency, and efficiency.
- GeM has about 61,440 Government Buyer Organizations and about 47.99 Lakh Sellers & Service Providers with a rich listing of over 41.44 lakh Product Offerings and 1.9 lakh Service offerings.
- All states (except Sikkim) have already signed MoUs with GeM. As many as 239 CPSUs are also registered on GeM and making significant procurement through GeM Portal

REGIONAL BENCHES OF SUPREME COURT

The Union Government today said the setting up of the Regional Benches of the Supreme Court in different parts of the country is under examination of the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court and the decision is awaited.

About:

- The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, the Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, the Eastern region at Kolkata and the Western region at Mumbai.
- The Chief Justice of India in 2010, found that there is no justification for setting up benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. However, the Apex Court, in another writ petition has found it proper to refer the matter to Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement.
- The matter is sub-judice.
- Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as

the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint

DOCTOR-POPULATION RATIO

The Government said the doctor-population ratio in the country is better than the standards set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

About:

- In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar said the doctor-population ratio in the country is 1:834 whereas WHO standard is 1:1000.
- The Minister said as per the National Medical Commission, there are 138009 registered allopathic doctors besides 565000 AYUSH doctors. The Minister said there are over 34 lakh registered nursing personnel and 13 lakh allied and healthcare professionals in the country.
- The Minister further said the government is taking all possible measures for increasing the availability of doctors in the country, which include increasing UG and PG medical seats.

CRIMES AGAINST SCs / STs

Cases of crime against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have risen progressively in the years between 2018 and 2020, according to figures tabled by the Ministry of Home Affairs in Lok Sabha.

About:

STATUS REPORT: CASES, PROBE

	Cases registered	Charge-sheeted	Pending probe
SCs			
2018	42,793	34,838	16,323
2019	45,961	34,754	17,903
2020	50,291	39,138	19,825
STs			
2018	6,528	5,619	2,603
2019	7,570	5,918	2,920
2020	8,272	6,484	3,351

*Investigation pending at end of given year
Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, LS reply

- Cases registered for crime against SCs rose from 42,793 in 2018 to over 50,000 in 2020, and of crime against STs from 6,528 to 8,272 in the same period.
- The figures also detailed how many cases had resulted in chargesheets being filed, and how many were pending investigation at the end of each of these year.

INDIA'S BIOECONOMY LIKELY TO REACH \$300 BILLION BY 2030

- By 2025 and 2030, India's bioeconomy is predicted to reach \$150 billion and \$300

billion, respectively.

- The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) released the India BioEconomy Report 2022 based on information about the economic contribution of the biotech sector.
- According to the analysis, the nation's bioeconomy reached over USD 80 billion in 2021, representing an increase of 14.1% over USD 70.2 billion in 2020. It claimed that India would add USD 80.12 billion in bioeconomy in 2021, producing USD 219 million daily.

PM NARENDRA MODI UNVEILS INDIA'S FIRST PASSENGER DRONE "VARUNA"

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled Varuna, India's first passenger drone. PM Modi is seen watching the demonstration of the drone.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that the current government has ensured last-mile delivery of services with the help of technology, including drones.
- The Prime Minister was there to address the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar 'Swavlamban' which took place at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

Varuna' drone:

- The makers of this indigenous pilot-less 'Varuna' drone startup Sagar Defence Engineering demonstrated this in his presence.
- This 'Varuna' drone has been designed and developed by a startup and has the capacity to carry one person inside.
- Varuna, India's first drone that can carry a human payload, has a range of 25 km. The drone can carry a 130 kg payload and has 25-33 minutes of flight time.

ZERO COUPON, ZERO PRINCIPAL BOND DECLARED BY GOVT AS SECURITIES

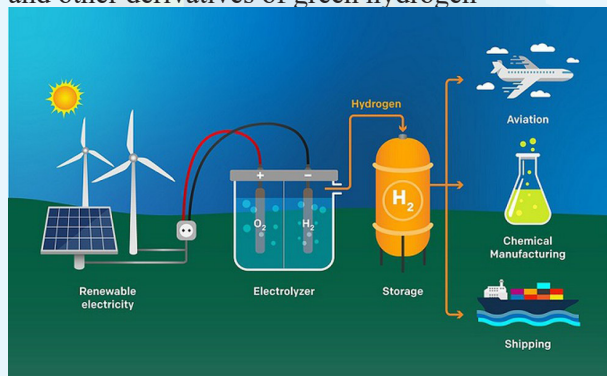
- The government has designated "zero coupon zero principal instruments" as securities in preparation for the creation of a social stock exchange.
- A Not for Profit Organization (NPO) that will be registered with the social stock exchange segment of a recognised stock exchange will issue a zero coupon, zero principal instrument. According to a formal announcement released on Friday, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) will establish the laws that would apply to these instruments.

About

- The Social Stock Exchange (SSE), a revolutionary idea in India, aims to benefit private and nonprofit sector providers by increasing their access to money.
- Nirmala Sitharaman, the finance minister, proposed the concept in her Budget Speech for 2019–20.
- SSE will be a distinct division of the current stock markets.
- According to the notification, “zero coupon zero principal instruments” have been designated as securities for the purposes of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.
- Sebi’s board approved a framework for SSE for social businesses to raise money in September 2021.
- The recommendations of a working group and technical group assembled by the regulator served as the foundation for the development of the SSE framework

GREEN HYDROGEN

Energy major Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s Greenko ZeroC Private Limited (Greenko), to jointly pursue opportunities in Renewables, Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia and other derivatives of green hydrogen



About:

- This MoU is in line with the National Hydrogen Mission launched by Hon’ble Prime Minister in making India a global green hydrogen hub.
- The activities envisaged under this MoU will contribute towards India’s target of producing of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen per annum by 2030.
- This MoU will also act as a stepping stone for ONGC to achieve renewable energy targets as per its Energy Strategy 2040.

FAMILY COURTS’ AMENDMENT BILL, 2022

The Lok Sabha passed the Family Courts’ Amendment Bill, 2022 by voice vote.

About:



- It validates the existence of the three family courts in Himachal Pradesh and Two in Nagaland with retrospective effect. The bill also seeks validation of the decisions taken by the two states and the family courts.
- The family courts located at Shimla, Dharmashala, and Mandi in Himachal Pradesh will come into force, with a retrospective effect of February 15th 2019.
- The Family Courts located at Dimapur and Kohima in Nagaland will come into force with retrospect effect from November 12th 2008 on enactment of the Bill.
- The enactment was necessitated as it came to light in connection with a case that the central Government notifications were not existing with respect to these five family courts.

HAR GHAR TIRANGA’ CAMPAIGN

Spending on ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign declared CSR activity under Companies Act.

About:

- Corporate Affairs Ministry has said that companies can spend their Corporate Social Responsibility CSR funds for activities related to the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.
- The Ministry said spending of CSR funds for the activities related to this campaign such as mass scale production and supply of the national flag, outreach and amplification efforts and other related activities are eligible CSR activities under Schedule VII of the Companies Act pertaining to promotion of education relating to culture.
- Do you know?



- Under the Companies Act, 2013, certain class of profitable companies are required to shell out at least two per cent of their three-year annual average net profit towards CSR activities.
- Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is being organised by the Government as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage people to bring home the national flag and hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's independence.

ARTICLE 60 (OATH OR AFFIRMATION BY THE PRESIDENT)

Droupadi Murmu took oath of office as the 15th President of India and created history by being the first tribal head of State and the second woman to occupy the country's highest constitutional post.

About:



- Every President and every person acting as President or discharging the functions of the President shall, before entering upon his office, make and subscribe in the presence of the Chief Justice of India or, in his absence, the senior most Judge of the Supreme Court available, an oath or affirmation in the following form, that is to say -
- "I, A.B., do swear in the name of God / solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the office of President (or discharge the function of the President) of India and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of India."

THE TRADITION OF 25 JULY AND DROUPADI MURMU'S SWEARING-IN

AS PRESIDENT

25 July, will go down in the annals of Indian history as Droupadi Murmu is sworn in as the first tribal President of the country.

About:

- Records show that since 1977, successive Presidents have taken the oath of office on 25 July.
- Murmu's swearing-in on 25 July makes her the 10th successive President to take oath on 25 July since 1977. At 64, Murmu is the youngest and India's first president to be born after Independence.

Significance of 25 July

- There is no written rule as to why presidents since 1977 have been sworn in on this date.
- The tenure of outgoing President of India, Ram Nath Kovind ended on 24 July, paving the way for Droupadi Murmu's ascension to the topmost position in the country.
- Incidentally, Kovind was also sworn in as the 14th President of India on 25 July 2017.
- Since Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the sixth President of India, took the oath on 25 July back in 1977, this practice has continued.
- Successive Presidents such as Giani Zail Singh, R Venkataraman, Shankar Dayal Sharma, KR Narayanan, APJ Abdul Kalam, Pratibha Patil, Pranab Mukherjee and Ram Nath Kovind have taken oath on 25 July.

MODEL TENANCY LAW

More than a year since the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry circulated the Model Tenancy Act (MTA), only four States had revised their tenancy laws to be in line with the MTA, the Ministry said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha

About:

- As per information available with MoHUA, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Assam have revised Tenancy Acts on the lines of Model Tenancy Act (MTA).
- The Model Tenancy Act aimed to balance the rights of tenants and landlords, and to "create an accountable and transparent ecosystem for renting of premises in a disciplined and efficient manner".

LATEST GUIDELINES ON ARRESTS AND BAIL ORDERS

On July 11, a division bench of the Supreme Court of India in Satender Kumar Antil vs CBI laid down fresh guidelines on arrests in order to have strict compliance with the provisions of Section 41 and 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

What the top court said

The Supreme Court has called upon the government to consider framing a new law to facilitate the grant of bail



On rate of conviction: "The rate of conviction in criminal cases in India is abysmally low. It appears to us that this factor weighs on the mind of the court while deciding the bail applications in a negative sense"



On the need for bails act: "We... call on government to consider an Act meant for granting of bail. Our belief is for the reason that the code as it exists today is a continuation of the pre-independence one"



On preservation of right to liberty: "Liberty, as embedded in the Code, has to be preserved, protected, and enforced by the criminal courts. Any conscious failure by them would constitute an affront to liberty"



About:

- These guidelines are in addition to the earlier ones which the apex court had already laid down in the case of Armesh Kumar vs State of Bihar (2014).
- The Court in the present case has also emphasised upon separate legislation on the law relating to bail and has also issued specific directions in this regard.
- On July 16, even the Chief Justice of India (CJI) cautioned against "hasty and indiscriminate arrests". He further commented on the delay in bails and the plight of undertrial prisoners.

What are Sections 41 and 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure?

- Section 41 of the Code provides for the circumstances in which arrest can be made by the police without a warrant and mandates for reasons to be recorded in writing for every arrest and non-arrest.
- Section 41A of the Code provides for the requirement of a notice to be sent by the investigating agencies before making an arrest in certain conditions prescribed by the Code.

PROTECTION OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS FROM VIOLENCE

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has withdrawn the draft legislation on protection of healthcare workers and healthcare institutions from violence, which proposed a jail term of up to five years and a fine of up to ₹5 lakh for the offenders.

About:

- This was revealed in the Ministry's reply to a query filed under the Right to Information Act, seeking the status of the Healthcare Service Personnel & Clinical Establishments (Prohibition of Violence and Damage to Property) Bill, 2019.
- During a debate on an Ordinance in the Rajya Sabha to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, the then Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had said that there was a dramatic decline in the number of incidents of violence against health workers ever since the

Ordinance was brought in.

- The Ordinance had proposed to make incidents of violence on health workers treating COVID-19 patients a non-bailable offence

N-TREAT TECHNOLOGY

To prevent sludge and sewage from 25 storm water drains between Bandra and Dahisar from flowing into the sea, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has planned in-situ treatment of sewage from the drains.



About:

- This will be done with the help of Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay's (IIT-B) N-Treat Technology.
- N-Treat is a seven-stage process for waste treatment that uses screens, gates, silt traps, curtains of coconut fibres for filtration, and disinfection using sodium hypochlorite.
- It is a natural and environment friendly way for sewage treatment. Its set up takes place within the nullah channels, that is through the in-situ or on-site method of treatment, and does not require additional space.

HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

Minister of Environment tabled data in Lok Sabha on human-animal conflict.

Elephants	2018-19	19-20	20-21
Humans killed by elephants	—	585	461
Elephants killed by trains...	19	14	12
... by electrocution	81	76	65
... by poaching	6	9	14
... by poisoning	9	0	2

533 Humans killed by elephants in 2021-22

About:

- Between 2018-19 and 2020-21, 222 elephants were killed by electrocution across the country, 45 by trains, 29 by poachers and 11 by poisoning.
- Among tigers, too, 29 were killed by poaching between 2019 and 2021, while 197 tiger

deaths are under scrutiny.

- Among human casualties of conflict with animals, elephants killed 1,579 humans in three years — 585 in 2019-20, 461 in 2020-21, and 533 in 2021-22. Odisha accounted for the highest number of these deaths at 322.
- Tigers killed 125 humans in reserves between 2019 and 2021. Maharashtra accounted for nearly half these deaths, at 61.

DEFENCE REFORMS

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced the setting up of joint theatre commands of the tri-services to enhance coordination among the armed forces.

About:

- He was speaking during a programme organised by the Jammu Kashmir People's Forum here to pay tributes to the martyrs of the Indian Armed Forces.
- Referring to the defence production, Singh said, "India was the world's largest importer (of defence products). Today, India is not the world's largest importer but is among the top 25 nations engaged in defence exports," he pointed out.
- Singh said the country has started defence exports worth Rs 13,000 crore and it has fixed a target to increase it to Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 crore by 2025-26.
- This is Singh's second visit to Jammu in a little over a month. He visited the region on June 17 on the occasion of the 200th year of coronation of Maharaja Gulab Singh.

FIBERISATION

India is preparing to auction off about 72 Ghz of airwaves to rollout 5G services in the country. However, the infrastructure needed for such a rollout requires existing radio towers to be connected via optical-fibre cables.

What is fiberisation?

- The process of connecting radio towers with each other via optical fibre cables is called fiberisation.
- It helps provide full utilisation of network capacity, and carry large amounts of data once 5G services are rolled out. It will also aid in providing additional bandwidth and stronger backhaul support.
- The backhaul is a component of the larger transport that is responsible for carrying data across the network.
- It represents the part of the network that connects the core of the network to the edge. As a result, fibre backhaul remains an important part of transport across all telecoms.

- Fibre-based media, commonly called optical media, provides almost infinite bandwidth and coverage, low latency and high insulation from interference.

WIND POWER

Last week, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) said it would be doing away with the practice of reverse auctions — when companies bid to offer the lowest price — while awarding contracts for setting up wind-energy projects.

About:

- However, wind industry experts say this alone will not necessarily improve the sector's fortunes.
- India has committed to installing 60,000 MW of wind power projects by 2022, but has met only two-thirds of the target.
- While reverse auctions were the norm for all renewable energy projects, including solar and wind projects since 2015, the government's change of stance signals that the rock-bottom prices associated with clean energy projects — per unit solar power costs have fallen to ₹2.40 a unit — do not reflect the true costs of renewable energy.
- The cost of large tracts of land required to install wind turbines is among the reasons cited for the dwindling health of the sector.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF UNANI MEDICINE (NIUM), GHAZIABAD

Union Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inspected newly constructed campus of National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

About:

- NIUM, Ghaziabad is a satellite Institute of National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore and will be first of its kind to be established in northern region of India.
- The foundation stone for the National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh was laid on 1st March 2019.
- This Institute will produce high quality professionals in various streams of Unani Medicine.
- This Institute will have 14 departments and will provide PG and Doctoral courses in various disciplines of Unani Medicine.
- The Institute will also focus on fundamental aspects, drug development, quality control, safety evaluation and scientific validation of Unani medicine and practices.
- The Institute will establish Bench Mark standards in Education, Health Care and

SAI STARTS "CREATE FOR INDIA" CAMPAIGN TO CHEER FOR TEAM INDIA IN BIRMINGHAM

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has started a new initiative to cheer for Team India, under which SAI has launched the campaign "Create for India" to cheer Indian contingents participating in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- A 215-member Indian athlete contingent is set to participate across 16 disciplines in this sports event, which is scheduled to take place from July 28, 2022, to August 08, 2022. The motto of the CWG 2022 is "Games for Everyone."

About the Sports Authority of India:

- The Sports Authority of India is the apex national sports body of India, established in 1982 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India for the development of sports in India

MP'S BURHANPUR BECOMES THE FIRST DISTRICT TO CERTIFY 'HAR GHAR JAL'

- Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh, popularly known as the 'Darwaza of Dakhin', became the first Certified 'Har Ghar Jal' district in the Country.
- Only district in the country, people from each of 254 villages in Burhanpur have declared their villages as 'Har Ghar Jal' through a resolution passed by Gram Sabhas.
- Accordingly, it certifies that all people in the villages have access to safe drinking water through taps, ensuring that 'No One is Left Out'.
- When Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on August 15, 2019, only 37,241 rural households (36.54%) out of a total of 1,01,905 households in Burhanpur had potable drinking water through tap connections. Now, within a span of 34 months, all the 1,01,905 rural households have access to potable drinking water through tap connections. Furthermore, all 640 schools, 547 Anganwadi centres and 440 other public institutions have tap connections.

PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA)

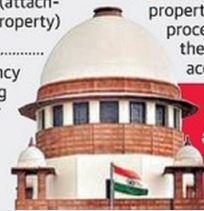
The Supreme Court upheld the core amendments

made to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which gives the government and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) virtually unbridled powers of summons, arrest, and raids, and makes bail nearly impossible while shifting the burden of proof of innocence on to the accused rather than the prosecution.

On ED's power under PMLA

An upshot of the judgment by the Supreme Court on the validity of certain provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

- The offence of money laundering is as heinous an offence as terrorism
- Section 3 (definition of money laundering), Section 24 (reverse burden of proof), and Section 5 (attachment of property) to stay
- Stringency in granting bail under the Act is legal and not arbitrary
- It is not mandatory to give an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in every case as it was not an FIR
- The statements made to ED are considered admissible
- Provision of attachment of property of accused as proceeds of crime 'balances' the interests of the accused and the State
- The question of enactment of PMLA amendments through the Money Bill route is to be decided by a larger Bench



About:

- The top court called the PMLA a law against the "scourge of money laundering" and not a hatchet wielded against rival politicians and dissenters.
- The verdict came on an extensive challenge raised against the amendments introduced to the 2002 Act by way of Finance Acts.
- "Money laundering is an offence against the sovereignty and integrity of the country, It is no less a heinous offence than the offence of terrorism" the court noted.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (NIRD&PR)

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) and University of Reading (UoR), United Kingdom (UK) for collaboration in the field of agriculture and rural development in developing countries.



About:

- This MoU will help NIRDPR faculty in

acquiring and widening their knowledge, and develop an international professional network in agriculture, nutrition and rural development.

- NIRD&PR, an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj.
- Recognized internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence, the Institute is located in Hyderabad, Telangana. In addition to the main campus at Hyderabad, this Institute has North-Eastern Regional Centre at Guwahati, Assam.

PROJECT FOR SATURATION OF 4G MOBILE SERVICES IN UNCOVERED VILLAGES

The Union Cabinet approved a project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country at a total cost of Rs. 26,316 Cr.



About:

- The project will provide 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas. The project has a provision to include 20% additional villages on account of rehabilitation, new-settlements, withdrawal of services by existing operators etc.
- In addition, 6,279 villages having only 2G/3G connectivity shall be upgraded to 4G.
- The project will be executed by BSNL using Atmanirbhar Bharat's 4G technology stack and will be funded through Universal Service Obligation Fund.
- The project cost of Rs. 26,316 Cr includes capex and 5 year opex.
- The project is a significant step towards the vision of the Government to provide mobile connectivity in rural areas.

Background

- Last year Government approved a project

for providing 4G mobile services in 7,287 uncovered villages in 44 aspirational districts across 5 states.

- In his Independence Day address in 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave a call for saturation of government schemes.

INDIA'S FIRST ALL WOMEN-RUN COOPERATIVE BANK COMING UP IN RAJASTHAN

- The first all-women-run financial institution in the cooperative sector is coming soon in Rajasthan following a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has signed with the Telangana government's Stree Nidhi Credit Cooperative Federation.
- The new body will promote women's empowerment by supporting their enterprises.
- The Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi will be set up on the lines of the Stree Nidhi of Telangana. The MoU was signed between Rajasthan Grameen Ajeevika Vikas Parishad's (Rajeevika) Mission Director Manju Rajpal and Stree Nidhi Managing Director G. Vidya Sagar Reddy in the presence of Rural Development Minister Ramesh Chand Meena.
- About the Mahila Nidhi:
- Mahila Nidhi will strengthen the women's self-help groups in the State by extending timely loan facilities for their enterprises. The institution will be operated entirely by women and will act as a complementary body to the formal banking system. It is also expected to bring down the number of loan applications pending in the banks.

IN THREE YEARS, INDIA LOST 329 TIGERS, 29 OF WHICH WERE KILLED BY POACHERS: GOVT

- According to a government report, 329 tigers in India perished in the past three years as a result of poaching, natural disasters, and other factors.
- The poaching, electrocution, poisoning, and train accidents contributed to the deaths of up to 307 elephants over this time. 96 tigers perished in 2019, 106 in 2020, and 127 in 2021, according to data presented by Union Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

About Government Report:

- 222 elephants have died from electrocution in the last three years. Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Assam, respectively, reported 41, 34, and 33 such deaths.
- Train accidents have claimed the lives of 45

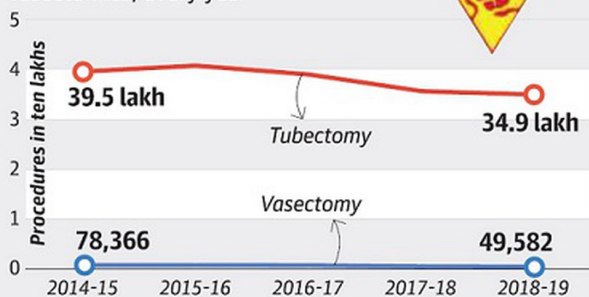
elephants. There were 12 and 11 of these fatalities in Odisha and West Bengal, respectively.

- The data showed that during the period, 11 elephants died from poisoning, including nine in Assam, while 29 elephants perished as a result of poaching, including 12 in Meghalaya and seven in Odisha.

POPULATION GROWTH

High teenage fertility in some areas remains a cause of concern in India even as the fertility rate has stabilised across the country, the Health Ministry said in its Family Planning Vision-2030 document released

Onus on women | The chart shows the number of vasectomies (surgical procedure for female sterilisation) and tubectomies (surgical procedure for male sterilisation) performed in India between 2014 and 2019. Tubectomies are nearly 10 times higher than the vasectomies, every year



About:

- It added that participation of men will be encouraged in the family planning programme and that lack of access to contraceptives had been identified as a priority challenge area.
- While multiple factors have been identified that explain low contraceptive use among married adolescents and young women, two most important factors are child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- Over 118 districts reported high percentage of teenage pregnancies and are mostly concentrated in Bihar (19), West Bengal (15), Assam (13), Maharashtra (13), Jharkhand (10), Andhra Pradesh (7), and Tripura (4).
- Additionally, over 44% of the districts in India reported high percentage of women marrying before they reach the age of 18. These districts were in Bihar (17), West Bengal (8), Jharkhand (7), Assam (4), two each in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

ELEVENTH AGRICULTURAL CENSUS (2021-22)

The Eleventh Agricultural Census (2021-22) was launched in the country by the Union Minister for

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.

About:

- Agriculture Census is conducted every 5 years, which is being undertaken now after delay due to corona pandemic. The field work of agricultural census will start in August 2022.
- Agricultural Census is the main source of information on a variety of agricultural parameters at a relatively minute level, such as the number and area of operational holdings, their size, class-wise distribution, land use, tenancy and cropping pattern, etc.
- This is the first time that data collection for agricultural census will be conducted on smart phones and tablets, so that data is available in time. Most of the States have digitized their land records and surveys, which will further accelerate the collection of agricultural census data.

INDIA'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL BULLION EXCHANGE

- Bullion refers to physical gold and silver of high purity that is often kept in the form of bars, ingots, or coins. It can sometimes be considered legal tender, and is often held as reserves by central banks or held by institutional investors.
- A bullion exchange allows buyers and sellers to trade gold and silver as well as associated derivatives. IIBX, regulated by IFS-CA, will be the country's first International Bullion Exchange which will be set up at the GIFT City. The exchange will offer a range of products and technology services at a competitive price than the Indian exchanges as well as other global exchanges.
- India's maiden bullion exchange will serve as the Gateway for Bullion Imports into the country, wherein they shall be channelised through the exchange, as per a government's notification.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

According to figures tabled in Lok Sabha, the number of road accidents, and the resultant deaths and number of people injured declined from 2018 to 2020, with the fall particularly sharp from 4.5 lakh accidents (1.5 lakh deaths) in 2019 to 3.5 lakh accidents (1.3 lakh deaths) in 2020.

MOST ACCIDENTS, 2020

Tamil Nadu	45,484
Madhya Pradesh	45,266
Uttar Pradesh	34,243
Karnataka	34,178
Kerala	27,877
Maharashtra	24,971
Andhra Pradesh	19,509
Telangana	19,172
Rajasthan	19,114
Gujarat	13,398

MOST ROAD DEATHS, 2020

Uttar Pradesh	19,149
Maharashtra	11,569
Madhya Pradesh	11,141
Karnataka	9,760
Rajasthan	9,250
Tamil Nadu	8,059
Andhra Pradesh	7,039
Telangana	6,882
Bihar	6,699
Gujarat	6,170

About:

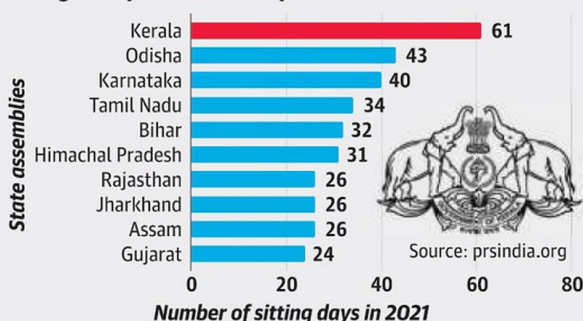
-
- Tamil Nadu had the highest number of road accidents in 2020, while Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of deaths as a result of such accidents.

STATE LEGISLATURES

Kerala, which slipped to the eighth slot in holding Assembly sittings during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, returned to the top spot in 2021, with its House sitting for 61 days, the highest in the country

Counting the sittings

The chart shows the State Assemblies which sat for more than 20 sessions in 2021. Kerala recorded the most such sittings last year followed by Odisha and Karnataka



About:

- The State's showing was impressive as 2021 saw the more virulent second wave of the pandemic. In fact, between 2016 and 2019, it remained at the top with an average of 53 days.
- Despite enjoying the record of having the highest number of sittings in 2021, Kerala (where the Left Democratic Front is in power since May 2016) had promulgated 144 ordinances, also the highest in the country.
- Making the findings in its study on the functioning of State Assemblies for 2021, the PRS Legislative Research (PRS), a New Delhi-based think tank, states that for the year in question, Odisha followed Kerala with 43 sitting days; Karnataka 40, and Tamil Nadu 34 days.

- Of the 28 State Assemblies and one Union Territory's legislature, 17 met for less than 20 days. Of them, five — Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Delhi — met for less than 10 days. The figures for Uttar Pradesh, Manipur and Punjab were 17, 16 and 11, respectively.

DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES (DLSAs)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the inaugural session of the first All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet in New Delhi on July 30, 2022.



About:

- The first-ever national-level meet of District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) is being organized at Vigyan Bhawan by National Legal Services Authority. The meeting will deliberate on the creation of an integrated procedure to bring homogeneity and synchronization across DLSAs.
- There are a total of 676 District Legal Services Authorities in the country. They are headed by the District Judge who acts as Chairman of the authority.
- Through DLSAs and State Legal Services Authorities, various legal aid and awareness programs are implemented by National Legal Services Authority. The DLSAs also contribute towards reducing the burden on courts by regulating the Lok Adalats conducted by NALSA.

AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (AIF)

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar will give away Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Awards in New Delhi on July 30, 2022.



About:

- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) was launched two years ago under the ambitious Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package as a dedicated Central Government scheme that provides medium-long term credit facility for investment in creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
- This facility comes with financial support by way of three per cent Interest subvention from Government and credit guarantee by CGTMSE fee up to two crore rupees.
- This scheme can be converged with the existing Central Government and State Government schemes. This has immensely benefitted stakeholders in the agricultural ecosystem - Farmers, Agri-entrepreneur, FPO, SHG, JLG, PACS, APMC, Startup, Central, Marketing Cooperative Society, State Agencies etc

NEW NORMS FOR MISSION VATSALYA

Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme through State/UT Governments namely Mission Vatsalya.

About:

- Under it, a monthly grant of Rs. 4000/- per child is provided for family based non-institutional care including Sponsorship (kinship) or Foster Care or After Care.
- The Mission Vatsalya in partnership with States and Districts provides support to a 24x7 helpline service for children as defined under the JJ Act, 2015.
- The Mission Vatsalya Scheme envisages setting up Cradle Baby Reception Centres in at least one Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA), preferably government run, in each District, to save the abandoned child-

dren and look after them with due care and affection till he/she is given in adoption.

FLOATING SOLAR POWER PLANT AT NTPC-KAYAMKULAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the 92-MW floating solar power project set up at the National Thermal Power Corporation's (NTPC) Kayamkulam unit in Kerala.



About:

- Prime Minister said that so far, about 170 GW capacity has been installed from non-fossil sources in India. India is among the top four-five countries in terms of installed solar capacity.
- The Kayamkulam plant is the second-largest floating solar power project of the NTPC after the 100-MW plant at Ramagundam in Telangana.
- The floating solar system was built on a 450-acre lake area adjacent to the NTPC's Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Project (RGCCPP). Implemented at a cost of ₹465 crores, the project consists of around three lakh Made in India solar PV panels floating on water.

NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING BILL, 2021

The Lok Sabha has passed the National Anti-Doping Bill, 2021 by voice vote.

About:

- The bill provides for constitution of the National Anti-Doping Agency- NADA for regulating anti-doping activities in sports.
- Its functions include planning, implementing, and monitoring anti-doping activities as well as investigating anti-doping rule violations.
- It also seeks to give effect to the UNESCO International Convention against doping in sports and compliance of such other obligations and commitments.
- The legislation prohibits athletes, athlete support personnel, and other persons from engaging in doping in sports. Under the new legislation, violation of anti-doping rules may result in disqualification of re-

sults including forfeiture of medals, points, and prizes, ineligibility to participate in a competition or event for a prescribed period, and financial sanctions.

- The Bill also proposes to establish the National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports with a view to make recommendations to the government on anti-doping regulations and compliance with international commitments on anti-doping. The Board will oversee the activities of NADA and issue directions to it.





2022 UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

The 2022 UN Ocean Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, took place on 27 June – 1 July 2022, in Lisbon, Portugal.

About:

- The overall theme of the Conference was: “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions.”
- The UN Ocean Conference concluded, with governments and heads of state agreeing on a new political declaration to Save Our Ocean.
- Recognizing a “collective failure to achieve Ocean related targets” so far, leaders renewed their commitment to take urgent action and to cooperate at all levels, to fully achieve targets.
- The signatories emphasized the particular importance of implementing the Paris Agreement of 2015, and last November’s Glasgow Climate Pact to help ensure the health, productivity, sustainable use, and resilience of the ocean.
- India committed to a Coastal Clean Seas Campaign and will work toward a ban on single use plastics.
- The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) aims to achieve the science we need, for the ocean we want.

BRICS

Iran has submitted an application to become a member of the BRICS.



About:

- Iran, which holds the world’s second-largest gas reserves, wants to join the BRICS

group of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

- The term BRIC was coined by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O’Neill in 2001 to describe the startling rise of Brazil, Russia, India, and China. The BRIC powers had their first summit in 2009 in Russia. South Africa joined in 2010.
- Argentina had also applied to join. Argentine President Alberto Fernandez, currently in Europe, has in recent days reiterated his desire for Argentina to join BRICS.
- Statistics
- China has by far the largest economy in the BRICS grouping, accounting for more than 70 of the group’s collective 27.5 trillion US dollars in economic might. India accounts for about 13 per cent, with Russia and Brazil each accounting for about seven per cent, according to IMF data.
- BRICS account for more than 40 per cent of the world’s population and about 26 per cent of the global economy.

14th BRICS SUMMIT

Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted the 14th BRICS Summit in Beijing.

About:

- The summit was held in virtual format under the theme of ‘Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development’.
- China is the chair of the 14th BRICS Summit happening this year which assumes importance as this was the first BRICS Summit after Russia-Ukraine war began and Russia is currently under severe economic sanction by the west led by the US.
- President Xi Jinping also hosted the High-level Dialogue on Global Development in Beijing. The Dialogue was held in virtual format under the theme of ‘Foster a Global Development Partnership for the New Era to Jointly Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’.
- Beijing Declaration



- The two day summit concluded with the Beijing Declaration.
- The declaration says that the BRICS countries support talks between Russia and Ukraine. They discussed concerns over the humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine and expressed support for United Nations, UN agencies and Red Cross to provide humanitarian assistance.
- The BRICS declaration also stated that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group. The summit called for finalisation and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework.

INDIA ARGENTINA BILATERAL RELATIONS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President of Argentina Alberto Fernandez, in Munich on the sidelines of G7 Summit.

About:



- This was the first bilateral meeting between the two leaders. They reviewed progress in implementing the bilateral Strategic Partnership established in 2019.
- Discussions took place on various issues including trade and investment, South-South cooperation, particularly in the pharmaceutical sector, climate action, renewable energy, nuclear medicine, electric mobility, defence cooperation, agriculture and food security, traditional medicine, cultural cooperation, as well as coordination in international bodies.

NATO SUMMIT 2022 CONCLUDES IN MADRID

- The 2022 NATO Madrid Summit was held in Madrid, Spain, from June 28 to 30, 2022.

This was the 32nd edition of the summit, since the first summit meeting held in Paris in 1957.

- The Summit was chaired by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.
- The heads of state and heads of government of NATO member and partner countries participated in the three-day Summit.
- NATO summit meetings is a platform for member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities

PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT (PGII)

On June 26, the G-7 grouping of the world's "most industrialised nations" — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the U.K., Japan and the U.S. along with the European Union (EU) — launched a U.S.-led \$600 billion Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) at their summit in Germany's Schloss Elmau, where India was among five special invitees.



About:

- The initiative was billed as a "values-driven, high-impact, and transparent infrastructure partnership to meet the enormous infrastructure needs of low- and middle-income countries and support the U.S. and its allies' economic and national security interests."
- Officials also made it clear that the PGII would offer a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for projects worldwide that was formally launched five years ago.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

Leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a 30-country regional security coalition that emerged from the crucible of Cold War rivalry, met on June 29-30 in Madrid, Spain.



- How strong was NATO before the Russia-Ukraine war?
- NATO appeared to be weakened during the administration of former U.S. President Donald Trump, who frequently threatened to exclude from the U.S.'s protective umbrella any member states that did not pay enough for that privilege.
- A further blow came when U.S. President Joe Biden pulled his country's troops out of Afghanistan, a NATO military mission, more or less unilaterally.

What are the recent developments that have strengthened NATO?

- Firstly, NATO allies other than the U.S. remained firmly committed to financing the organisation's military needs. Their combined defence investments have jumped by \$130 billion from 2014-19, in part driven by Russia's annexation of Crimea.
- Second, after decades of maintaining a position of neutrality, Finland and Sweden are set to join NATO possibly within a year, in a large part driven by the strategic insecurity they face as neighbours of Russia.

INDIA-EU FTA

India and the European Union (EU) concluded the first round of talks for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) and the next round of talks is scheduled at Brussels in September, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

About:

- India and the 27-nation bloc resumed negotiations on June 17, after a gap of more than eight years, on the proposed agreements on trade, investments and geographical indications (GI).
- The first round of talks, which began on June 27, concluded on July 1.
- India's bilateral trade with the EU amounted to \$116.36 billion in 2021-22.
- The EU is India's second-largest trading partner, after the U.S., and the second-largest

est destination for Indian exports.

INDIA-AUSTRALIA CRITICAL MINERALS INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

Australia is all set to supply critical minerals required for India's electric vehicles, solar power projects and other strategic areas, said Canberra's Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia Madeleine King.

About:



- Australia will commit \$5.8 million to the three-year India-Australia Critical Minerals Investment Partnership.
- Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, soon after his May 23 election victory, had participated in the Quad Summit in Tokyo along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, where all sides pledged to focus on green and sustainable forms of energy.
- An MoU was recently signed between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) and the Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) of Australia that will try to source lithium and cobalt from Australia.

S JAISHANKAR TO ATTEND THE G20 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN INDONESIA

- The G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) will be held in Bali, Indonesia, and it will be attended by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- According to a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs, the meeting's foreign ministers will discuss topics of current relevance, such as advancing multilateralism and current global concerns, such as the security of food and energy.
 - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, China, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United States, and United Kingdom are among the G20 nations.

UNESCO PANEL ON INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

India has been elected to the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for the 2022-2026 cycle.

About:

- India has served as a member of the ICH Committee twice — from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018. India will now be a part of two prominent Committees of UNESCO — Intangible Cultural Heritage (2022-2026) and World Heritage (2021-2025).
- According to UNESCO, the core functions of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage are to promote the objectives of the convention, provide guidance on best practices and make recommendations on measures for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.
- The Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention comprises 24 members and is elected in the General Assembly of the Convention according to the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation.
- States Members to the Committee are elected for a term of four years.

INDIA-BRAZIL NAVAL COOPERATION

The Navies of India and Brazil, both of which operate the French Scorpene class submarines, are exploring options for collaboration towards maintenance of the diesel-electric attack submarines.



About:

- A Brazilian Navy delegation was at the Western Naval Command in Mumbai, where this issue was extensively discussed.
- India has inducted four of the six Scorpene submarines contracted from France, being manufactured locally with assistance from Naval Group. The 5th submarine is in advanced stages of sea trials while the last one was recently launched into water and

is expected to join the Navy by the middle of next year.

- The Brazilian Navy also operates four Scorpene class submarines and is currently in the process of building a nuclear attack submarine (SSN) with assistance from France.
- India, which has leased SSNs in the past from Russia, is in the process of indigenously building SSNs while it already operates nuclear ballistic submarines (SSBN).
- Brazil previously entered into negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency over safeguards for the use of nuclear fuel for the submarine program.

PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA RAJAPAKSA SIGNS HIS RESIGNATION

- The Speaker of Parliament will officially announce the resignation of Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa after he has signed his letter of resignation. The resignation was written and given to a senior government official, who will give it to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, according to reports in Sri Lankan newspapers. Just before tens of thousands of demonstrators stormed the President's House, Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled.

I2U2 SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the First I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) Leaders' Virtual Summit on July 14, 2022 along with his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid, UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the US President Joe Biden.



About:

- The Leaders will discuss the possible joint projects within the framework of I2U2 as well as the other common areas of mutual interest to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in the respective regions and beyond.
- The I2U2 Grouping was conceptualized during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers

of the four countries held on 18th October last year. Each country also has Sherpa-level interactions regularly to discuss the possible areas of cooperation.

- I2U2 is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.
- It intends to mobilize private sector capital and expertise to help modernize the infrastructure, and low carbon development pathways for the industries, improve public health, and promote the development of critical emerging and green technologies.

INTERNATIONAL CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (ICSE) INITIATIVE

India's Central Bureau of Investigation has joined the Interpol's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) initiative. This will allow it to collaborate with investigators in other countries for detecting child sex abuse online and identifying abusers, victims, and crime scenes from audio-visual clips using specialised software.

What is Interpol?

- Interpol is the world's largest international police organisation with 195 member countries, and is headquartered in Lyon, France.
- Each member country hosts an Interpol National Central Bureau that connects their national law enforcement to it and in India, the CBI is that nodal agency.
- What is the ICSE database that the CBI has joined?
- The ICSE database uses video and image comparison to analyse Child Sex Exploitation Material (CSEM) and make connections between victims, abusers and places.
- As of July 2022, over 30,000 victims of child abuse and over 13,000 criminals have been identified by the Interpol using this database and software.
- India is the 68th country to have access to this database and software. Interpol's website said that on average, the database helps identify seven child victims everyday globally.

SRI LANKA POLITICAL CRISIS

Gotabaya Rajapaksa has officially resigned as Sri Lanka's President, the Parliamentary Speaker announced, ending days of uncertainty since the deposed leader fled the island amid monumental public protests over an economic crisis gripping the country.

About:

- Hours later, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as Acting President

as per the Constitution, even as members of Parliament prepare to elect a new President from among themselves through a secret ballot. "I hope to complete the process of electing a new President within seven days.

- According to the Sri Lankan Constitution, if the office of the President falls vacant, a new President must be elected through Parliament within one month.
- In his first statement as Acting President, Mr. Wickremesinghe vowed to "re-implement" the 19th Amendment, referring to a 2015 legislation that clipped the Executive's powers, in turn empowering Parliament.
- The change at the country's helm was sparked by the storming of the President's office and home last weekend by protesters, that forced Mr. Gotabaya to flee for his life, first to the Maldives and later to Singapore, where he is currently located.

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO)

Iran and Belarus are likely to be the two newest additions to the China and Russia-backed Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping.



About:

- Expanding the group is among the issues that leaders of the grouping are likely to discuss at the SCO summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in September.
- China, Russia and four Central Asian states — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan — were the founding members of the SCO, while India and Pakistan joined the grouping in 2017 in its first round of expansion.
- Last year's summit in Dushanbe agreed for Iran to join, while Belarus has also begun the membership process. China and Russia are looking to frame the grouping as a counter to the West — particularly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

- India will host the SCO summit next year, and Varanasi has been selected as the SCO region's first "Tourism and Cultural Capital", a title it will hold next year coinciding with India chairing the grouping.

MAINSTREAMING MILLETS IN ASIA AND AFRICA

NITI Aayog and the World Food Programme (WFP), India, will launch the 'Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices' initiative for mainstreaming millets in Asia and Africa on 19 July 2022 in a hybrid event.



About:

- NITI and WFP will prepare a compendium of good practices for scaling up the production and consumption of millets in India and abroad.
- Representatives from ICAR, Central and state government departments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, industry, Central and state agriculture universities, FPOs, NGOs, start-ups, academic and research institutions, and international organizations such as the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), etc., will also participate in the event.

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE

Six-time Prime Minister and Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected President of Sri Lanka — a post he has coveted but never held in his nearly half-century-long political career — amid an extraordinary political crisis set off by the island nation's painful economic crash.



About:

- Wickremesinghe won 134 votes in the 225-member Parliament in a three-way contest.
- This is the third unlikely elevation this year for Mr. Wickremesinghe, 73, who is the United National Party's sole MP — entering not with an election win, but through the national list, based on the party's vote share in the 2020 general elections.
- In the past three months, coinciding with Sri Lanka's escalating economic crisis, he has risen from lone MP to PM, before clinching Presidency.
- Meanwhile, protesters from the 'Janatha Aragalaya' ('People's Struggle') have said they would agitate until Mr. Wickremesinghe, too, steps down.
- On May 12, recently ousted President Gotabaya appointed him as Prime Minister, replacing Mahinda, who had resigned days earlier, in the wake of violence triggered by his [Mahinda] supporters.

JUDICIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND MALDIVES

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Judicial Cooperation between India and Judicial Service Commission of Maldives.



About:

- This is the eighth MoU signed between India and other countries in the field of Judicial Cooperation.
- This MoU will provide a platform to tap

the benefits of Information Technology for court digitization and can be a potential growth area for the IT companies and start-ups in both countries. In recent years, the close relationship between India and Maldives has intensified multi-dimensionally.

- With the signing of this agreement on co-operation in the field of law and justice, the good relations between the two countries will receive further impetus.

INDIA – UK MOU ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

India and the UK sign MoU on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualification to facilitate student mobility and academic collaboration between Higher Education Institution (HEIs).

t

- In May 2021, during the Virtual Summit between Prime Ministers of India and UK, a comprehensive Roadmap to 2030 was adopted for an enhanced bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Both sides also agreed to a new Enhanced Trade Partnership.
- Education forms an important pillar of this roadmap. In light of India's National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), the two sides agreed to expand educational by agreeing to a mutual recognition of academic qualifications.
- This is a landmark moment in our bilateral educational relations as signing of this MoU would enable smoother student mobility between the two countries and help in developing stronger institutional collaboration and widen the scope of academic and research collaboration between the Higher Education Institutions of both countries.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMISTRY AND APPLICATIONS OF SOFT MATERIALS

- The CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, will host an International Conference on Chemistry and Applications of Soft Materials (CASM 2022) as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to mark 75th year of Independence.
- Discussions on a variety of subjects, including self-assembly and supramolecular materials, soft material chemistry, physics, rheology, and photophysics, responsive

and smart materials, gels, liquid crystals, polymers, macromolecules and framework materials, and functional nanomaterials, as well as soft material applications in electronics and energy, will take place at the conference.

INDIA'S ROLE IN UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

Two BSF personnel who were part of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), were among five people killed during a protest in an eastern town near the border with Uganda on July 26.



About:

- India has a long history of service in UN Peacekeeping, having contributed more personnel than any other country. To date, more than 2,53,000 Indians have served in 49 of the 71 UN Peacekeeping missions established around the world since 1948.
- Currently, India is the fifth largest troop contributor (TCC) with 5,323 personnel deployed in 8 out of 13 active UN Peacekeeping Missions.
- India's contribution to UN Peacekeeping began with its participation in the UN operation in Korea in the 1950s, where India's mediatory role in resolving the stalemate over prisoners of war in Korea led to the signing of the armistice that ended the Korean War.
- In 2007, India became the first country to deploy an all-women contingent to a UN Peacekeeping Mission.
- A total 175 Indian peacekeepers have so far died while serving with the United Nations. India has lost more peacekeepers than any other UN Member State.

UAE, FRANCE, AND INDIA CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS FOR MARITIME SECURITY

- The focal points for India, France, and the United Arab Emirates met in trilateral fash-

ion. Maritime Security, Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief, Blue Economy, Regional Connectivity, Cooperation in Multilateral Fora, Energy and Food Security, Innovation and Startups, Supply Chain Resilience, and Cultural and People-to-People Cooperation were some of the potential areas of trilateral cooperation that the three sides discussed.

KEY POINTS:

- The next measures for enhancing trilateral cooperation in the Indo-Pacific area were also discussed.
- The three parties discussed potential trilateral cooperation in the areas of maritime security, Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), blue economy, regional connectivity, participation in multilateral fora, cooperation on energy and food security, innovation and startups, supply chain resilience, and cross-cultural and people-to-people exchange.

India and France Marine Relations:

- India and France are maritime nations with thriving maritime economies that include, to name a few, fisheries, ports, shipping, and marine technology and scientific research.
- The fate is tightly entwined with the sea and the ocean since they possess enormous exclusive economic zones.
- Both countries want to advance their own communities through the blue economy while protecting the environment and coastal and marine biodiversity. Both nations seek to advance scientific understanding, promote ocean conservation, and maintain the ocean as a global common, an area conducive to free trade and the application of the law.
- France and India have long-standing ties of friendship and closeness.
- The two nations established a Strategic Partnership in 1998, which, in addition to their tight and developing bilateral connection, is symbolic of their agreement on a variety of international concerns.

India and UAE Marine Relations:

- In 1972, they established diplomatic ties. The Indian Embassy in the UAE was established in 1973, whereas the UAE opened their embassy in India in 1972.
- Based on long-standing cultural, religious, and economic links between the two countries, India and the UAE have close friendships.

ASIA CUP 2022 SHIFTED FROM SRI LANKA TO THE UAE

- As informed by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), the Asia Cup 2022 will now be held in United Arab Emirates (UAE). Earlier this event was scheduled to take place in Sri Lanka.
- However, due to the economic crisis in the island nation, the tournament has been shifted to UAE.
- But the hosting rights of the game will still remain with Sri Lanka. The tournament will be held from August 27 to September 11, 2022, in the T20 format. This is the second consecutive time that the tournament will be played in the UAE.
- The Asia Cup, last held in 2018, will be played in T20 format this time and serve as preparation for the World Cup in October.
- It will start with a qualifying round of matches between UAE, Kuwait, Singapore and Hong Kong. The winner will go on to the main tournament and play Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh

AL NAJAH-IV

India and Oman will carry out a 13-day military exercise with a focus on counter-terror cooperation.



About:

- The fourth edition of India-Oman joint military exercise 'AL NAJAH-IV' between contingents of Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman is scheduled to take place at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Ranges from August 1 to 13.
- A 60-member team from the Royal Army of Oman has arrived at the site. The Indian Army will be represented by troops from the 18 Mechanised Infantry Battalion.
- The previous edition of the exercise was organised in Muscat in March 2019.

CHABAHAR DAY CONFERENCE

Union Shipping Minister Sarbanand Sonowal inaugurated the Chabahar Day conference in Mumbai.

- About:
- Dignitaries from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan were present on the occasion.
- In May 2016, India and Iran signed a bilateral agreement in which India would refurbish one of the berths at Shahid Beheshti port, and reconstruct a 600 meter long container handling facility at the port.
- In October 2017, India's first shipment of wheat to Afghanistan was sent through the Chabahar Port.

Chabahar Port



- Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- It serves as Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti, each of which has five berths.
- The Chabahar port is a key pillar of India's Indo-Pacific vision to connect with Eurasia with Indian Ocean Region. The port will also be part of the International North South Transport Corridor network connecting India.
- Iran has given special incentives to increase trade cooperation activities between India and Iran through Chabahar port.



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR ANGEL FUNDS

Angel Funds bridge the gap between start-ups and angel investors, who are instrumental in providing mentoring, and resources to the start-ups. In recognition of the same, IFSCA has now issued a framework for Angel funds under the IFSCA (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022.

- The salient features of the said framework are as under:
- A Fund Management Entity (FME) in IFSC will be able to launch Angel Fund by filing a placement memorandum with the Authority under a Green Channel, i.e. the schemes can open for subscription by investors immediately upon filing the placement memorandum with the Authority.
- Angel Funds shall accept investments from accredited investors or investors who are willing to commit at least USD 40,000 over 5 years.
- Angel Funds are permitted to invest in start-ups as well as other regulated angel schemes in IFSC, India, foreign jurisdictions upon receiving consent from the desirous investors.
- While investment(s) by an Angel Fund in a start-up is capped at USD 1,500,000, the Angel fund is permitted to invest in subsequent rounds of fund raising by the start-up in order to protect its shareholding from dilution, subject to certain conditions.

RBI: BANKS' GROSS NON-PERFORMING ASSETS REACHED SIX-YEAR LOW OF 5.9%

- In March 2022, banks' gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio decreased to a six-year low of 5.9 percent from a high of 7.4 percent in March 2021, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) most recent Financial Stability Report (FSR).
- According to stress testing, the GNPA ratio of commercial banks may go from 5.9% in March 2022 to 5.3 percent by March 2023 due, among other things, to higher-than-anticipated bank loan growth and a downward trend in the stock of GNPA's, according to the research.

GST ON DAIRY PRODUCTS

The decision of the GST Council at its 47th meeting to impose a 5% tax on dairy products such as "pre-packed, pre-labelled curd, lassi and butter milk" and to increase the tax on dairy machinery and milking machines from 12% to 18% has drawn criticism from farmers' organisations and milk cooperatives

About:

- Various cooperatives are waiting for the notification of the Centre to take the next step, while farmers fear that the decision will result in an increase in the price of the products.
- The Pradeshik Cooperative Dairy Federation (PCDF) of Uttar Pradesh, the largest milk-producing State in the country, will meet soon to assess the impact of GST on dairy products and the machinery.

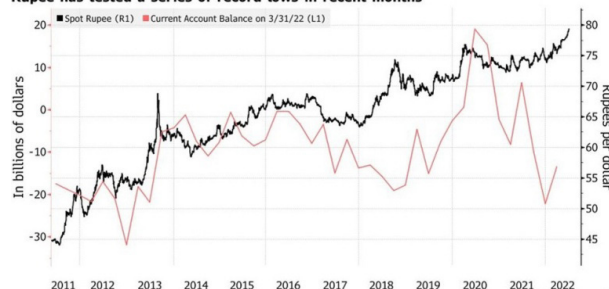
FINANCIAL SERVICES INSTITUTIONS BUREAU

- The government has transformed Banks Board Bureau (BBB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, into Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) by making some amendments. Guidelines for selection of general managers and directors of public sector general insurance companies have been made part of FSIB.

RBI EASES RULES TO BOOST FOREX INFLOWS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a slew of temporary measures aimed at boosting foreign exchange inflows, including a doubling in the overseas borrowing limit for corporates and removal of interest rate ceilings for NRIs' foreign currency deposits.

Getting Worse
Rupee has tested a series of record lows in recent months



About:

- The move comes as persistent capital outflows and a widening trade deficit have led to a sharp depreciation in the Indian rupee to new lows against the dollar.
- In order to further diversify and expand the sources of forex funding so as to mitigate volatility and dampen global spillovers, it has been decided to undertake measures to enhance forex inflows while ensuring overall macroeconomic and financial stability.
- As part of the measures, banks have been exempted from maintaining the stipulated Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) on incremental FCNR(B) and NRE term deposits mobilised up to November 4.
- It also freed banks to temporarily raise fresh FCNR(B) and NRE deposits without reference to extant regulations on interest rates, with effect from July 7 and up to October 31, 2022.
- To encourage foreign portfolio investment into debt, the RBI said the choice of government bonds available for investment under the fully accessible route (FAR) would be widened, with all new issuances of G-Secs of 7-year and 14-year tenors, including the current issuances of 7.10% GS 2029 and 7.54% GS 2036, designated as specified securities.
- The RBI also temporarily doubled the annual limit for External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) to \$1.5 billion or its equivalent.

CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT (CAD)

India recorded a current account deficit (CAD) of 1.2% of GDP in 2021-22 against a surplus of 0.9% in 2020-21 as the trade deficit widened to \$189.5 billion from \$102.2 billion a year earlier, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India.

About:

- Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows at \$38.6 billion in 2021-22 were lower than \$44 billion in 2020-21. Net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) recorded an outflow of \$16.8 billion in 2021-22 as against an inflow of \$36.1 billion a year earlier.
- For the January-March 2022 quarter, the CAD narrowed on a sequential basis to \$13.4 billion, or 1.5% of GDP, against \$22.2 billion, or 2.6% of GDP, in the December 2021 quarter.
- On a year-on-year basis, although gold imports halved, and the services trade surplus rose, this improvement was dwarfed by the widening of the merchandise trade deficit led by imports of commodity inputs such

as crude oil, coal and fertilisers, as well as electronic goods.

MECHANISM TO SETTLE TRADE PAYMENTS IN INDIAN RUPEE

RBI has set up a mechanism to settle trade payments in Indian rupee.



About:

- The central bank has put in place this additional arrangement for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports and imports in rupee. The move is aimed at promoting growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of global trading community in Indian rupee.
- Before putting in place this mechanism, authorized dealer banks were required to take prior approval from the Foreign Exchange Department of RBI.
- Under the framework, all exports and imports may be denominated and invoiced in rupee.
- Authorized Dealer (AD) banks in India have been permitted to open rupee Vostro accounts. Accordingly, for settlement of trade transactions with any country, AD bank in India may open special rupee Vostro accounts of correspondent banks of the partner trading country.

INDIAN ECONOMY

India's macro risks have receded in recent weeks and concerns about the fiscal deficit target being breached may be misplaced, the Finance Ministry asserted, while conceding that the current account deficit (CAD) could, however, deteriorate this year mainly due to rising trade deficits

About:

- Identifying elevated inflation and a widening trade deficit as 'twin challenges' for the economy, the Ministry, however, emphasised that economic activity in the country remained resilient almost five months into

the Russian-Ukraine conflict.

- Data released recently showed the trade deficit widened in June to an all-time high of \$26.2 billion as imports surged past \$66 billion.
- Retail inflation eased slightly to 7.01% in June, and the Ministry attributed it to measures taken by the government and the central bank as well as fears of a global recession that had dragged oil prices lower.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

Customers will have to pay a 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on pre-packed, labelled food items such as atta, paneer and curd, besides hospital rooms with rents above ₹5,000, starting from 18 July 2022.

About:

- Hotel rooms with tariffs of up to ₹1,000 a day, maps and charts, including atlases, will attract a 12% GST, while cartons and fees charged by banks for the issue of cheques (loose or in book form) will attract 18%.
- Tax rates on products such as printing, writing or drawing ink; knives with cutting blades, pencil sharpeners; LED lamps; and drawing instruments will be hiked to 18% on July 18, 2022, from 12% currently, to correct the inverted duty anomaly.
- Solar water heaters will now attract a 12% GST from the 5% earlier.
- The tax on services such as work contracts for roads, bridges, railways, metro facilities, effluent treatment plants and crematoriums will go up to 18% from the current 12%.
- Renting of trucks and goods carriages where the cost of fuel is included will now attract a lower 12% rate as against 18%.

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY (CBDC)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is in the process of implementing the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in a phased manner for wholesale and retail segments, an official said.

About:

- The introduction of CBDC was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23, by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and necessary amendments to the relevant section of the RBI Act, 1934 have been made with the passage of the Finance Bill 2022.
- The passage of the bill has enabled the RBI to conduct a pilot and subsequent issuance of CBDC.
- The RBI is also working on phased implementation of a central bank digital currency (CBDC) in both wholesale and retail seg-

ment.

- CBDC is a digital or virtual currency but it is not comparable with 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.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

Singapore (27.01%) and USA (17.94%) have emerged as top 2 sourcing nations in FDI equity flows into India in FY2021-22 followed by Mauritius (15.98%), Netherland (7.86%) and Switzerland (7.31%).

About:

- It may be noted that as per the UNCTAD World Investment Report (WIR) 2022, in its analysis of the global trends in FDI inflows, India has improved one position to 7th rank among the top 20 host economies for 2021.
- India is rapidly emerging as a preferred country for foreign investments in the manufacturing sector. FDI Equity inflow in Manufacturing Sectors have increased by 76% in FY 2021-22 (USD 21.34 billion) compared to previous FY 2020-21 (USD 12.09 billion).
- Despite the ongoing pandemic and global developments, India received the highest annual FDI inflows of USD 84,835 million in FY 21-22 overtaking last year's FDI by USD 2.87 billion. Earlier, FDI inflows increased from USD 74,391 million in FY 19-20 to USD 81,973 million in FY 20-21.



PROGRAMS AND YOJANAS

PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA (PMFBY)

The Union Agriculture Ministry announced that Andhra Pradesh has decided to rejoin the crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from the ongoing kharif season.

About

- Andhra Pradesh was one of six states that have stopped implementation of the scheme over the last four years. The other five, which remain out, are Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Telangana.
- The government had launched PMFBY from kharif 2016. Under the scheme, all farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing “notified crops” in the “notified areas” are eligible for coverage.
- Initially, the scheme was compulsory for loanee farmers; in February 2020, the Centre revised it to make it optional for all farmers.
- In February 2020, the Centre decided to restrict its premium subsidy to 30% for unirrigated areas and 25% for irrigated areas (from the existing unlimited). Earlier, there was no upper limit for the central subsidy.
- Food crops (cereals, millets and pulses); oilseeds; and annual commercial / annual horticultural crops are covered under the scheme.
- In addition, pilots for coverage can be taken for those perennial horticultural/commercial crops for which standard methodology for yield estimation is available, state the scheme guidelines.

7TH ANNIVERSARY OF SKILL INDIA MISSION IS BEING OBSERVED ON 15TH JULY

- The 7th anniversary of the Skill India Mission is being observed on 15th July. National Skill Development Mission also known as Skill India Mission was launched on this day in 2015. Skill India is an initiative of the central government to empower the youth with skill sets, making them more employable.



About the Skill India Mission:

- The programme has numerous benefits and its objective is to enable youth to take up training in order to secure a better livelihood. Over one crore youth are getting trained every year under the Skill India Mission. Under the Pradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna, more than one crore 36 lakh young persons have been trained so far. Over 11 lakh 28 thousand candidates have been trained under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalaya Yojana and around seven lakh got placement.

MISSION SHAKTI SCHEME

Women and Child Development Ministry has issued guidelines for Mission Shakti Scheme.

About:

- This scheme has been launched for the safety, security and empowerment of women.
 - It seeks to realize the government's commitment to women-led development by making them equal partners in nation-building.
 - The key objectives of the mission are to provide care, support and assistance to women and to put in place quality mechanisms for the rescue, protection and rehabilitation of women who are victims of crime and violence.
 - The scheme is also aimed at improving accessibility to various government services available for women at various levels.
- Components
- Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes - Sambal and Samarthya. While the Sambal stresses on safety and security of women, the Samarthya focuses on the empowerment of women.
 - The components of the Sambal sub-scheme consist of schemes including One Stop

Centre, Women Helpline, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Nari Adalats.

- The components of the Samarthya sub-scheme consist of schemes of Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel.
- In addition, the existing schemes of the National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana have now been included in Samarthya.

PM CARES FOR CHILDREN SCHEME

220 children have been admitted in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV) under the PM Cares for Children Scheme in the country.



About

- The PM Cares for Children Scheme provides comprehensive care and protection of children who have lost their parent(s) to the Covid pandemic.
- In a written reply in Lok Sabha today, Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan said under this scheme, such children have been provided support in a sustained manner to empower them through education and equip them for self-sufficient existence with financial support on reaching 23 years of age.

PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL KENDRAS

The Government said 818 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) have been allocated across the country to promote model training.



About:

- In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrasekhar said out of total 818 allocated PMKKs, 722 PMKKs have been es-

tablished covering 707 districts in 36 States and Union Territories.

- He said over 71 lakh candidates have been trained during the last three years under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana in the country.

NAMASTE SCHEME

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore said, the Government has formulated a National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem- NAMASTE scheme for cleaning of sewers and septic tank.

About:

- The scheme is a joint venture of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It aims to achieve outcomes like zero fatalities in sanitation work in India, no sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter and all Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers have access to alternative livelihoods.
- The Ministry has shortlisted type of machineries and core equipments required for maintenance works, safety gear for Safai Mitras. The same is also available on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal for ease of their procurement by States and Urban Local Bodies.
- Mr Kaushal Kishore said that Skill Development and trainings of Safai Mitras is being taken up with the support of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment through the National Safai Karamchhari Finance Development Corporation.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROJGAR YOJANA

Around 60 lakh beneficiaries have been benefited through one lakh 50 thousand establishments under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana till 10th of this month

About:

- In a written reply in Lok Sabha the Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameshwar Teli said Aatmanirbhar Bharat Yojana has been launched with effect from 1st October 2020 to incentivize employers for creation of new employment and restoration of loss of employment during Covid-19 pandemic.
- 31st March of this year was the last date for registration of beneficiaries.

- He said under this package, the government is providing fiscal stimulus of more than twenty-seven lakh crore rupees.
- This package comprises of various long term schemes, programmes, policies for making the country self-reliant and to create employment opportunities.

NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan' in 272 most vulnerable districts since August 2020 to address the problem of Drug Abuse among youth of India.

About:

- The Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment said, there has been a change in the pattern of substance abuse as reflected in the National survey of Extent, Pattern and Trends of Substance Use done in 2004 and in the Comprehensive National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India conducted in 2018.
- He said, under 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan', special emphasis is laid on the participation of stakeholders such as women, children, educational institutions and civil society organizations.

WEEKLY IRON AND FOLIC ACID SUPPLEMENTATION (WIFS) PROGRAMME

The government has provided four crore 14 lakh Iron Folic Acid Supplementation to Adolescents under the Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme in the last financial year.



About:

- The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar

stated this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

- Pawar highlighted that over seven thousand Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics have been established in the country and fifty-two lakh Adolescent clients received counseling and clinical services during 2021-22.
- The Minister stressed that the Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene is implemented to promote menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years. He said, nearly thirty-five lakh adolescent girls have been covered every month under this scheme.

SWAVLAMBAN

'Swavlamban', the maiden seminar of the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO), was held at New Delhi on 18-19 July 2022.



About:

- The two day seminar saw enthusiastic participation by the academia, industry, policy makers, think tanks, students and senior government officials, in addition to the naval personnel.
- Personnel at Command Headquarters and outlying units of the Navy also assembled at designated auditoriums spread across the country to participate online.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister was shown a demo of 'Varuna' Personal Air vehicle – an autonomous multi-copter drone capable of carrying a passenger.
- The highlight of the seminar was the release of the iDEX DISC7 (SPRINT) challenges by the Prime Minister. SPRINT (Supporting Pole-vaulting in R&D through iDEX, NIIO and TDAC) is a collaborative project between the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) and NIIO aimed at developing atleast 75 indigenous technologies / products as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The maiden seminar is 'historic' both in scope and ambition and will foster a new chapter in the naval thrust towards self-reliance in defence and an AatmaNirbhar Bharat.

NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN”

- To address the issue of drug abuse among Indian youth, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment began implementing Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan in the 272 most susceptible districts in August 2020. The National Survey of Extent, Pattern and Trends of Substance Use conducted in 2004 and the Comprehensive National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India conducted in 2018 both show a change in the pattern of substance abuse, according to Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment A. Narayanaswamy.



- According to A. Narayanaswamy, the participation of stakeholders including women, children, educational institutions, and civil society groups is given special consideration under the “Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan” programme.

INITIATIVES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

Government of India has several initiatives to provide financial and medical support to all pregnant women including women belonging to economically weaker sections during their pregnancy and delivery in Government hospitals.

These include:

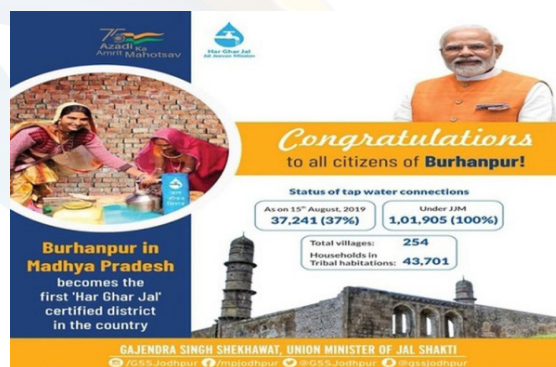
- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme for promoting institutional delivery.
- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) entitles every pregnant woman to free delivery, including for caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables, diet and blood.
- Over 25,000 ‘Delivery Points’ across the country have been strengthened in terms of infrastructure, equipment, and trained manpower for provision of comprehensive RM-NCAH+A services.
- Surakshit Matritva Ashwasan (SUMAN) for providing assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility to end all preventable mater-

nal and newborn deaths.

- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost assured and quality Antenatal Care on the 9th day of every month.
- LaQshya (Labour room Quality improvement Initiative) to improve the quality of care in Labour room and Maternity operation theatres to ensure that pregnant women receive respectful and quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.

HAR GHAR JAL DISTRICT

Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh becomes first certified Har Ghar Jal district of the country.



About:

- Burhanpur is the only district in the country where all people from each of 254 villages have access to safe drinking water through taps.
- Only 36.54 percent of over one lakh households in Burhanpur had potable drinking water through tap connections at the time of the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission on 15th August 2019.
- Despite various disruptions and challenges in face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the consistent efforts by Panchayat representatives, Pani Samitis and district officials of Burhanpur have led to the provision of functional tap water connections to all its 1 lakh 1 thousand 905 rural households within a span of 34 months.

FIVE YEARS OF PRADHAN MANTRI VAYA VANDANA YOJANA COMPLETED

- The five years of the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana are now complete. 21 July, 2017 marked the official launch of the programme.
- The programme is a social security programme for the elderly that aims to provide them with a guaranteed minimum pension based on a guaranteed return on the purchase price or subscription fee.

- The minimum investment required to participate in this scheme has been increased to one lakh 56 thousand 658 rupees for a pension of 12,000 per year and to one lakh 62 thousand 162 rupees for a pension of at least 1,000 rupees per month.
- The programme, which was in place through 2020, has now been extended for an additional three years, through March 31, 2023.



Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), previously known as the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana, is a maternity benefit program run by the government of India.
- It was originally launched in 2010 and re-named in 2017.
- The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the first live birth.
- It provides a partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare and to provide conditions for safe delivery and good nutrition and feeding practices.

SURYAMITRA SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing Suryamitra Skill Development Programme through National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram since Financial Year 2015-16.

About:

- Objective is to train youth of age above 18 years as solar PV technicians for installation, operation and maintenance of solar power projects.
- Up to June 2022, a total of 51331 number of candidates have benefited from the skill development training provided under Suryamitra programme, out of which 26967 number of candidates gained employment.

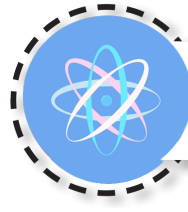
- This information was given by Shri Bhagwanth Khuba, Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

REVAMPED DISTRIBUTION SECTOR SCHEME (RDSS)

PM Modi will launch the ministry of power's flagship Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) on July 30, 2022. The scheme is aimed at improving the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of the power distribution companies (discoms).

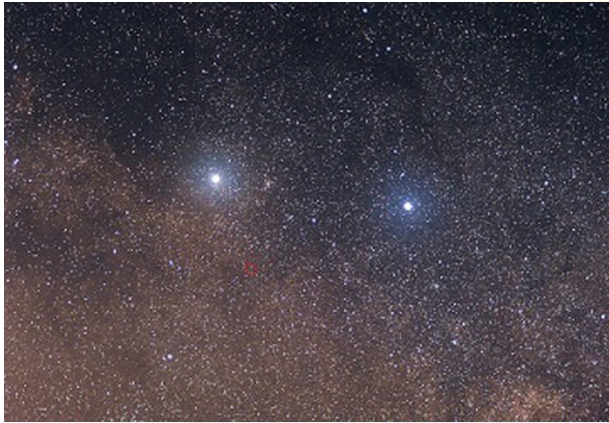
About:

- The scheme, with an outlay of over Rs 3.03 trillion in five years to FY26, will enable discoms to modernise and strengthen the distribution infrastructure and improve the reliability and quality of supply of power to end consumers.
- It also aims to reduce the AT&C (aggregate technical and commercial) losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% and ACS-ARR (average cost of supply-average revenue realised) gap to zero by 2024-25. REC and PFC have been nominated as nodal agencies for the scheme.
- RDSS mandates compulsory installation of smart meters across the country. The Centre has set an ambitious target of installing 250 million smart meters by 2025.
- With this new scheme coming into force, all other previous schemes such as Integrated Power Development Scheme, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana and Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) would stand subsumed.



ALPHA CENTAURI

NASA has successfully launched a rocket from Australia's remote Northern Territory, making history as the agency's first commercial spaceport launch outside the United States.



About:

- According to Equatorial Launch Australia, the rocket blasted off from the Arnhem Space Centre on the Dhupuma Plateau, near the township of Nhulunbuy.
- The rocket is expected to travel more than 300 kilometres into space on its mission to observe the Alpha Centauri 'A' and 'B' constellations, the nearest star systems to the Earth.
- Australia has a unique connection to Alpha Centauri. The Alpha Centauri can only be seen from the Southern Hemisphere and is one of the "pointers" to the Southern Cross constellation depicted on the nation's national flag.
- This Launch also made history for Australia as the first commercial space launch in the country. According to NASA, it was the first of three launches, with a further two planned for 4th and 12th of July.

PSLV ORBITAL EXPERIMENTAL MODULE (POEM)

Besides placing three Singaporean satellites in precise orbit, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) also achieved the feat of successfully launching the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module or 'POEM'



About:

- The PSLV Orbital Experimental Module is a platform that will help perform in-orbit experiments using the final, and otherwise discarded, stage of ISRO's workhorse rocket, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- The PSLV is a four-stage rocket where the first three spent stages fall back into the ocean, and the final stage (PS4) — after launching the satellite into orbit — ends up as space junk.
- However, in PSLV-C53 mission, the spent final stage will be utilised as a "stabilised platform" to perform experiments.
- POEM is carrying six payloads, including two from Indian space start-ups Digantara and Dhruva Space.
- According to ISRO, POEM has a dedicated Navigation Guidance and Control (NGC) system for attitude stabilisation, which stands for controlling the orientation of any aerospace vehicle within permitted limits.
- The NGC will act as the platform's brain to stabilize it with specified accuracy.
- POEM will derive its power from solar panels mounted around the PS4 tank, and a Li-Ion battery. It will navigate using "four sun sensors, a magnetometer, gyros & NavIC."

AUTONOMOUS FLYING WING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATOR

Maiden flight of the Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator was carried out successfully by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka on July 01, 2022.



About:

- This flight marks a major milestone in terms of proving critical technologies towards the development of future unmanned aircraft and is significant step towards self-reliance in such strategic defence technologies.
- The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is designed & developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, a premier research laboratory of DRDO.
- It is powered by a small turbofan engine. The airframe, undercarriage and entire flight control and avionics systems used for the aircraft were developed indigenously.

PSLV-C53 ROCKET CARRYING THREE SINGAPORE SATELLITES LAUNCHED BY ISRO

- Three Singaporean satellites were successfully launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as part of a commercial mission for the New Space India Limited. This was the space agency's second launch of the year; its first, had put an Indian Earth Observation Satellite in orbit. The space agency also carried six in-orbit experiments mounted on the fourth stage of the rocket on the current mission in addition to the commercial satellites.

KEY POINTS:

- The nation's workhorse rocket, PSLV-C53, launched from Sriharikota and put the three satellites into precise orbits about 18 minutes later.
- The launch vehicle was deployed in the core-alone configuration, which only uses the four primary engine stages.
- The 365 kg Singaporean DS-EO satellite served as the mission's primary payload.
- It is an electro-optic earth observation satellite that can deliver full-color images for land classification and disaster relief operations.
- Its first small commercial satellite, weigh-

ing 155 kg, is called NeuSAR. It can transmit images in all weather conditions, day or night.

- The third satellite was the 2.8 kg Scoob-1 from Nanyang Technical University, the first in a series of student satellites designed to provide practical training for the university's satellite research centre.
- About the Experiments in Fourth Stage:
- Six experiments, including two from Indian start-ups Digantara and Dhruva Space, were carried by the rocket in its fourth stage in addition to the foreign payloads.
- The PSLV Orbital Experiment Module (POEM) attaches solar panels, a battery, and a navigation control system to the rocket's expanded fourth stage to use it as a platform in orbit.
- Typically, the rocket stages degrade, return to Earth's atmosphere, and burn up after placing the satellite in orbit. But they can be used for experiments if a little extra power is added to keep the stage in orbit.
- The stage was used by the space agency for in-orbit experiments for the second time; the first time was in 2019 when the student group SpaceKidz India launched its Kalam-Sat on the rocket's PS-4 stage.
- Along with the two launch flights, Isro recently launched the massive 4,180 kg GSAT-24 satellite on a vehicle from the commercial launcher Ariane Space.

KAI CHUTNEY

In Odisha, scientists are now fine-tuning their research to make a presentation for the Geographical Indications (GI) registry of Kai chutney.



About:

- Applied under food category, the GI tag will help develop a structured hygiene protocol in the preparation of Kai chutney for standard wider use. Geographical Indications labels enhance the reputation and value of local products and support local businesses.
- People often keep a safe distance from red weaver ants as their sting inflicts a sharp

pain and reddish bumps on the skin. Despite this, weaver ants are popular among the tribes of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha for the mouth-watering dish made of them — the Kai chutney.

- This savoury food item, rich in proteins, calcium, zinc, vitamin B-12, iron, magnesium, potassium, sodium, copper, fibre and 18 amino acids, is known to boost the immune system.
- Weaver ants, *Oecophylla smaragdina*, are abundantly found in Mayurbhanj throughout the year. They make nests with leaves of host trees.

AUSTRALOPITHECUS

The fossils of our earlier human ancestors, located in a cave in South Africa, are a million years older than previously understood according to a new study published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* on June 27.



About:

- The researchers analysed the fossilised remains of Australopithecus from Sterkfontein caves and argued they lived at the same time as their East African counterparts like the famous Lucy, complicating the way scholars have understood human evolution.
- What is Australopithecus?
- Australopithecus, meaning “southern ape”, was a group of hominins or now-extinct early humans, that was closely related to and almost certainly the ancestors of modern humans.
- They inhabited the planet 4.4 million to 1.4 million years ago, likely encompassing a time period longer than our own genus, Homo. Their fossils have been found across sites in eastern, northern, central and southern Africa.
- What are the Sterkfontein caves?
- The “Cradle of Humankind” is a 47,000-hectare paleoanthropological site, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Located 40 km northwest of Johannesburg, it contains a complex system of lime-

stone caves, where a significant number of hominin fossils have been found.

- Within this complex lies Sterkfontein, a complex system of caves that holds a long history of hominin occupation and contains the largest number of Australopithecus fossils in the world.

INDIA'S FIRST AUTONOMOUS NAVIGATION FACILITY “TIHAN” LAUNCHED AT IIT HYDERABAD

- India's first Autonomous Navigation facility, TiHAN inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh at the IIT Hyderabad campus. Developed at a budget of Rs. 130 crores by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology, TiHAN (Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation) is a multidisciplinary initiative that will make India a global player in the futuristic and next generation ‘smart mobility’ technology.



- India's mobility sector is one of the world's largest markets and the TiHAN – IITH will be the source of futuristic technology generation for autonomous vehicles.
- TiHAN Testbed will provide a unique platform for high quality research between academia, industry and R&D labs both at the national and international level, thus making India a global leader in autonomous navigation technologies.

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

NASA unveiled images from the James Webb Space Telescope, the largest and most powerful orbital observatory ever launched.

About:



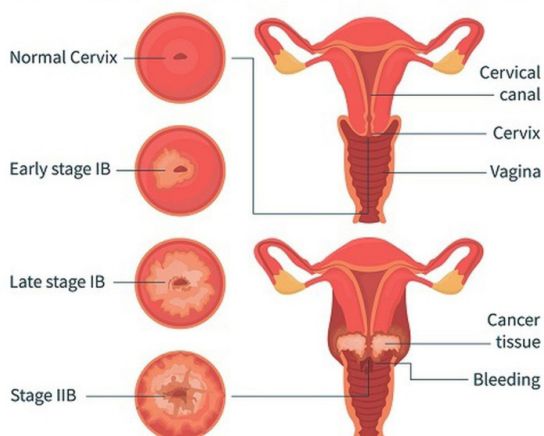
What looks much like craggy moonlit mountains is the edge of a nearby, young, star-forming region NGC 3324 in the Carina Nebula. Captured in infrared light by the Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) on NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, this image, among many revealed at the White House on Tuesday, shows previously obscured areas of star birth. Called the Cosmic Cliffs, the region is actually the edge of a gigantic, gaseous cavity within NGC 3324, roughly 7,600 light-years away. •NASA

- The pictures, designed to peer farther than before with greater clarity to the dawn of the universe, were hailed by NASA as milestone marking a new era of astronomical exploration.
- Nearly two decades in the making, the \$9 billion infrared telescope was launched on December 25, 2021. It reached its destination in solar orbit nearly 1 million miles from Earth a month later.
- The crowning debut image was a “deep field” photo of a distant galaxy cluster, SMACS 0723, revealing the most detailed glimpse of the early universe recorded to date.
- Among the other Webb subjects were two enormous clouds of gas and dust blasted into space by stellar explosions to form incubators for new stars — the Carina Nebula and the Southern Ring Nebula, each thousands of light years away from Earth.
- The collection also included fresh images of another galaxy cluster known as Stephan’s Quintet, first discovered in 1877.

VACCINE FOR CERVICAL CANCER

Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla said the company plans to launch its indigenously developed vaccine to prevent cervical cancer in women later this year.

STAGES OF CERVICAL CANCER



About:

- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) granted market authorisation to Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture the indigenously developed India’s first Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer.
- The approval by the drug regulator of SII’s anti-cancer vaccine follows recommendation by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization on COVID-19 vaccine on June 15, 2021.
- Cervical cancer in India ranks as the second-most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age.

INDIA’S FIRST LOCALLY CREATED HPV VACCINE RECEIVES DCGI APPROVAL

- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the market authorization of India’s first quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer.
- The Serum Institute of India (SII) will produce this vaccine. CEO of The Serum Institute of India Adar Poonawalla tweeted the information.
- For the first time, an inexpensive and widely available HPV vaccination made in India will be available to treat cervical cancer in female patients. Later this year, SII hopes to launch it, and we are grateful to the DCGI, MoHFW INDIA, for their approval.

SARS-CoV-2

Indian scientists develop novel mechanism to inactivate SARS-CoV-2.

About:

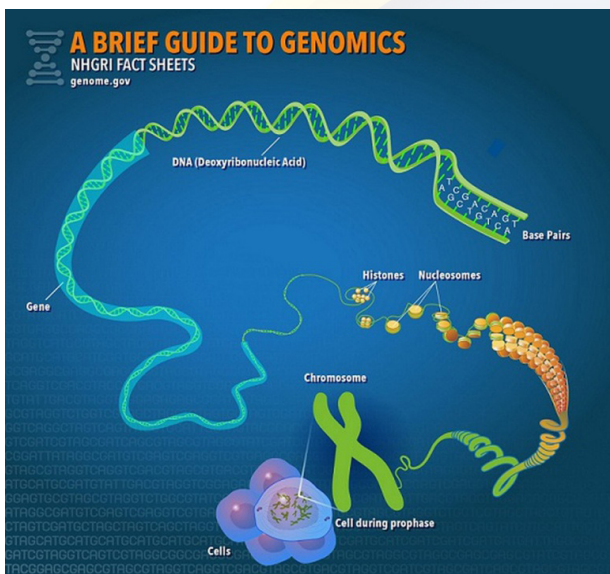
- Indian scientists have developed a new class of synthetic peptides that can not only block the entry of the SARS-CoV-2 virus into cells but also clump the virus particles

together, reducing their ability to infect the living cell.

- This novel mechanism provides an alternative to make viruses like SARS-CoV-2 inactive, promising a new class of peptides as antivirals.
- Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science in collaboration with researchers from the CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology have exploited this approach to design these peptides.

GENOMICS

The World Health Organization's Science Council, in its first report, has called for accelerating access to genomics across the world.



About:

- The report argues that it is not justifiable ethically or scientifically for countries with lesser resources to gain access to such technologies long after the rich countries do.
- The field of genomics tries to use human genetic material to study and research cures and treatments for medical conditions, and is used in a wide range of applications in animal sciences, and agriculture.
- After the WHO constituted the Science Council of experts in April 2021 to provide guidance on the science and research strategy of the organisation, it identified genomics as the focus of its first report.
- The report calls for expanding access to genomic technologies, particularly in low- and middle-income nations, by addressing shortfalls in financing, laboratory infrastructure, materials, and highly trained personnel.

LAVENDER SCARE

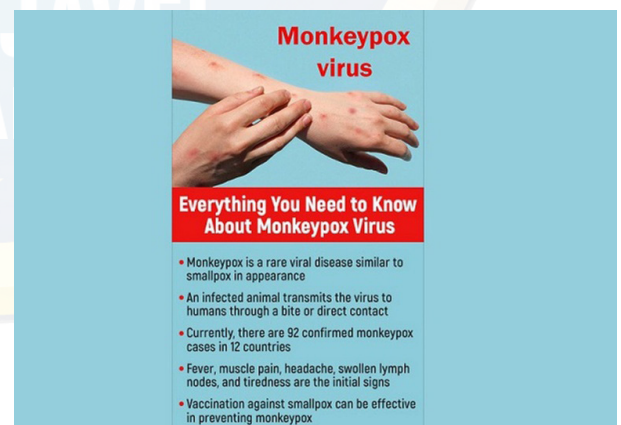
NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, which will show the clearest-ever images of the universe, is set to bring about a change in the way we perceive space. However, the telescope's name has come under intense criticism from the LGBTQ community.

About:

- The telescope has been named after James Webb, who ran the US space agency from 1961 to 1968, and allegedly had a role to play in the "Lavender Scare" at NASA.
- The Lavender Scare was the marginalisation of LGBTQ employees working in the US government's offices during the 1950s and 1960s. It is often described as a "witch-hunt", where those suspected of being from the LGBTQ community were fired from their jobs.
- One such case was of NASA's Clifford Norton. Norton was fired in 1963 for "immoral, indecent, and disgraceful conduct" after being interrogated for allegedly being a homosexual man.
- James Webb, as the head of NASA during that period, is alleged to have played a role in the dismissal of LGBTQ employees for their identity. In 2021, four astronomers in the US wrote about the demand for renaming the telescope in 'Scientific American'.

MONKEYPOX

The first known lab-confirmed case of monkeypox in India has been reported in a 35-year-old man in Kerala, who reached the State capital three days ago from the UAE.



About:

- Monkeypox initially presents like any tropical disease with fever, headache, joint ache and possible swelling of the lymph glands. The incubation period for the disease — the

time from exposure to the virus to the manifestation of symptoms — ranges from five to 21 days.

- Rashes appear on the face, inside palms and the body one to four days after fever.
- The course of the disease could last two to four weeks, during which time the rashes progress into pustules, vesicular lesions and scabs.
- Transmission happens only through close contact and by touching or sharing the clothes or bedding used by the patient, because the lesions usually have a high viral load. Transmission also extends throughout the course of the illness, till the lesions heal.

PIGMENTED CAROTENOIDS

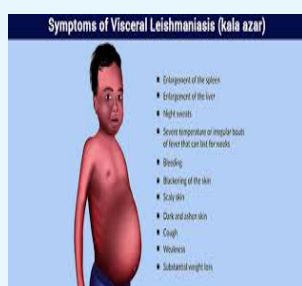
Women tend to live longer than men, but typically have higher rates of illness.

About:

- Now, research from University of Georgia (UGA) suggests these higher rates of illness can be improved by a better diet — one that is high in pigmented carotenoids such as yams, kale, spinach, watermelon, bell peppers, tomatoes, oranges and carrots.
- These bright-coloured fruits and vegetables are particularly important in preventing visual and cognitive loss.
- Women have, on average, more body fat than men. Body fat serves as a significant sink for many dietary vitamins and minerals, which creates a useful reservoir for women during pregnancy.
- This availability, however, means less is available for the retina and the brain, putting women at more risk for degenerative problems.
- Dietary intake of pigmented carotenoids act as antioxidants. Two specific carotenoids, lutein and zeaxanthin, are found in specific tissues of the eye and brain and have been shown to directly improve central nervous system degeneration.

KALA AZAR

Eleven districts of Bengal reported at least 65 cases of black fever or 'Kala-Azar disease in the last couple of weeks



About:

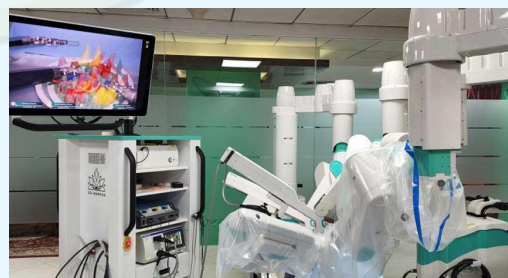
- Kala-azar or Visceral Leishmaniasis is a protozoan parasitic disease, spread by sandfly bites. Sandflies are brown in colour and

have hairs on their bodies.

- The flies are infected with the parasite called 'leishmania donovani'.
- The vector sandfly is known to live in cracks and crevices of muddy houses, especially in dark and humid corners. According to the WHO, there are 3 main forms of leishmaniasis of which kala-azar is the most serious form.
- The disease affects some of the poorest people and is linked to malnutrition, population displacement, poor housing, a weak immune system and a lack of financial resources.
- Leishmaniasis is also linked to environmental changes such as deforestation, and urbanisation, according to WHO.
- In 2020, more than 90 per cent of new cases reported to WHO occurred in 10 countries: Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Eritrea, India, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.
- In India, the disease is endemic in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

FIRST-EVER 'MADE IN INDIA' SURGICAL ROBOTIC SYSTEM INSTALLED AT RAJIV GANDHI INSTITUTE

- Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Center, New Delhi (RGCI) have installed the first-ever Made-in-India Surgical Robotic System, "SSI-Mantra", devised by the new-age Indian med-tech start-up SS Innovations.
- The ingenious SSI Mantra, a brainchild of World-renowned robotic cardiac surgeon Dr Sudhir P Srivastava, will be signifying the beginning of a new era of surgical procedures in India, making robotic surgery accessible and affordable for the people of our country.



- The ingenious SSI Mantra will be signifying the beginning of a new era of surgical procedures in India, making robotic surgery accessible and affordable for the people of our country.

- After two pilot projects where Dr Sudhir Rawal and his team from RGCi successfully performed a total of 26 surgeries with SSI Mantra, thereby validating safety, feasibility and effectiveness, the robot is now ready to provide an advanced method of surgery, which will be accessible to the general public at a much lower cost.

MARBURG VIRUS DISEASE (MVD)

The first two cases of the Marburg virus, a highly infectious Ebola-like disease, have been confirmed officially by Ghana after test results were verified by a Senegal laboratory. This outbreak is only the second time that the disease has been detected in West Africa.



About:

- Marburg virus disease (MVD), earlier known as Marburg haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal hemorrhagic fever.
- Marburg, like Ebola, is a filovirus; and both diseases are clinically similar.
- Rousettus fruit-bats are considered the natural hosts for Marburg virus. However, African green monkeys imported from Uganda were the source of the first human infection.
- It was first detected in 1967 after simultaneous outbreaks in Marburg and Frankfurt in Germany; and in Belgrade, Serbia.
- After the onset of symptoms, which can begin anytime between 2 to 21 days, MVD can manifest itself in the form of high fever, muscle aches and severe headache. The disease has an average fatality rate of around 50%.
- There is no approved antiviral treatment or vaccine for MVD as of now.
- It can be managed with supportive care. According to the WHO, rehydration with oral or intravenous fluids, and treatment of specific symptoms can help prevent death.

13TH PETERSBURG CLIMATE DIALOGUE BEGINS IN GERMANY

- The 13th Petersberg Climate Dialogue be-

gan in Berlin, Germany.

- The two-day informal ministerial meet is being chaired by Germany and Egypt, hosts of this year's annual climate meet (COP-27).
- The informal ministerial meeting proposes to build consensus and provide political direction to resolve divergences aimed at improving the implementation of climate action, the core goal of COP-27.
- About the Petersberg Climate Dialogue:
- The Petersberg Climate Dialogue will pave the way for a successful global climate conference in Egypt in November.
- Since its inception in 2010, the Petersberg Dialogue has served as a forum for ministers to build political consensus that helps resolve differences on issues holding up progress in negotiations.

ISRO USED PSLV TO LAUNCH 345 FOREIGN SPACECRAFT FROM 34 DIFFERENT NATIONS SINCE 1999

Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy, and Space, announced that ISRO has signed six agreements with four nations for the launch of foreign satellites between 2021 and 2023.

- According to the Minister, the Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) has successfully launched 342 foreign satellites from 34 countries since 1999 on a commercial basis.

KEY POINTS:

- Through its commercial subsidiary, New Space India Limited (NSIL), a government-owned business operating under the Department of Space (DOS), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched satellites for other nations on board the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for a fee.
- Six Launch Service Agreements have already been signed by NSIL with clients from four different nations for the launch of foreign satellites on board PSLV between 2021 and 2023.
- A total of 124 domestic satellites, including 12 student satellites, have been launched into Earth's orbit.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh stated in a second written response to a similar issue in the Rajya Sabha today that a total of 342 foreign satellites from 34 different countries had been

commercially launched on board the Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) since 1999.

- The Minister claimed that during the past three years, India has generated approximately \$35 million USD and 10 million EUR in foreign exchange earnings from the launch of foreign satellites aboard Indian launch vehicles (i.e., 2019- 2021).
- Foreign satellites that have been launched using Indian launch vehicles often serve Earth observation, scientific research, and technological demonstration needs.

GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

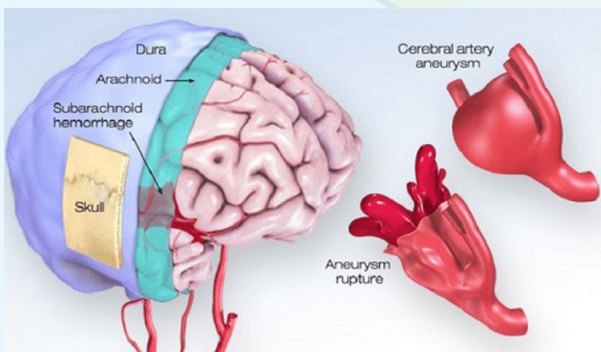
World Health Organization (WHO) has declared monkeypox a global health emergency.

About:

- It came at the end of the second meeting of the WHO's emergency committee on the virus.
- The classification is the highest alert that the WHO can issue and follows a worldwide upsurge in cases.
- WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said more than 16,000 cases have now been reported from 75 countries. There have been five deaths so far as a result of the outbreak.
- There are only two other such health emergencies at present - the coronavirus pandemic and the continuing effort to eradicate polio

ANEURYSM

Actor Emilia Clarke, who played the role Daenerys Targaryen in the series Game of Thrones, recently told BBC One in an interview that she had suffered two brain aneurysms while filming for the series, in 2011 and 2013.



About:

- Aneurysm is a swelling of the arteries and veins in any part of the body, and is caused by weakening of the walls. It occurs most commonly in the aorta, back of the knees,

brain or intestines. If the aneurysm gets ruptured, it can even cause internal bleeding and stroke.

- Blood vessels of the brain and the heart are the most common locations to get seriously affected. The swelling can be of two types. Either the complete blood vessel is swollen or a specific side of the blood vessel can bulge out from the sides.
- Potential risk factors for aneurysm include smoking, age, high cholesterol, obesity, hypertension or tissue disorders. Pregnancy can also increase risk of aneurysm of the spleen.
- A device called flow diversion stent is a new innovative intervention for treatment of aneurysm for the initial stages, when it has not ruptured

ISRO 'HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT EXPO' INAUGURATED AT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PLANETARIUM

- Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO Chairman S Somnath along with other senior scientists inaugurated the Human Space Flight Expo at Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru to commemorate the Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav.
- ISRO is embarking on its maiden unmanned mission Gaganyaan soon and the exhibition showcased the crew module, GSLV Mark III human-rated launch vehicle and crew escape systems.

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS)

Russia will pull out of the International Space Station after 2024 and focus on building its own orbiting outpost, the country's new space chief Yuri Borisov said amid high tensions between Moscow and the West over the fighting in Ukraine.

About:

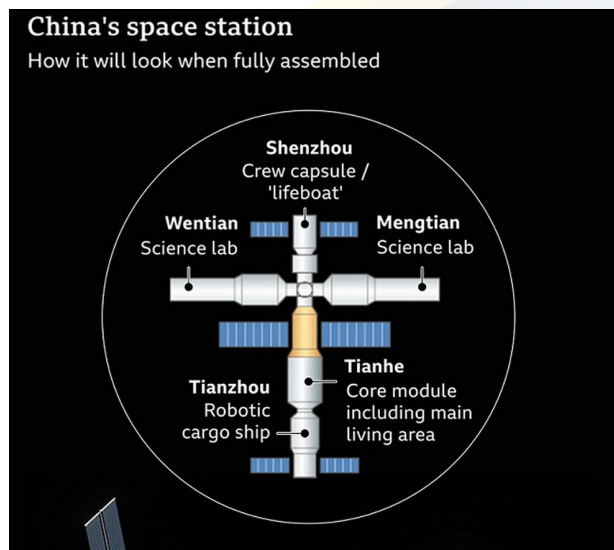
- Borisov's statement reaffirmed previous declarations by Russian space officials about Moscow's intention to leave the space station after 2024 when the current international arrangements for its operation end.
- NASA and other international partners hope to keep the space station running until 2030, while the Russians have been reluctant to make commitments beyond 2024.
- The space station is jointly run by the space agencies of Russia, the U.S., Europe, Japan

and Canada. The first piece was put in orbit in 1998, and the outpost has been continuously inhabited for nearly 22 years.

- It is used to conduct scientific research in zero gravity and test out equipment for future space journeys. It typically has a crew of seven, who spend months at a time aboard the station as it orbits about 400 km from Earth.

CHINA SPACE STATION

China launched the second of three modules to its permanent space station, in one of the final missions needed to complete the orbiting outpost by year's end.



About:

- The 23-tonne Wentian ("Quest for the Heavens") laboratory module was launched on the back of China's most powerful rocket, the Long March 5B from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre on the southern island of Hainan. The launch was "a complete success".
- China began constructing the space station in April 2021 with the launch of the Tianhe module, the main living quarters, in the first of 11 crewed and uncrewed missions in the undertaking.
- The Wentian lab module, 17.9 m long, will provide space for experiments, along with the other lab module yet to be launched — Mengtian ("Dreaming of the Heavens").
- Mengtian is expected to be launched in October and, like Wentian, is to dock with Tianhe, forming a T-shaped

MONKEYPOX VACCINE IMVANEX APPROVED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- European Commission has given permission for the Imvanex vaccine to be marketed as protection against Monkeypox, as recommended last week by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Globally, over 16,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported from 75 countries. This vaccine is developed by Danish biotechnology company Bavarian Nordic.
- In the current outbreak in countries and amongst the reported monkeypox cases, transmission appears to be occurring primarily through close physical contact, including sexual contact. Transmission can also occur from contaminated materials such as linens, bedding, electronics, and clothing, that have infectious skin particles.

CoWin

After the success of CoWin as a platform for the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination, the Union government is looking to repurpose the technology for more healthcare requirements

About:

- Right now, work is on to adapt the app for the universal immunisation programme (UIP).
- For mothers and babies, it will bring the ease of discovery of vaccination centres or camps and reminders for subsequent vaccinations for preventable diseases.
- The addition of digitally verifiable certificates for routine immunisation will be the first of its kind globally, and it is a great way to start building longitudinal health records for a child right from its birth.
- In addition to immunisation, the platform will be considered for the use-cases of blood donation and organ donation in the months to come.

EMERGENCE OF VIRUSES IN AFRICA, ASIA

Many of the diseases like Monkeypox, coronavirus, zika, and ebola were first reported in either Asia or Africa.

- So where are the most viruses found?
- As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), from January 2021 to the present day, the majority of cases were reported in Asian and/or African countries.
- There was a 63 per cent increase in the number of zoonotic outbreaks in Africa between 2012 and 2022 compared to 2001 and 2011.

- Why are viruses being found in Asia and Africa so often?
- It's not that these regions are innately bound to produce new diseases. Multiple factors are at work here.
- Humans in these continents have a greater chance of coming in contact with animals more often in their many densely populated regions, thus increasing the risk of the spread of diseases.
- The dramatic, transformative change that many countries are undergoing in these regions — countries like the UK, to an extent, went through a similar experience when they underwent industrialisation in the 18th and 19th centuries and faced diseases like cholera and typhoid.
- Factors like Increased frequency and reach of travel, changing patterns of land use, changing diets, wars and social upheaval and climate change increase interactions between humans and reservoir hosts, facilitating exposure to zoonotic viruses.





ENVIRONMENT NEWS

NEW PATHWAY TO REGULATE NITRATE ABSORPTION IN PLANTS

Researchers led by those from the National Centre of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bengaluru (NCBS-TIFR), have found a new pathway that regulates nitrate absorption in plants.

Controlling nitrate absorption in plants

A novel pathway has been found, which can use gene editing to achieve this objective



Approach: The researchers used rice and tobacco plants to study the mechanism. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

■ Plants mainly absorb nitrogen from the soil in the form of nitrates and ammonium

■ An important macronutrient, nitrogen is a part of chlorophyll, amino acids and nucleic acids

■ There is a need to regulate and optimise nitrogen intake in plants, so that the excess is not dumped in soil and water

■ The hormone auxin is responsible for well-developed roots across all plants, influencing nitrate absorption

ALTERNATE PATHWAY

■ The regulatory micro-RNA switch - miR444 - is known to turn off at least five genes

called MADS box transcription factor genes

■ A target gene of miR444 called MADS27, has a three-pronged effect: regulating nitrate absorption and root development, and stress tolerance

■ Tinkering with MADS27 may help regulate nitrate absorption and engineer abiotic stress tolerance

About:

- The gene MADS27, which regulates nitrate absorption, root development and stress tolerance, is activated by the micro-RNA, miR444, therefore offers a way to control these properties of the plant.
- The researchers studied this mechanism in both rice (monocot) and tobacco (dicot) plants. The research is published in Journal of Experimental Botany.

Role of Nitrates

- Nitrogen is one of the most important macronutrients needed for development of a plant. It is a part of chlorophyll, amino acids and nucleic acids, among others. It is mostly sourced from the soil where it is mainly absorbed in the form of nitrates and ammonium by the roots.
- Nitrates also play a role in controlling genome-wide gene expression that in turn regulates root system architecture, flowering time, leaf development, etc.
- Thus, while a lot of action takes place in the roots to absorb and convert nitrogen into useful nitrates, the absorbed nitrates in turn regulate plant development apart from being useful as a macronutrient.

INDIA'S FLORA AND FAUNA

India added 540 species to its faunal database in

2021 taking the total number of animal species to 1,03,258. The country also added 315 taxa to the Indian flora during 2021, taking the number of floral taxa in the country to 55,048.

About:

- Of the 540 faunal species, 406 are new discoveries and 134 new records to India. Thirteen new genera were also discovered in 2021. Among the new species discovered is one species from mammal, 35 reptiles and 19 species of pisces.
- The new mammal species discovered is *Crociodura narcondamica*, a white-toothed shrew, from Narcondam Island of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands.
- Among the reptiles discovered in 2021, notable is *Boiga whitakeri*, or Whitaker's cat snake, from the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.
- The most number of new discoveries was from the faunal group Hymenoptera, an order of insects, comprising the sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants, in which 80 species, including one new genus, were discovered.
- With 1.03 lakh species of fauna, India contributes to 6.1% of faunal diversity in the world.

VARROA MITE

In the last two weeks, Australian authorities have exterminated millions of honeybees in a bid to prevent a potentially devastating parasitic plague affecting the southeast region of the country



About:

- The recent outbreak of the deadly varroa mite, a sesame seed-sized parasite that was

first spotted at a port near Sydney last week, poses a massive threat to the country's multimillion-dollar honey industry.

- The Varroa mite, or Varroa destructor, is a parasitic insect that attacks and feeds on honeybees.
- Reddish-brown in colour, the tiny pests are known to kill entire colonies of honeybees, officials have warned. They often travel from bee to bee and also via beekeeping equipment, such as combs that have been extracted.
- The spread of the mite is largely blamed for a sharp decline in the number of honey bee colonies worldwide. It has plundered bee colonies across the globe.
- Although Varroa mites can feed and live on adult honey bees, they mainly feed and reproduce on larvae and pupae in the developing brood, causing malformation and weakening of honey bees as well as transmitting numerous viruses.

CHENKURINJI

The Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary derives its name Chenkuriñji (*Gluta travancorica*), a species endemic to the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve.

About:

- Belonging to the Anacardiaceae family, the tree was once abundant in the hills on the southern parts of the Aryankavu Pass in Kerala's Kollam district, but its presence has been fast receding from the area over the years.
- *Gluta travancorica* is very susceptible to climate change and the present condition of the species is quite bad with low regeneration performance.
- Though the flowering usually happens in January, of late, the species has reported a tendency to extend the process due to climate change. It's an adaptation strategy to increase the chances of germination and maintain a minimum viable population.
- Though the tree is also seen inside the shola forests near Ponmudi, effective pollination hardly takes place in the habitat.

HARIYALIMAHOTSAV

- Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change will be organizing "Hariyali Mahotsav" on 8th July, 2022 at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi in the spirit of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". The mahotsav is being organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in collaboration with the State Governments, Police Institutions and Schools of Delhi for undertaking

plantation drives on the occasion.

- About the Hariyali Mahotsav:
- Hariyali Mahotsav, the "Tree Festival" is being organized to create awareness about the importance of trees in sustaining not only the life of the present generations but also to secure the future of forthcoming generations. Trees play extremely important role in mitigating adverse effects of climate change.
- This Mahotsav is perceived as an effective tool to instill enthusiasm among masses for forest conservation and planting trees. It holds immense importance in complementing the policy and program initiatives of the government towards environmental conservation. Hariyali Mahotsav is celebrated across the country in recognition of the crucial role of Forest/Greenery in maintaining the ecological balance and providing many ecosystem services to the planet.

RED PANDAS

The Singalila National Park in West Bengal, will soon get new red pandas.

About:



- A zoo in the picturesque Darjeeling Hills has started an ambitious programme to augment the wild red panda population.
- In the first rewilding programme of red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*) in India, the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park will release 20 of these furry endangered mammals in about five years to the forests.
- The number of red pandas has been declining in the wild, even in the Singalila and Neora Valley National Parks, the two protected areas where the mammal is found in the wild in West Bengal.
- Recent studies estimate that there are 38 of them in Singalila and 32 in Neora.
- The Padmaja Naidu park, at a height of about 2,000 metres above the sea level, is one of the high-altitude zoos in the country and has been quite successful in captive breeding of the furry mammals.

ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTION) ACT, 1986

On July 1, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, put out a note, proposing amendments in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

About:

- The EPA establishes the “framework for studying, planning, and implementing long-term requirements of environmental safety and laying down a system of speedy and adequate response to situations threatening the environment.”
- With a set of amendments, the Environment Ministry proposes to modify provisions of the Environment Protection Act (EPA), by replacing clauses that provides for imprisonment with ones that only requires violators to pay a fine. These, however, don't apply to violations that cause grave injury or loss of life.
- The changes proposed include the appointment of an ‘adjudication officer’ who will decide on the penalty in cases of environmental violations such as reports not being submitted or information not provided when demanded.
- Funds collected as penalties would be accrued in an “Environmental Protection Fund.” In case of contraventions of the Act, the penalties could extend to anywhere from five lakh to five crore, the proposal notes, but the clause on provision of a jail term for the first default has been sought to be removed.

ARTIFICIAL DIET FOR MOSQUITOES

The ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC), Puducherry, has filed patent applications for two of its unique products — an artificial diet and a feeding device for mosquitoes reared in laboratory — with the Indian Patent Office recently.

About:

- The two products allow efficient and cost-effective mass-rearing of mosquitoes in laboratory as it is important to keep these mosquitoes healthy to investigate basic facets of their biology and to study vector-borne disease and measures to control it.
- Mosquito females require animal or human blood diet to produce eggs. For this, blood has to be obtained from blood banks or live animals. Regular supply of blood from blood banks is not easy.
- Considering these challenges and huge potential demand, we have zeroed in on four artificial diets for feeding.”
- These four diets prepared for female mos-

quitoes are like a baby formula food and have all the essential nutrients, which are present in the blood.

CLOUDBURST

Sudden, “highly-localised rains” in Amarnath, Jammu and Kashmir, on July 8 caused flooding and led to the deaths of at least 16 people and injuries to more than 20 others.

About:

- A cloudburst refers to an extreme amount of rain that happens in a short period, sometimes accompanied by hail and thunder, and this has a precise definition.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) defines it as unexpected precipitation exceeding 100mm (or 10 cm) per hour over a geographical region of approximately 20 to 30 square km.
- Significant amounts of rainfall such as this can result in floods.

KHEJRI TREES

The proposed installation of eight solar power plants in Jodhpur district's Phalodi tehsil has led to a major confrontation with the Bishnoi activists, who have strongly protested against the felling of khejri trees (or Prosopis cineraria trees).



About:

- Khejri trees, which is the State tree of Rajasthan, plays an important role in maintaining the ecosystem of Thar region because of its ability to survive in dry weather.
- The tree is used in different ways, such as a source of fodder and firewood, and it helps in sustaining the soil's nutrient value and ensuring a good yield of desert crops and food plants. Its fruit is used to make the popular dish 'Sangri'.

IMPACT OF GREEN TECHNOLOGY ON MARINE BIODIVERSITY

A new study has flagged emerging threats that could have a major impact on marine biodiversity over the next 5-10 years. The study also speaks about the negative impacts of green technology adoption that must not be ignored.

About:

- With increased public pressure against marine plastic pollution, there has been an attempt to replace fossil fuel-based plastic with biodegradable polymers, such as the 'biodegradable plastic bags' made of plant starches.
- However, the researchers claim that these materials do not biodegrade under natural conditions in the ocean and their widespread adoption can cause marine litter as well. Since their long term impact on the environment remains unknown, they can lead to a fresh set of problems.
- The researchers argue that the growing demand for renewable energy technology, such as lithium batteries for electric cars, also pose a potential threat to marine ecology.
- Deep sea 'brine pools' of more saline water, contain higher concentrations of lithium and could become future sites for extraction.

IS4OM FOR SAFE & SUSTAINABLE SPACE ENVIRONMENT

- With the help of the ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operation and Management (IS4OM), India has increased its ability to protect its space assets on its own. Mr. S Somanath, Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, are slated to officially launch the IS4OM in the presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences.
- Key Points:
- The IS4OM system was developed with a comprehensive viewpoint, according to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), to assure the safety and sustainability of the space environment while enjoying the benefits of sustainable use of space for national development.
- Additionally, as part of IS4OM, specialised labs for space debris reduction and cleanup, compliance verification of UN/Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) recommendations, and diverse R&D activities have been set up.

- A dedicated control centre for operations aimed at monitoring, tracking, and safeguarding India's space assets was opened by ISRO in December 2020

B. CHAUKULENSIS

Dragonfly enthusiasts have recorded the presence of a rare dragonfly that was hitherto unseen in Kerala

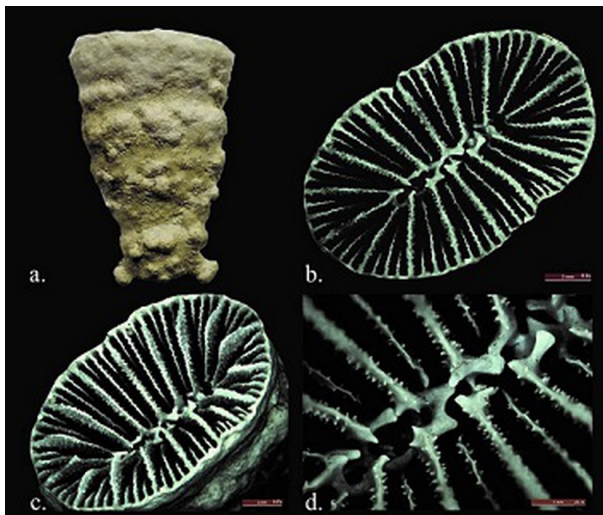


About:

- They spotted the Spiny Horntail, *Burmagomphus chaukulensis* Joshi, Ogale & Sawant, 2022 (or *B. chaukulensis*), during a recent expedition to the Kottiyoor forests of Kannur.
- The species that is known to be endemic to the Western Ghats was discovered in Maharashtra earlier this year.
- Prior to their finding, the dragonfly genus *Burmagomphus* was represented by three species – *B. cauvericus*, *B. pyramidalis* and *B. laidlawi*.
- While *B. laidlawi* is found throughout the Western Ghats, *B. cauvericus* is more restricted in its distribution. *B. pyramidalis* is found in the Western Ghats as well as in Peninsular India.
- All other species of the genus are found in the Western and Eastern Himalayas.
- The new species can be separated from its congeners by the markings on the lateral thorax and peculiar shape of anal appendages, said Mr. Nair.

AZOOXANTHELLATE CORALS

Scientists have recorded four species of corals for the first time from Indian waters. These new species of azooxanthellate corals were found from the waters off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



About:

- All the four groups of corals are from the same family, Flabellidae.
- *Truncatoflabellum crassum* (Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848), *T. incrustatum* (Cairns, 1989), *T. aculeatum* (Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848), and *T. irregulare* (Semper, 1872) under the family Flabellidae were previously found in Japan, the Philippines and Australian waters, while only *T. crassum* was reported with the range of Indo-West Pacific distribution.
- **Azooxanthellate Corals**
The azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae and derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of planktons.
- They are deep-sea representatives with the majority of species being reported from depths between 200 metres and 1,000 metres. They are also reported from shallow waters unlike zooxanthellate corals that are restricted to shallow waters.
- Azooxanthellate corals are a group of hard corals. Hard corals are the prime and intrinsic part of the coral reef ecosystem.

REINTRODUCTION OF CHEETAHS

India and Namibia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for reintroduction of cheetahs into the historical range in India.



About:

- First batch of eight cheetahs comprising four male and as many female cheetahs are expected to arrive in India before Independence Day.
- The cheetahs will be released in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- India plans to introduce 8-10 cheetahs every year with a total 50 from Namibia, South Africa and other African countries over the next five years.
- Under the MoU, both the countries will also collaborate in areas of climate change, environmental governance, environmental impact assessments, pollution and waste management.

BATS

A recent study indicates that more than 50% of habitats suitable for 37 species of bats in the Southern Western Ghats lie outside protected areas, potentially increasing threats faced by the animals due to poaching for their meat, habitat loss and stigma from local communities, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.



About:

- The authors based their study area around 1,600 km of the Southern Western Ghats, encompassing biodiverse regions in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- Six major biodiversity hotspots — Agastya-malai, Periyar Tiger Reserve, Anamalai, the Nilgiris, the Wayanad-Mudumalai complex and Brahmagiri — were part of the study area.
- The Southern Western Ghats was home to rare and endangered bat species such as Salim Ali's fruit bat (*Latidens salimalii*) and the Pomona roundleaf bat (*Hipposideros pomona*).
- Seven of the 37 bat species studied in the region had broad distribution ranges, exceeding 20,000 sq km, 19 species had intermediate distribution ranges between 10,000

and 20,000 sq km, and 11 species were restricted to ranges less than 10,000 sq km.

- Worryingly, only two species of bats had a distribution range that was significantly located in protected areas. Meanwhile, the distribution ranges of 35 other species lay primarily outside protected areas.

KALI BEIN

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has been admitted to Delhi's Apollo Hospital, days after he had drunk a glass of water directly from the Kali Bein, a holy rivulet in Sultanpur Lodhi.

About:

- Kali Bein, the 165-km rivulet starts from Hoshiarpur, runs across four districts and meets the confluence of the rivers Beas and Sutlej in Kapurthala.
- Along its banks are around 80 villages and half a dozen small and big towns.
- Waste water from there as well as industrial waste used to flow into the rivulet via a drain, turning its waters black, hence the name Kali Bein (black rivulet). Dense grass and weeds grew on the water until a cleaning project started.
- Significance
- The Kali Bein is of great significance to Sikh religion and history, because the first Guru, Nanak Dev, is said to have got enlightenment here.
- When Guru Nanak Dev was staying at Sultanpur Lodhi with his sister Bebe Nanki, he would bathe in the Kali Bein.
- He is said to have disappeared into the waters one day, before emerging on the third day. The first thing he recited was the "Mool Mantra" of the Sikh religion.

SNOW LEOPARD

A recent study by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) on snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) has thrown up interesting insights on the elusive mountain cat and its prey species



About:

- According to the study carried out in Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh, the snow leopard detection probability was high if the site was used by its prey species — Siberian ibex and blue sheep. Whereas, in the case of the prey species, the probability of detection was low when the predator was present and detected.
- Snow leopards use rugged mountainous areas or non-forested areas covering an altitude between 3,200 metres to 5,200 metres.
- Habitat covariates such as barren area, grassland, aspect, slope and distance to water were important drivers of habitat use for the snow leopard as well as its prey species.
- Classified as 'Vulnerable' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red list and listed in Schedule-I species of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, snow leopards are elusive mountain cats.

SAKURAJIMA VOLCANIC ERUPTION: VOLCANO ERUPTS FOR THREE DAYS

- A Volcanic eruption took place on Japan's main southern island of Kyushu. The locals are ordered to evacuate the place as soon as possible so that no person is affected by the volcanic eruption. The officials and Government of Japan have taken safety measures to make sure that the locals are safe.
- About Sakurajima:
- Sakurajima is situated on the main southern island of Kyushu in Japan. Sakurajima was an island, which has the highest number of active volcanoes in Japan and that has erupted repeatedly. It is about 1000km away from the Southwest of Tokyo. In 1914, Sakurajima faced a hazardous volcanic eruption killing 58 people, after which it became peninsular.
- Volcanoes in Japan
- These are the most remarkable volcanoes in Japan.
- Mount Fuji- It is a well-known active volcano located in Honshu. It is the tallest peak in Japan with 3,776m of elevation. In Asia, it is the second highest peak Volcano and ranks 7th in the world's highest peak.
- Mount Unzen- It is a group of Volcanoes. The most dangerous eruption from Mount Unzen was noted on 1792 killing 15,000 people.
- Mount Aso- It is an active volcano with one of the largest Caldera in the world. It is located in Kyushu's Kumamoto prefecture. It is also the largest volcano in Japan.
- Mount Kirishima- It is located in Kagoshima Prefecture and Miyazaki Prefecture,

Kyushu, in Japan. It is an active volcano of 1700m.

- Oshima-Oshima Volcano- It is the most dormant volcano in Japan. It last erupted in 1741 and killed almost 1500 people.

INVASIVE FROG AND SNAKE DENT WORLD ECONOMY

Two invasive species, the American bullfrog and the brown tree snake, cost the world an estimated \$16 billion between 1986 and 2020, by causing problems ranging from crop damage to power outages, according to a study published in Scientific Reports.



About:

- The brown-and-green frog, known as *lithobates catesbeianus* and weighs over two pounds (0.9 kg), had the greatest impact in Europe.
- The brown tree snake, known as *boiga irregularis*, has multiplied uncontrollably on Pacific islands including Guam and the Mariana Islands, where the species was introduced by the U.S. troops in World War II.
- The snakes have, at times, been so abundant that they caused power outages by crawling on electrical equipment. This signals the need for investment controlling global transport of invasive species to avoid paying for mitigation after the invasions occur.

ELEPHANTS

The elephant range States across India have ignored an instruction from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to furnish information on their elephant reserves.

About:

- Data uploaded on the Wildlife Institute of India's website say the elephant population across 16 States in the country ranged between 27,785 and 31,368 in 2012.
- While Karnataka had up to 7,458 elephants followed by Assam with 5,281, Maharashtra had only four.
- India has 30 notified elephant reserves,

spread across 15 Elephant Range States.

- There are also 10 sites for the MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) programme, mandated by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.
- The MIKE sites are Chirang-Ripu and Dihing-Patkai in Assam, Deomali in Arunachal Pradesh, Garo Hills in Meghalaya, Eastern Dooars in West Bengal, Mayurbhanj in Odisha, Shivalik in Uttarakhand, Mysore in Karnataka, Wayanad in Kerala and Nilgiri in Tamil Nadu.



REPORTS AND INDICES

ODISHA TOPS STATE RANKING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT 2022

- Odisha has topped in the state ranking for implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) through ration shops, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal released the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' 2022 during a conference of state food ministers on food and nutrition security in India.
- As per the government's ranking, Odisha is at first position with a score of 0.836, followed by Uttar Pradesh (0.797) and Andhra Pradesh (0.794).
- The current version of the Index measures the effectiveness of NFSA implementation majorly through operations and initiatives under TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System).

Key point of the ranking:

- Among the special category states (the North Eastern states, Himalayan states, and the Island states), Tripura has obtained the first rank. Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are at the second and third positions.
- Despite the logistical limitations in these areas, they displayed a high degree of accomplishment in competing with the general category states as well.
- Gujarat is at fourth place, followed by Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand.
- Kerala has been ranked at the 11th position, Telangana (12th), Maharashtra (13th), West Bengal (14th) and Rajasthan (15th). Punjab is at the 16th position, followed by Haryana, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Goa.

START-UP RANKING 2021: GUJARAT, KARNATAKA EMERGES AS BEST PERFORMERS

- Gujarat and Karnataka emerged the "best performers" in the third edition of States' Start-up ranking, 2021, while Meghalaya

bagged the top honour among Northeastern (NE) states.

- In the second edition of the survey, which was conducted in 2020, Gujarat was the best performer.

Key points of the report:

- Top performers among the larger states include Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana.
- Among smaller states and UTs, Jammu and Kashmir was adjudged the top performer.
- Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, and Goa are in the leaders category.
- States and UTs in the aspiring leaders' category include Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Puducherry and Nagaland.
- States and UTs with a population of more than 10 million are ranked separately from those with a lower population. UTs and states are classified into five categories based on their performance in the survey.
- They are best performers, top performers, leaders, aspiring leaders and emerging start-up ecosystems.

UN: INDIA ANTICIPATED TO OVERTAKE CHINA AS WORLD'S MOST POPULATED NATION NEXT YEAR

- According to a report released by the UN on World Population Day, India is expected to overtake China as the world's most populous nation next year.
- The world's population is anticipated to exceed eight billion people on November 15, 2022, according to a research by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.
- According to the United Nations' most recent estimates, the world's population may reach 8.5 billion people in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050, and 10.4 billion in 2100.

Key Highlights Of The UN Report:

- By 2037, Central and Southern Asia is anticipated to overtake Eastern and South-Eastern Asia as the world's most populous re-

gion, since the populations of those two continents may begin to decline.

- The two most populated regions in 2022, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia with 2.3 billion people (or 29% of the world's population), and Central and Southern Asia with 2.1 billion people, were both in Asia (26 per cent of the global population).
- With populations of about 1.4 billion apiece, China and India made up the majority of the people in these two areas.
- According to the research, India would have a population of 1.412 billion in 2022, compared to 1.426 billion for China. By the middle of the century, India is expected to have a population of 1.668 billion, much exceeding China's 1.317 billion.
- According to the research, lower levels of fertility caused the expansion of the global population to halt by more than half after 1965.
- IHME predicts that India's total fertility rate will be 1.29 births per woman in 2100 as opposed to 1.69 in
- The population at the end of the century would be 433 million fewer than predicted by the United Nations under the median scenario.
- In 2022, there will be somewhat more men (50.3%) than women (49.7%) in the world. Over the course of the century, it is predicted that this number will gradually invert. It's anticipated that there will be as many women as males by the year 2050.

WORLD POPULATION REPORT

India is set to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023, with each counting more than 1.4 billion residents this year, a United Nations report said, warning that high fertility would challenge economic growth.

About:

POPULATION RACE

The world's top three most populous countries

1990	2022	2050*
China (1,144 million)	China (1,426m)	India (1,668m)
India (861m)	India (1,412m)	China (1,317m)
US (246m)	US (337m)	US (375m)

*UN projection

- The world's population, estimated to reach 8 billion by November 15 this year, could grow to 8.5 billion in 2030, and 10.4 billion in 2100, as the pace of mortality slows, said the report released on World Population Day.
- India's population was 1.21 billion in 2011, according to the domestic census, which is

conducted once a decade. The government had deferred the 2021 census due to the pandemic.

- The world's population was growing at its slowest pace since 1950, having fallen below 1% in 2020, UN estimates showed.
- In 2021, the average fertility of the world's population stood at 2.3 births per woman over a lifetime, having fallen from about 5 births in 1950.
- The UN said more than half of the projected increase in the global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in eight countries — Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.

WEF'S GENDER GAP REPORT 2022: INDIA RANKS LOW AT 135TH GLOBALLY

- India ranks 135 among a total of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2022 of the World Economic Forum (WEF). It is the worst performer in the world in the "health and survival" sub-index where it is ranked 146. India also ranks poorly among its neighbours and is behind Bangladesh (71), Nepal (96), Sri Lanka (110), Maldives (117) and Bhutan (126). Only Iran (143), Pakistan (145) and Afghanistan (146) perform worse than India in south Asia.

The gender score | India ranked 135 in gender parity out of 146 countries, according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2022 released by the World Economic Forum. A look at India's ranking in the four sub-indexes based on which the overall ranking was determined

India	Rank 2022*
Global gender gap index	135
Economic participation and opportunity	143
Educational attainment	107
Health and survival	146
Political empowerment	48

*out of 146 countries



Key points of the reports:

- Iceland has retained its position as the world's most gender-equal country, among 146 nations on the index.
- Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden are the top five countries on the list respectively.
- Afghanistan is the worst-performing country in the report.
- India ranks 146 in health and survival, 143 in economic participation and opportunity, 107 in educational attainment and 48th in

political empowerment.


- About the Global Gender Gap Report 2022:
- The Global Gender Gap Report 2022 is the 16th edition of the annual publication by WEF. The Global Gender Gap Index was first introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006 to compare countries' gender gaps across four dimensions: economic opportunities, education, health and political leadership.

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL RANKING FRAMEWORK (NIRF) 2022

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M), is yet again the top higher educational institute in the country followed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and IIT Bombay, according to the Ministry of Education's National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2022.

About:

Report card
A look at the top 10 educational institutions in India, according to Ministry of Education's National Institutional Ranking Framework 2022



Rank	Institution	Score
1	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	87.59
2	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	83.57
3	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	82.35
4	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	82.22
5	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	77.83
6	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	75.94
7	Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	71.48
8	Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	69.75
9	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi	69.57
10	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi	67.25

- Among the universities, IISc, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jadavpur University and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham were among the top five.
- And among the top five colleges in the country are Miranda House, Hindu College, Presidency College, Loyola College and Lady Shri Ram College for Women.
- The top five medical institutes are All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Christian Medical College, Vellore, National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru, and Banaras Hindu University.
- The top five management institutes are Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, IIM Bengaluru, IIM Kolkata, IIT Delhi and IIM Kozhikode.

Methodology

- This is the seventh consecutive edition of NIRF.
- It ranks colleges, universities and research institutions and also provides an overall ranking of all of them combined. Institutes are also ranked across seven subject do-

main, namely engineering, management, pharmacy, law, medical, architecture and dental.

- A total of 4,786 institutions were evaluated on five parameters — teaching, learning and resources (TLR); research and professional practice; graduation outcome; outreach; and inclusivity and perception.

EXPAT INSIDER RANKINGS FOR 2022: INDIA RANKS 36TH

- Mexico has topped the Expat Insider Rankings for 2022, which was released by the InterNations recently, while India has been ranked on 36th position out of the 52 countries on the list, with a high affordability score. Kuwait is the worst country for expats in the ranking.
- About the Expat Insider Rankings:
- The Expat Insider survey is conducted every year by InterNations, a community for expatriates.
- The survey takes a look at some of the best possible ex-pat destinations around the world, which offer the best quality of life to the people who move abroad to improve their quality of life.
- The Expat Insider 2022 survey report surveyed 11,970 respondents to evaluate their life abroad. These respondents represented 177 nationalities and lived in 181 countries or territories worldwide.
- A total of 52 countries have been ranked on the list.



INDIA INNOVATION INDEX 2021: KARNATAKA, MANIPUR AND CHANDIGARH TOPPED

- Karnataka, Manipur and Chandigarh topped the third edition of NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index, which ranks the states and the union territories on their innovation performance.
- NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery released the India Innovation Index 2021 in presence of apex public policy think tank member Dr VK Saraswat, CEO Parameswaran Iyer and senior adviser

Neeraj Sinha.

Rank	States	III 2021
1	Karnataka	18.01
2	Telangana	17.66
3	Haryana	16.35
4	Maharashtra	16.06
5	Tamil Nadu	15.69

Innovation index

The table lists the score and ranking of 17 major States in the third edition of NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index. Karnataka ranked first followed by Telangana and Haryana while Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Bihar were ranked at the bottom of the index



State	Score	Rank	State	Score	Rank
Karnataka	18.01	1	M.P.	12.74	13
Telangana	17.66	2	Gujarat	12.41	14
Haryana	16.35	3	Bihar	11.58	15
Maharashtra	16.06	4	Odisha	11.42	16
Tamil Nadu	15.69	5	Chhattisgarh	10.97	17

What is India Innovation Index?

- Prepared by NITI Aayog and the Institute for Competitiveness, the India Innovation Index is a comprehensive tool for the evaluation and development of the country's innovation ecosystem. It ranks the states and the union territories on their innovation performance to build healthy competition amongst them.
- The India Innovation Index 2021 presents state-wise rankings based on the innovation landscape and performance of the country's states and union territories. The latest framework of the index has been mapped from the Global Innovation Index, published annually by WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization).
- The number of indicators has increased from 36 (in the India Innovation Index 2020) to 66 (in the India Innovation Index 2021).

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2022: INDIA RANKS 87TH

- The Henley Passport Index has recently released the list of the World's Most Powerful Passports for the year 2022.
- Three Asian nations Japan, Singapore and South Korea bagged the top three positions on the list, reversing pre-pandemic rankings that were dominated by European nations.
- India is ranked 87th on the list of the world's most powerful passports in 2022, according to the latest Henley Passport Index from Henley & Partners, an immigration consultancy.

Key points of the Index:

- India's neighbouring country Pakistan reportedly has the fourth worst passport in the world, according to Henley Index.
- The Japanese passport provides hassle-free entry to 193 countries, while Singapore and South Korea both provide entry to 192 countries.
- Among other countries from Asia, India, along with Mauritius and Tajikistan, has been ranked 87th, with its passport providing access to 67 countries.
- China ties with Bolivia for the 69th spot, with each of their passports allowing access to 80 destinations.
- As for Bangladesh, it occupies the 104th position – five spots higher than Pakistan.
- Pakistan has the fourth worst passport in the world after Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.
- About the Henley Passport Index:
- Henley Passport Index has ranked all the world's 199 passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. The ranking is based on data from the International Air Transport Association, which maintains the world's largest database of travel information, and it is enhanced by extensive, ongoing research by the Henley & Partners Research Department.

REPORT TITLED "DIGITAL BANKS" RELEASED BY NITI AAYOG

- The "Digital Banks" paper from NITI Aayog presents a rationale for a licencing and regulatory framework for digital banks as well as a template and a path for implementing it.
- It focuses on preventing any regulatory or policy arbitrage and provides both incumbents and challengers with an even playing field.
- In front of other officials, the report was released by Suman Bery, CEO of NITI Aayog, Parameswaran Iyer, Senior Advisor Anna Roy.
- This paper examines the current gaps, the neglected niches, and the global regulatory best practises for licencing digital banks because it is crucial to properly use technology to meet India's banking demands.

WHO REPORT: INDIA WAS TOP REMITTANCE RECIPIENT IN 2021 RECEIVING \$87 BILLION

- India was the top recipient country for remittances inflows in 2021, in current US dollars, among the low and middle-income countries, according to a report released by World Health Organisation. India received remittances worth US\$ 87 billion in 2021, as per the “first World report on the health of refugees and migrants”.

OOKLA'S SPEEDTEST GLOBAL INDEX JUNE 2022: INDIA RANKS 118

- India's rankings fell by three spots in the median mobile speeds, according to Ookla's Speedtest Global Index.
- India has at the number 115th spot in May this year, but it dropped down to 118th in June. In April and May, India's mobile broadband speeds improved.
- But the month of June 2022, saw the median mobile download speeds in India decrease from 14.28 Mbps in May to 14.00 Mbps, according to the data
- India's median download speeds on fixed broadband marked an improvement at 48.11 Mbps in June 2022, from 47.86 Mbps in the previous month.
- This pushed the country's global ranking three notches higher, to 72nd spot in June 2022 from 75th in May 2022.



JASPRIT BUMRAH



India stand-in captain Jasprit Bumrah smashed Stuart Broad of England for 29 runs to create a world record for maximum runs off a single over in Test cricket, beating the legendary Brian Lara's feat by one run.

About

- The world record stayed with Lara for 18 years -- he had hit South African left-arm spinner Robin Peterson for 28 runs in a Test match in 2003-04, which included four fours and two sixes off six legal deliveries.
- Former Australia player George Bailey had also scored 28 in an over but he was behind Lara in terms of boundary count.
- Broad, who had also been hit for six sixes in an over by Yuvraj Singh in the inaugural World T20 in 2007, gave away 35 in the 84th over of the Indian first innings in the fifth rescheduled Test here. There were six extra runs -- five wides and a no-ball.

IN THE DIAMOND LEAGUE COMPETITION, NEERAJ CHOPRA WINS THE SILVER MEDAL

- At the renowned Diamond League competition in Stockholm, Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won his first-ever medal after breaking his own national mark twice in a month. Chopra had a tremendous throw of 89.94 metres and placed second at the Stockholm Diamond League.



About Diamond League Competition:

- The Diamond League is an annual collection of the top fourteen invitational athletics meetings for track and field competitions.
- The World Athletics (formerly known as the IAAF) one-day meeting contests place the series at the top of the standings.
- The first season began in 2010.

36TH NATIONAL GAMES: TO BE HELD IN GUJARAT FROM SEP 27 TO OCT 10

- Bhupendra Patel, the chief minister of Gujarat, declared that the 36th National Games will be held in his state from September 27 to October 10 for the first time ever. Due to a number of factors, including the coronavirus pandemic since 2020, the prestigious event is being hosted after a seven-year hiatus; the previous one was in Kerala in 2015. The chief minister claimed in another post that Gujarat has world-class athletic facilities and that the sporting world is experiencing a resurgence. The government will do everything possible to make the national games the best athletic event ever.

About

- There will be more than 34 sports represented at the national games, which will take place in six cities.
- In both indoor and outdoor competitions, athletes from all over the nation are anticipated to display their prowess in sports including athletics, hockey, football, volleyball, lawn tennis, table tennis, judo, wrestling, kabaddi, kho-kho, mallakhambha, and yoga.
- Goa was another strong candidate for the

location this year, in addition to Gujarat.

- When Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat in 2010, he unveiled the “Khel Mahakhumbh” initiative.
- Gujarat has created a flourishing sports ecosystem as a result of the enormous success of Khel Mahakhumbh.

WIMBLEDON 2022

In Tennis, Serbian star Novak Djokovic won Wimbledon 2022 after beating Australia’s Nick Kyrgios 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 in London. Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan clinched the Women’s Singles title.



About:

- Novak Djokovic became the fourth player in the open era after Roger Federer, Pete Sampras, and Bjorn Borg to win four Wimbledon titles in a row. Djokovic has a total of seven Wimbledon titles with his last four titles coming in 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022.
- It is Djokovic’s 21st Grand Slam title overall, putting him one behind record-holder Rafael Nadal.

FERRARI’S CHARLES LECLERC WINS AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX 2022

- Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc held off world champion Max Verstappen to win the Austrian Grand Prix 2022. Red Bull’s Max Verstappen had to settle for second and Mercedes’ seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton was a distant third, after starting eighth, to complete the podium for the third race in a row. Leclerc, whose victory is his first in Formula 1 had not started on pole position, has now closed the gap to Verstappen in the drivers’ championship standings to 38 points.



- The 2022 Austrian Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race held on 10 July 2022 at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria. It was the second Grand Prix weekend of the 2022 season to utilise the Formula One sprint format.

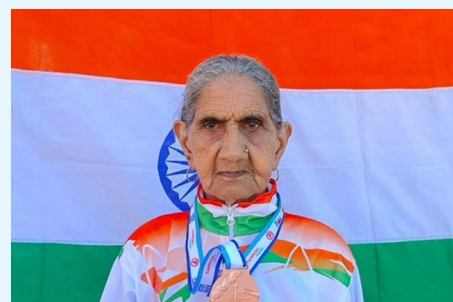
INDIA’S GM D. GUKESH WINS GIJON CHESS MASTERS

- India’s D. Gukesh won the Gijon Chess Masters, with eight points out of nine rounds. GM Alexandr Fier of Brazil finished second with 6.5 points while International Master Pedro Antonio Gines of Spain came third scoring six points.
- With the win, Gukesh took his FIDE rating to 2693. If he crosses the Elo rating of 2700, Gukesh could well become the sixth Indian to do so after Viswanathan Anand, Krishnan Sasikiran, P. Harikrishna, Vidit Gujarati and B. Adhiban.



BHAGWANI DEVI, 94, WON GOLD MEDAL IN 100-METER SPRINT IN FINLAND

- Bhagwani Devi Dagar, a 94-year-old Indian sprinter, won the gold medal in the 100-meter sprint at the Tampere, Finland, World Masters Athletics Championships.
- She finished first in the gold with a timing of 24.74 seconds and took home the bronze in shot-put. For competitors 35 years of age and older, the World Masters Athletics Championships is a competition organised in the sport of track and field.



ISSF WORLD CUP, SOUTH KOREA: INDIA’S ARJUN BABUTA WINS FIRST GOLD MEDAL

- Arjun Babuta of India earned his first gold medal in shooting at the Changwon, South Korea, International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup stage. Final saw him overcome silver medalist for Tokyo 2020 Lucas Kozeniesky of the USA 17-9.
- Arjun Babuta had previously outperformed Lucas Kozeniesky in the eight-men ranking round with a score of 261.1 to 260.4. Sergey Richter of Israel finished third with a score of 259.9, and Paarth Makhija of India came in fourth with a score of 258.1.

BIRMINGHAM WORLD GAMES 2022: ABHISHEK VERMA AND JYOTHI SUREKHA VENNAM WIN BRONZE IN ARCHERY

- Abhishek Verma, archery gold winner from the Asian Games, and Jyothi Surekha Vennam took home bronze at the World Games 2022 in Birmingham, Alabama, USA.
- The Indian archery team defeated Mexico's Andrea and Miguel Becerra 157-156 in the bronze medal competition. Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam took home the gold at the Archery World Cup in Paris.



- Key Points:
- Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam led 40-39 at the end of the first set.
- The match was tied 78-78 in the second set thanks to a comeback by Andrea Becerra and Miguel Becerra, who won the bronze medal at the World Championships.
- The Indian team surged ahead once more in the third set, and they hit four tens in the decisive set to win it by a slim margin.
- After defeating New Zealand 156-155 in the round of 8, Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam fell to Colombia's Daniel Munoz and women's world No. 1 Sara Lopez 159-157.

ROHIT SHARMA SETS A WORLD RECORD AND BECOMES FIRST CAPTAIN TO WIN 13 STRAIGHT T20I MATCHES

- Rohit Sharma, the captain of India, became the first captain in cricket history to win 13 straight T20Is. This accomplishment was

made by Rohit in Southampton's first T20I of a three-match series against England. Rohit Sharma led the Men in Blue to victories over New Zealand, the West Indies, Sri Lanka, and now England after taking over as captain from Virat Kohli.



Key Points:

- Hardik Pandya's all-around effort raised India's total to 198/8 in the first innings. Additionally scoring 24, 39, and 33 runs were Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, and Rohit Sharma.
- Moeen Ali and Chris Jordan both got two wickets for England, while Topley, Tymal Mills, and Parkinson each claimed one wicket.
- The English were stopped at 148 by rookie Arshdeep Singh, spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, and one apiece from Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Harshal Patel.
- The top two batters were Moeen Ali and Chris Jordan, who each scored 36 and 26* runs.

INDIA BAGGED 22 MEDALS IN ASIAN U-20 WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS MANAMA, BAHRAIN

- Indian grapplers had a fantastic outing at the U20 Asian Wrestling Championships in Manama, Bahrain where they won as many as 22 medals that concluded. Winning 4 gold medals, 9 silver and 9 bronze, the talented bunch of grapplers put up a good show and gave a stiff fight to worthy competitors from Iran and Kazakhstan, among other strong nations.
- In both the men's and women's wrestling, the Indian team finished in the second-ranking spot while they finished fifth in the Men's Greco-Roman event.



MOHAMMED SHAMI BECOMES FASTEST INDIAN BOWLER TO TAKE 150 ODI WICKETS

- Mohammed Shami became the fastest Indian bowler to 150 ODI wickets in first India vs England ODI at the Kennington Oval.
- The seamer needed 80 matches to 150 ODI wickets. Shami achieved the feat with his second wicket of the match. Overall, Shami is third joint-fastest to reach 150 ODI wickets.



- Shami also became the joint-third fastest ever to take 150 ODI wickets along with Afghanistan's Rashid Khan. Australia's Mitchell Starc (77 matches) and Pakistan's Saqlain Mushtaq (78 matches) hold the top-two positions for the fastest bowlers to reach 150 ODI wickets.

R. PRAGGNANANDHAA TRIUMPHS AT THE PARACIN OPEN

- The Paracin Open 'A' chess competition 2022 in Serbia was won by young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa, who finished with 8 points after nine rounds.
- The 16-year-old finished with a score of 0.5 points higher than the competition. Alisher Suleymenov and India's AL Muthaiah, both of whom scored 7 points, were surpassed

by Alexandr Predke, who finished in second place with 7.5 points. Due to a higher tie-break score, Suleymenov took third place.



INDIAN GM ARAVINDH CHITHAMBARAM WON TOURNAMENT IN SPAIN

- Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram has emerged winner in the 41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open in Spain. Chithambaram's coach R B Ramesh praised his ward for the title. He defeated Armenia's Robert Hovhannisyan and compatriot Raunak Sadhwani on the basis of a tie-break score here. Sadhwani finished in third place behind the Armenian. Chithambaram is also a former national champion.



- The 17-year-old Sadhwani remained unbeaten through the 10 rounds, scoring six wins to go with four draws. An inferior tie-break score hurt his chances of claiming the top spot.

SINGAPORE OPEN 2022: PV SINDHU WINS FIRST SUPER 500 TITLE

- PV Sindhu won the first Super 500 title of her career when she defeated reigning Asian champion Wang Zhi Yi of China 21-9, 11-21, 21-15 in the final of the Singapore Open.
- This is her first 500 or better since the world championship win in 2019. This is her first 500 or better final in 2022. This is an important marker for the world No 7 while the

rankings are still frozen.



In men's Single:

- Anthony Sinisuka Ginting won the men's singles title at badminton's Singapore Open 2022. Olympic bronze medallist Ginting from Indonesia beat unseeded Japanese player Naraoka Kodai in a closely fought final.

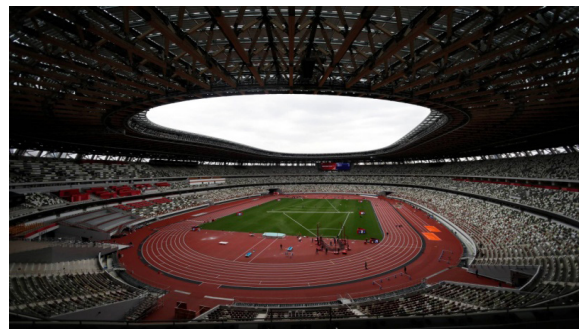
MAIRAJ AHMAD KHAN OF INDIA WRITES HISTORY BY WINNING GOLD MEDAL IN SKEET

- Veteran Indian shooter Mairaj Ahmed Khan made history by becoming the first person to ever win a men's skeet gold medal at an ISSF World Cup. The 46-year-old from Uttar Pradesh shot 37 in the 40-shot final to finish ahead of Minsu Kim from Korea (36), who took second place, and Ben Llewellyn from Britain (26), who took third place.



2025 WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS: TOKYO'S OLYMPIC STADIUM TO HOST EVENT

- The World Athletics Council has selected Tokyo (Japan) to host the 2025 World Athletics Championships.
- At the World Athletics Council Meeting in Oregon, USA, the Council also announced that the 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Medulin and Pula in Croatia and the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Tallahassee, Florida.



LOS ANGELES TO HOST 2028 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

- The 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games will be hosted in Los Angeles, United States. The opening ceremony for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will take place on July 14, 2028, and continue till July 30.
- However, Los Angeles has previously hosted the Olympics in 1984 and 1932. The LA28 Games will feature more than 3,000 hours of live sport across 800 events in more than 40 sports. 15,000 athletes are expected to compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, according to LA 28.
- Meanwhile, the Paralympic Games will begin in Los Angeles on August 15, 2028, and end on August 27. This will be the first time that Los Angeles will be hosting the Paralympic Games. It must be noted that the 2024 Summer Olympic Games will be held in Paris, France.

NEERAJ CHOPRA

Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra created history by winning Silver medal in men's javelin throw event at World Athletics Championships.



About:

- In the prestigious competition held at Eugene in Oregon, United States, Neeraj Chopra grabbed second position with his best throw of 88.13 metres. Grenadian

javelin thrower Anderson Peters won the gold medal with a throw of 90.54 meters.

- Neeraj Chopra is the first ever Indian to win a silver medal at World Athletics Championships.
- He is the second Indian after former long jumper Anju Bobby George, who won a bronze medal in long jump at 2003 in Paris.

INDIA WILL HOST ICC WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP 2025

- International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that India will host the ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025. BCCI will leave no stone unturned to make it a memorable event for everyone concerned. The infrastructure is in place and will have a very successful edition of the World Cup. The hosts were selected via a competitive bidding process overseen by a Board sub-committee chaired by Martin Snedden along with Clare Connor, Sourav Ganguly and Ricky Skerrett.
- The ICC Board accepted the recommendations of the committee who conducted a thorough review of each bid along with ICC management. India, Bangladesh, England and Sri Lanka were named as the four hosts for ICC women's white-ball events from 2024-27.
- Other ICC Women's tournaments hosts:
- Bangladesh will host the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup, while the 2026 edition will be held in England.
- Sri Lanka has secured hosting rights for the Women's T20 Champions Trophy, slated for 2027, provided it qualifies for the event.

FIRST KHELO INDIA FENCING WOMEN'S LEAGUE TO BEGIN ON JULY 25, 2022

- The first Khelo India Fencing Women's League, which will begin on 25 July, 2022, will be hosted by Talkatora Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. The first-of-its-kind national fencing competition for women will take place through the 29th of this month, according to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It will take place in three stages.

Key Points:

-
- The Sports Authority of India has sanctioned a total of Rs. 1 crore 54 lakh for the league's operations. Over 17 lakh rupees have been set aside as prize money for each phase.
- Twenty-one States and more than 300

women have enrolled to take part in the tournament.

- Bhavani Devi, an athlete from the Tokyo Olympics and the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, will compete in the league's Senior category Sabre event. She is playing on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State.
- About Bhavani Devi:
- Chadalavada Sundhararaman Anandha Indian sabre fencer Bhavani Devi is simply known as Bhavani Devi.
- She qualified for the 2020 Summer Olympics, being the first fencer from India to ever do so.
- She is assisted by the Rahul Dravid Athlete Mentorship Program, run by the GoSports Foundation. C.A.
- She created Olympic history at the Tokyo Games by becoming the first Indian to compete in the sport, and won the solo women's sabre competition at the Charlellville National Competition in France.

FIFA UNDER 17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2022

The Union Cabinet has approved the Signing of Guarantees for hosting Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Under 17 Women's World Cup 2022 in India.



About:

- FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 is scheduled to be held in India between 11th and 30th October 2022. The seventh edition of the biennial youth tournament will be the first-ever FIFA women's competition to be hosted by India.
- The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is the world championship for female players under or upto the age of 17, organized by FIFA. The event started in 2008 and is traditionally held in even-numbered years. The 6th edition of the event was held in Uruguay from 13th November to 1st December, 2018. Spain is the current champion of FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup.

US WINS MOST GOLD, INDIA PLACES 33RD AT THE 2022 WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

- The World Athletics Championships were held in America for the first time. And in terms of medals, Team USA made the most of their time over the last 10 days. India came up at number 33 overall and fourth in Asia, just behind China, Japan, and Kazakhstan.
- More than three times as many as any other nation in the competition, and more than any other nation has ever won at a global championship, the United States finished the competition with a total of 33 medals. This includes 13 golds, the most of any nation

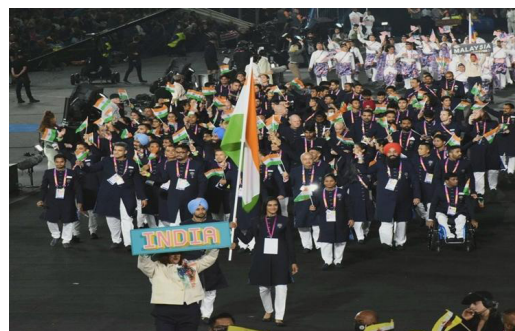
PV SINDHU NAMED INDIA'S FLAGBEARER FOR 2022 BIRMINGHAM COMMONWEALTH GAMES

- Ace India badminton player P.V. Sindhu has been chosen as the flagbearer of the Indian contingent for the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2022. The opening ceremony will be held on July 28, 2022, at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. She was the flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, where she won silver in the women's singles event.



22ND COMMONWEALTH GAMES KICKS OFF AT BIRMINGHAM, UK

- The 22nd edition of the Commonwealth Games kicked off with a glitzy opening ceremony at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- The Prince of Wales, reading out from the Queen's letter, declares the Games open. A total of 72 teams took part in the parade into Birmingham's Alexander Stadium.
- PV Sindhu and Manpreet Singh were India's flag-bearers at the parade of the CWG opening ceremony



Key points:

- A total of 54 nations are participating in this sports extravaganza and 6,500 athletes will compete in 280 medal events.
- The event will be held till the 8th of August.
- A 215-member Indian contingent, which includes 111 male players and 104 female players, will compete in 15 sporting events in Birmingham.
- The Indian contingent consists of 215 athletes competing across 16 disciplines.

'GAMES WIDE OPEN' UNVEILED AS PARIS OLYMPICS 2024 OFFICIAL SLOGAN

- The organizers of the 2024 Paris Olympics unveiled "Games Wide Open" as their official slogan. The 2024 Summer Olympics are scheduled to take place from July 26 to August 11, 2024. The slogan was released alongside a video promising the Olympics and Paralympics would be "faster", "higher" and "stronger" — as well as "more inclusive, more brotherly, more beautiful."



- Athletes will compete in a total of 329 events in 32 sports. As Paris 2024 aims to be the most gender-balanced Olympic Games in history, the organizers have placed women's competitions in the spotlight.

Note

- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- International Olympic Committee President: Thomas Bach;
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France.

ENGLAND BEATS GERMANY IN WOMEN'S EURO 2022

- The European Championship final saw England defeat Germany 2-1 to claim its first significant women's soccer championship. After Germany failed to successfully clear a corner, Chloe Kelly scored the game-winning goal on a rebound in the second period of extra time. At Wembley Stadium, the score was tied 1-1 after 90 minutes thanks to goals from Germany's Lina Magull and England's Ella Toone. The result was decided in extra-time.





YAIR LAPID

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 1 congratulated Yair Lapid for assuming the Premiership of Israel and said he looks forward to furthering the bilateral strategic partnership as the two countries celebrate 30 years of full diplomatic relations.

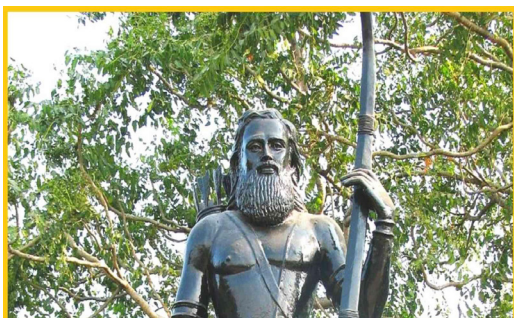


About:

- Yair Lapid officially became the 14th Prime Minister of Israel.
- Lapid's term could be the short one as he take over the caretaker government ahead of Israel's election which was scheduled to take place on November 1.
- Israel's Parliament voted on June 30 to dissolve itself and send the country to the polls in November for the fifth time in less than four years.

FREEDOM FIGHTER ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 30-foot bronze statue of Alluri Sitarama Raju at Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district on the 125th birth anniversary of the freedom fighter.
- The 125th birth anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju, along with 100 years of 'Rampa Kranti' will be celebrated throughout the year marking 75 years of Independence.



About the Alluri Sitarama Raju:

- Believed to have been born in present-day Andhra Pradesh in 1897 or 1898, Alluri Sitarama Raju is known for leading guerrilla resistance against the British in the region at a very early age.
- According to Dr Murali Atlury, a professor of history at the University of Hyderabad, at the age of 18, Raju became a sanyasi and began visiting the hill and tribal areas of the region.
- Raju was not a tribal himself, but as per Dr Atlury, his "great ability" lay in bringing people from various backgrounds together for the anti-colonial cause. He was eventually captured by the British and executed in 1924.

RAHUL NARWEKAR, THE YOUNGEST SPEAKER IN THE COUNTRY

- Mumbai lawyer and first-time legislator, Rahul Narwekar has been elected as the youngest Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and also becomes the youngest ever in India to hold this august Constitutional post.
- Narwekar scripted history to become the youngest legislator to be elected as the 16th Speaker (since 1960) and also is now the youngest ever lawmaker to occupy the coveted top legislative post in the country.

KARNATAKA'S SINI SHETTY CROWNED FEMINA MISS INDIA 2022

- Sini Shetty has won the title of Femina Miss India 2022. She will now represent India at the 71st Miss World pageant.
- Shetty was crowned Femina Miss India World 2022 by her predecessor Miss India 2020, Manasa Varanasi at JIO World Convention Center in Mumbai.
- Femina Miss India 2022's first runner-up is Rubal Shekhawat from Rajasthan, while the second runner-up is Shinata Chauhan, who hails from Uttar Pradesh.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA DEATH ANNIVERSARY: ABOUT AND IMPACT ON THE WORLD

- The death anniversary of Swami Vivekananda is observed on 4th July every year. Swa-

mi Vivekananda died on 4th July 1902.

- He was India's greatest spiritual leader, and one of the finest intellects of India. He played a very important role in introducing the philosophies of Yoga and Vedanta to the West.
- Vivekananda is best known for his iconic speech at the world parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893.
- He started his speech with a great impact by saying, "My brothers and sisters of America." In the 19th century, Vivekananda was credited for raising awareness and encouraging Hinduism on global platforms.
- He is also known for his knowledge of science and religion.
- Swami Vivekananda was born on 12th January 1863 in a Bengali family.
- His original name was Narendranath Datta. His father was Vishwanath Datta, he was an attorney at the Calcutta High court and his mother Bhuvaneshwar Datta was a housewife.
- Vivekananda was interested in spirituality from a very young age and he would meditate in front of images of Hindu Gods and Goddesses.
- On Sunday, several political leaders and eminent personalities tweeted showered their tribute to Swami Vivekananda and his greatest spiritual contribution to India.
- Himanta Biswa Sarma Chief Minister of Assam tweeted, "The life, ideals, and teachings of Swami Vivekananda fascinated me right from my young days. I feel everyone should read about him to have peace and bring positive change in life."
- Paying homage to the great son of Bharat Mata on his Punyatithi."
- Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal also tweeted paying tribute to Swami Vivekananda, "On this day in 1902, Swami Vivekananda attained Mahasamadhi, we shall forever remain indebted to him for his teachings on individual freedom, social equality, and justice into the Indian ethos. His thoughts and Ideas are our guiding light, even today." She wrote.

Swami Vivekananda: About

- Swami Vivekananda was the chief disciple of Ramakrishna, the Indian Mystic, who is the greatest spiritual leader of India.
- After meeting Ramakrishna, he changed his original name Narendranath Datta to 'Vivekananda', which means 'the bliss of discerning wisdom.'
- He founded the Ramakrishna Mission at Belur Math by the river Ganga to mark his devotion to his spiritual teacher. At the age

of 30, Swami Vivekananda died due to a blood vessel rupture in his brain in 1902.

GITA GOPINATH BECOMES 1ST WOMAN TO FEATURE ON IMF'S 'WALL OF FORMER CHIEF ECONOMISTS'

- India-born Gita Gopinath became the first woman and second Indian to feature on the 'wall of former chief economists' of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The first Indian to achieve the honour was Raghuram Rajan who was Chief Economist and Director of Research of IMF between 2003 and 2006.
- Gopinath was appointed as IMF Chief Economist in October 2018 and was later promoted as the IMF's First Deputy Managing Director in December last year.

SHINZO ABE

Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving leader, died after being shot while campaigning for a parliamentary election.

About:

- The assassin was identified by the Japanese media as Tetsuya Yamagami, a 41-year-old, who was an ex-marine in Japan's self-defence forces. It was the first assassination of a sitting or former Japanese Premier since the days of pre-war militarism in the 1930s.
- Abe — one of the most consequential leaders of Japan in its post-war history — was the country's longest serving Prime Minister, having served two terms from 2006 to 2007 and then from 2012 to 2020.

Transformation in India-Japan ties

- During his first stint in 2006-07, Abe visited India and addressed Parliament. During his second stint he visited India thrice: in January 2014, December 2015, and September 2017. No other Prime Minister of Japan has made so many visits to India.
- He was the first Japanese PM to be Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade in 2014.
- PM Modi and Abe agreed to upgrade the bilateral relationship to "Special Strategic and Global Partnership". The relationship grew and encompassed issues from civilian nuclear energy to maritime security, bullet trains to quality infrastructure, Act East policy to Indo-Pacific strategy.

FATHER OF INDIAN INTERNET' BK SYNGAL PASSES AWAY

- Brijendra K Syngal, former Chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL), passed

away after a prolonged illness.

- He was 82. Syngal, who has been acknowledged as the father of the Indian Internet, was known for his strong views and fearlessness in taking on the establishment.
- As the Chairman of VSNL, he was unofficially known as the 'bulldozer' for his ability to push through bureaucratic hurdles, as a result of which VSNL grew from a \$125 million company in 1991 into a \$1.65 billion communications giant by 1998.



WORLD MALALA DAY 2022 CELEBRATES ON 12TH JULY

- International Malala Day is celebrated every year on July 12 on the occasion of young activist Malala Yousafzai's birthday.
- The United Nations (UN) designated this date to be marked as Malala Day to honour the young woman who has been advocating for female education. The day is used as an opportunity to appeal to world leaders to ensure compulsory and free education for every child

International Malala Day: History and significance

- On July 12, 2013, then 16-year-old Pakistani activist delivered a moving speech at the headquarters of the United Nations. She highlighted the need for access to women's education globally and called the world leaders to reform their policies.
- Malala was widely appreciated for her remarkable speech. Since July 12 was her birthday, therefore the UN promptly declared that the day will be celebrated as 'Malala Day' to honour the young activist.

About Malala Yousafzai:

- Malala Yousufzai was born in Mingora, Pakistan in 1997. She began advocating for women's education in 2008. In 2012, she was attacked by the Taliban.

Malala has been felicitated with several awards and honours:

- In 2012, she was awarded the first-ever National Youth Peace Prize by the Pakistan government.
- In 2014, at age 17, She became the young-

est-ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her efforts for children's rights which had begun even before she was shot.

- The UN declared her as "the most famous teenager in the world" in its Decade in Review report in late 2019.
- Malala has also been awarded honorary Canadian citizenship and became the youngest person to address the House of Commons in Canada.
- The documentary on the activist, He Named Me Malala, was shortlisted for the Oscars in 2015.
- She has also authored another book titled We Are Displaced which chronicles her experiences of travelling the world and visiting refugee camps.

MURALI SREESHANKAR

Murali Sreeshankar becomes first Indian to enter men's long jump final at World Athletics Championships

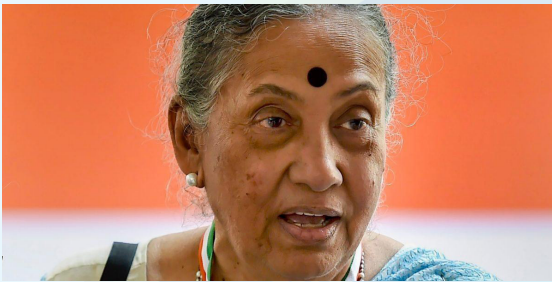


About:

- In the World Athletics Championships, Murali Sreeshankar has become the first Indian to enter the men's long jump final at Oregon, USA. He leapt 8 meter in the qualification round.
- The 23-year-old from Kerala finished second in qualification round Group B and seventh overall.
- The World Athletics Championships is a congregation of over 2000 athletes from 200 countries around the world.
- The 10-day biennial event will come to conclusion on 24th of this month. The championships are being held in the United States of America for the very first time at the Hayward Field Stadium at the University of Oregon.

MARGARET ALVA TO RUN FOR VICE PRESIDENT ON OPPOSITION'S BEHALF

- Margaret Alva, a former Union minister and governor of Rajasthan, will run for vice president as a joint candidate of the opposition parties.
- Jagdeep Dhankar, the governor of West Bengal, has been nominated by the NDA as a joint contender for the position of vice president.
- At a gathering of 17 opposition party leaders at the home of NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, the decision was made to run Alva.



DINESH GUNAWARDENA

Senior politician and staunch Rajapaksa loyalist Dinesh Gunawardena became the third Prime Minister to lead Sri Lanka in the last three months, amid political turbulence sparked by a worsening economic crisis.

About:

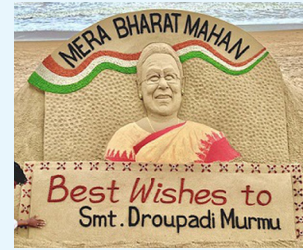
- Gunawardena and an 18-member “continuity Cabinet” was sworn in, in the presence of President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who was elected to the country’s top office through a parliamentary vote earlier this week.
- While most Ministers were part of the last Cabinet under former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Mr. Wickremesinghe will hold the Defence and Finance portfolios.
- Gunawardena succeeds Mr. Wickremesinghe, who was hand-picked by Mr. Gotabaya for the job in May, after Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned from the post, amid soaring public outrage against the Rajapaksa clan.
- Citizens held the former first family chiefly responsible for the meltdown that left them scrambling for essentials.

DROUPADI MURMU

Former Jharkhand Governor and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate Droupadi Murmu was elected the 15th President of India, the first tribal woman to be appointed to the position and the

youngest as well.

About:



- After four rounds of polling, Ms. Murmu received 2,824 votes of 6,76,803 value, while Mr. Sinha received 1,877 votes of 3,80,177 value.
- She received 64.03% of the total valid votes polled, much more than what was openly declared in her support and pointing to the fact there had been a lot of cross-voting in Ms. Murmu’s favour from the Opposition ranks.
- Murmu, who had been a former Governor of Jharkhand, hails from the Santhal tribe and was born in Mayurbhanj, coming up the hard way in life, graduating and teaching in Odisha before entering politics at the local body level and later being elected MLA and serving as a Minister from 2000 to 2004.
- She holds the record of being the only Governor of Jharkhand till date to complete a full tenure, and was known to intervene in stopping amendments to the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act that was being brought in by the BJP government of Raghubar Das, which involved changing land use in tribal areas.

NOTED SCIENTIST AND DIRECTOR ILS, AJAY PARIDA PASSES AWAY

- Noted scientist and director of the Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Dr Ajay Kumar Parida has passed away at the age of 58.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri Award by the President of India in 2014 for his outstanding contribution in the field of Science and Engineering.
- He had also served as an Executive Director in M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation.
- His research are mainly focused on developing climate resilient crop varieties with abiotic stress tolerance.



INDIA'S INDERMIT GILL NAMED AS WORLD BANK'S CHIEF ECONOMIST

- The international financial institution, World Bank has appointed Indermit Gill, as its chief economist and senior vice-president for development economics at the multilateral development bank.
- His appointment will be effective September 1, 2022. Gill will be only the second Indian to serve as chief economist at the World Bank. Kaushik Basu was the first, having served in the job from 2012-2016.

Wasifa Nazreen: First Bangladeshi to climb K2, second-highest peak in the world

- Mountaineer Wasifa Nazreen became the first person from Bangladesh to ascend Pakistan's administered K2, the second-highest mountain peak.
- She scaled the K2 mountain peak, which is 8611 metres (28,251 ft) high, and then descended to the base camp.
- When a climber descends from the mountain and returns to base camp, the summit is said to have been reached.

LARGE STATUE OF CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD TO BE ERECTED IN BHOPAL

- In Bhopal, a large statue honouring Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhhar Azad will be erected. The statue site will be created as a source of inspiration for young people, with soil from Azad's hometown of Bhabra being used at its base.
- On the 116th anniversary of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhhar Azad's birth, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan spoke at the opening ceremony of the first state-level Youth Mahapanchayat, which was held in Bhopal

ROSHNI NADAR RETAINED AS INDIA'S RICHEST WOMAN FOR 2ND YEAR IN A ROW

- HCL Technologies' Chairperson, Roshni Nadar Malhotra has retained her position as the richest woman in India, for the second year in a row according to the third edition of 'Kotak Private Banking Hurun – Lead-

ing Wealthy Women List'.

- The total net worth of Roshni Nadar stood at Rs 84,330 crore. Roshni Nadar was followed by Nykaa-owner Falguni Nayar, overtaking Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon, with a total wealth of Rs 57,520 crore. Falguni Nayar is the world's tenth richest self-made woman.



DELHI POLICE COMMISSIONER

Sanjay Arora, 57, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer who was the Superintendent of Police in the Special Task Force that cracked down on the notorious Veerappan gang and received the Chief Minister's Gallantry Medal for it, has been appointed as the new Delhi Police Commissioner.

About:

- A former Director General (DG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the 1988-batch officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre also played a pivotal role in forming the Special Security Group that provided protection to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during the time when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam was active.
- Arora is due for retirement in 2025.
- As an instructor, Mr. Arora has made remarkable contributions in the field of training, serving as Commandant (Combat Wing) at the ITBP Academy, Mussoorie, from 2000 to 2002.
- He assumed charge as the Commissioner of Police of Coimbatore city from 2002 to 2004, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Villupuram Range, and Deputy Director of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption.
- Apart from the CM's gallantry award, he has been honoured with the Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2004, President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2014, Police Special Duty Medal, Antrik Suraksha Padak and UN Peacekeeping Medal.



AWARDS

CII QUALITY RATNA AWARD 2021

- Ashok Soota, founder and Executive Chairman of Happiest Minds Technologies, has been conferred with CII Quality Ratna Award 2021.
- The Annual CII Quality Ratna Award constituted in the year 2019 is in recognition of outstanding leadership, contribution, and distinguished service to the Quality Movement in India.

UKRAINIAN MATHEMATICIAN MARYNA VIAZOVSKA WINS PRESTIGIOUS FIELDS MEDAL 2022

- Ukrainian maths professor, Maryna Viazovska, who won the top mathematics prize, the Fields Medal 2022. Viazovska and three other mathematicians received the Fields Medal, dubbed the Nobel prize in maths, in Helsinki after the ceremony was moved from Saint Petersburg to the Finnish capital in response to Moscow's war.
- Maryna is only the second woman to receive the award, which is awarded to mathematicians under 40, since it was created in 1936. The other female laureate, Iran's Maryam Mirzakhani, died of breast cancer in 2017 just three years after winning the prize.

JAPAN'S 'ORDER OF THE RISING SUN' AWARD CONFERRED TO NARAYANAN KUMAR

- The government of Japan has conferred the 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star' award on Sanmar Group Vice Chairman Narayanan Kumar in recognition of his contribution toward strengthening economic relations between Japan and India.
- Kumar was honoured by the Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Taka Masayuki.

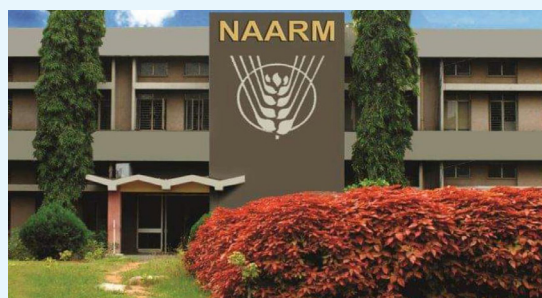


JAPAN AWARDS EX-PM SHINZO ABE COUNTRY'S HIGHEST ORDER POSTHUMOUSLY

- The Japanese government announced its decision to honour former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with the country's highest decoration "the Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum" posthumously.
- Shinzo Abe will be the fourth former premier to receive the honour under the post-war Constitution. Before him, former Prime Ministers Shigeru Yoshida, Eisaku Sato and Yasuhiro Nakasone were conferred with the same honour.
- Notably, Emperor Meiji of Japan introduced the Grand Cordon of the Order in 1876. Later in 1888, the Collar of the Order was added to it.
- Unlike its European counterparts, Japan has the right to award it posthumously.
- The grand cordon is the highest honour that a Japanese national can receive in his/her lifetime.
- As of now, as many as 44 Japanese nationals have been awarded with the grand cordon, apart from the Imperial Family.

NAARM RECEIVED SARDAR PATEL AWARD OF ICAR

- The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) has bagged the Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021 (in the Large Institute Category) for its overall performance.
- Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director of NAARM, received the award from the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi. The awards were given away at a function to mark the 94th Foundation Day of the ICAR.



About the NAARM:

- The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management is a national-level Natural Resource Service training institute for ARS cadre located in Hyderabad, Telangana, India.
- It was established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1976, to address issues related to agricultural research and education management, in India.

68TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

The 68th National Film Awards were announced by Information and Broadcasting Ministry.



About:

- Bollywood actor Ajay Devgan and Tamil actor Suriya have jointly bagged the National Film Award for the year 2020 for best actor for their roles in Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior and Soorai Pottru.
- Aparna Balamurali won the award of best actress for her role in the Tamil film Soorai Pottru.
- The award for Best Hindi film went to Tool-sidas Junior and award for Best Feature Film was given to Soorai Pottru.
- Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior won the Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.
- Testimony of Ana bagged the Best Non-Feature Film award.
- Best film on Social Issues award went to 'Justice Delayed but Delivered' and Three Sisters.

PROFESSOR KAUSHIK RAJASHEKARA WON GLOBAL ENERGY PRIZE 2022

- Indian-origin professor of engineering at the University of Houston, Kaushik Rajashekara has won the prestigious Global Energy Prize.
- Rajashekara was given the award in the New Ways of Energy Applications category for his contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency tech-

nologies while reducing power generation emissions.

- The awarding ceremony will be held during Russian Energy Week in Moscow on October 12-14.
- Only three people in the world were selected this year for the honour, bestowed by the Global Energy Association, out of a record 119 nominations from 43 countries.
- Rajashekara is joined as a 2022 laureate by Viktor Orlov, chief specialist of the Centre for Innovative Technologies (Rosatom in Russia) and pioneer in thermonuclear physics; and Mercouri Kanatzidis, professor of chemistry and materials science at Northwestern University and senior researcher at the Argonne National Laboratory.

About the Rajashekara:

- Originally from India, Rajashekara, grew up in a small village in South India, in one room along with his parents and two brothers. Though neither of his parents were educated, his mother was determined that her children would do better and be the best at whatever they pursued.
- He received his B.Eng., M. Eng, and PhD degrees from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore from 1971-1984. From 1977 to 1984, he worked as an assistant professor/senior scientific officer at the Indian Institute of Science and later earned an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University, the USA in 1992.



IAF FATHER-DAUGHTER TEAM OF FIGHTER PILOTS MAKES HISTORY

- Father and daughter pair Flying Officer Ananya Sharma, who was commissioned as a fighter pilot in December 2021, and Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma, an experienced fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF), made aviation history by flying in the same jet formation.
- At Air Force Station, Bidar, they flew in the same formation of Hawk-132 Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT).

DRDO CONDUCTED SUCCESSFULLY TESTS OUT AUTONOMOUS AIRCRAFT'S MAIDEN TAKE-OFF

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out the Maiden flight of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator from Aeronautical Test Range at Chitradurga in Karnataka. The flight operated in a fully autonomous mode. The aircraft exhibited a perfect flight, including take-off, way point navigation and a smooth touchdown.

About

- The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) powered by a small turbofan engine.
- It has been designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, one of the research laboratories of DRDO.
- The focus is now on Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence and the government has urged the armed forces to buy the indigenous platforms and less imports. This year in the Union Budget, Rs 70,221 crore has been set aside for domestic defence procurement, and this accounts for 63 percent of the defence capital budget.

- DRDO Founded: 1 January 1958;
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi;

ALH SQUADRON INAS 324

- In the presence of Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, Indian Naval Air Squadron 324 (INAS 324) was commissioned into the Indian Navy at

INS Dega in Visakhapatnam. The squadron is the first naval squadron on the eastern seaboard to use helicopters that were designed and constructed domestically, the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III (MR).



- The INAS 324 squadron is known as “Kestrels,” after a bird species with good sensory qualities. This name represents the role that the aircraft and the air squadron are intended to play.
- The Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) and Search and Rescue (SAR) roles of the squadron are represented by a “Kestrel” searching over wide blue oceans and white sea waves in the symbol of the squadron.
- Modern surveillance radar and electro-optical sensors are among the state-of-the-art equipment that ALH MK III helicopters are equipped with.

NATIVE AI-BASED SOFTWARE CREATED TO SAFEGUARD DEFENCE LAND FROM ENCROACHMENT

- The Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) has developed a Artificial Intelligence-based Change Detection Software that can automatically detect unauthorised constructions & encroachments on the defence land using Satellite Imagery, demonstrating once again how technology has benefited the country's defense-related issues.
- For efficient land management and urban planning, the Institute makes use of the most recent surveying technology, including satellite photography, drone imaging, and geospatial tools.

INS VIKRANT

The fourth phase of Sea Trials for Indigenous Aircraft Carrier- Vikrant has been successfully completed during which integrated trials of majority of equipment and systems onboard were undertaken.



About:

- Defence Ministry said, the ship's delivery is being targeted by the end of this month, followed by commissioning of the ship in August this year to commemorate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The indigenous design and construction of Aircraft Carrier by Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard Limited is a shining example in the Nation's quest for AatmaNirbhar Bharat and Make in India Initiative with more than 76 per cent indigenous content.
- Maiden Sea Trials of IAC were successfully completed in Aug 2021. This was followed by second and third phases of Sea Trials in Oct 2021 and Jan 2022 respectively.

Y - 3023 (DUNAGIRI)

Dunagiri, a Project 17A frigate, will be launched into the Hooghly river at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata on 15 July 2022.



About:

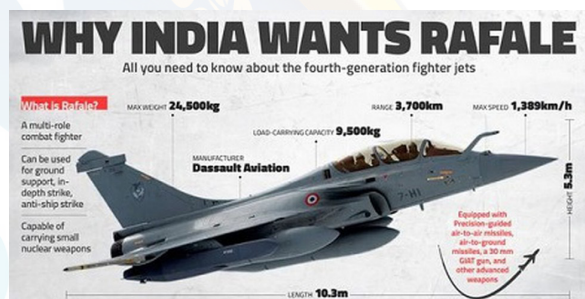
- Christened after a mountain range in the state of Uttarakhand, 'Dunagiri' is the fourth ship of P17A Frigates.
- These are follow-on of the P17 Frigates (Shivalik Class) with improved stealth fea-

tures, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.

- The first two ships of P17A Project, were launched in 2019 and 2020 at MDL and GRSE respectively. The third ship (Uday-giri) was launched at MDL on 17 May 2022 earlier this year.
- P17A ships have been designed in-house by Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND), which has successfully spear-headed design of numerous class of indigenous warships in the past.

RAFALE JETS

France has delivered all 36 Rafale fighter jets to India, said the French Envoy in India, Emmanuel Lenain, speaking on the sidelines of the French National Day celebrations.



About:

- However, while 35 jets have arrived in India, one jet still remains in France, official sources said.
- One Rafale jet, which is the instrumented aircraft on which the 13 India specific enhancements (ISE) are being tested, is still in France.
- The last batch of three Rafale jets had arrived in India in February, taking the total Rafale jets in inventory of the Indian Air Force to 35. Work on upgrading all the Rafale jets in service to the Indian standard configuration with the 13 ISE is currently underway in India.
- The naval variant of the French jet, Rafale-M, is in the race along with Boeing F-18 Super Hornet for the Indian Navy's tender for jets to operate from its aircraft carriers.
- In January, the Rafale-M had demonstrated its compatibility by operating from the Navy's shore-based test facility in Goa, while the F-18 carried out demonstration in May.
- India and France had signed a €7.87 billion inter-governmental agreement (IGA) in September 2016 for 36 Rafale multi-role fighter jets in fly-away condition, following the announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2015 citing "critical

operational necessity” of the IAF.

SINDHUDHVAJ

The Navy’s Kilo class submarine INS Sindhudhvaj was decommissioned from service at Visakhapatnam after 35 years in service. With this, the Navy now has 15 conventional submarines in service.



About:

- She had many a firsts to her credit, including operationalisation of the indigenised sonar USHUS, indigenised satellite communication system Rukmani and MSS, inertial navigation system and indigenised torpedo fire control system, the Navy said.
- Commissioned into the Navy in June 1987, Sindhudhvaj, was one of the 10 Kilo class submarines India acquired from Russia between 1986 and 2000.
- Of these, Sindhurakshak was lost in an accident in Mumbai harbour in August 2013, while Sindhuvir was transferred to Myanmar in 2020, making it the Southeast Asian nation’s first underwater platform.
- The Navy’s sub-surface fleet now includes seven Russian Kilo class submarines, four German HDW submarines, four French Scorpene submarines and the indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarine Arihant. The last two of the Scorpene class submarines are in various stages of trials and outfitting.

RAJNATH SINGH LAUNCHED PROJECT 17A STEALTH FRIGATE ‘DUNAGIRI’

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the fourth P17A stealth frigate ‘Dunagiri’ into the Hooghly River in Kolkata.
- The Project 17A frigate is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders Limited. The P-17A class is a follow-on of the P-17 Shivalik Class with improved stealth features & advanced weapons.



About the P17A Project:

- The first two ships of the P17A Project were launched in 2019 and 2020 at MDL and GRSE respectively.
- The third ship (Udaygiri) was launched at MDL on 17 May 22 earlier this year.
- Security challenges in the Indian Ocean region and Indo-Pacific are constantly increasing. In order to achieve the Prime Minister’s Vision of ‘SAGAR’, i.e., Security and Growth for All in the Region’ and to protect, preserve and promote India’s national maritime interests, the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and other organizations have to increase the infrastructure and assets so that the country stays ahead of the curve in dealing with these challenges.

INS SINDHUDHVAJ DECOMMISSIONED AFTER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

- INS Sindhudhvaj has decommissioned after 35 years of glorious service to the nation. Vice Adm Biswajit Dasgupta Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command was the Chief Guest for the ceremony.
- The submarine crest depicts a grey colour nurse shark and the name means flag bearer at sea.

About the INS Sindhudhvaj:

- Sindhudhvaj, as the name suggests, was the flag bearer of indigenization and the Indian Navy’s efforts towards achieving Atmanirbharta in the Russian-built Sindhughosh class submarines throughout her journey in the navy.
- Commissioned into the Navy in 1987, Sindhudhvaj, was one of the 10 Kilo-class submarines India acquired from Russia between 1986 and 2000. It was the only submarine to be awarded the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) rolling trophy for Innovation by PM Modi.

INDIA-JAPAN CONDUCTED A MARITIME PARTNERSHIP EXERCISE (MPX) IN THE ANDAMAN SEA

- A Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) was conducted between Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and Indian Navy in the Andaman Sea.
- INS Sukanya, an offshore patrol vessel and JS Samidare, a Murasame class destroyer, undertook various exercises including sea-manship activities, aircraft operations and tactical manoeuvres as part of the operational interaction.

DELIVERY OF INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER (IAC) 'VIKRANT'

Indian Navy has created maritime history on July 28, 2022 by taking delivery of the prestigious Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) 'Vikrant' from her builder Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi.



About:

- Designed by Indian Navy's inhouse Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built by CSL, a Public Sector Shipyard under Ministry of Shipping (MoS), the carrier is christened after her illustrious predecessor, India's first Aircraft Carrier which played a vital role in the 1971 war.
- The 262 mtr long carrier has a full displacement of close to 45,000 tonnes which is much larger and advanced than her predecessor. The ship is powered by four Gas Turbines totaling 88 MW power and has a maximum speed of 28 Knots.
- Built at an overall cost of close to Rs. 20,000 Crs, the project has been progressed in three Phases of contract between MoD and CSL, concluded in May 2007, Dec 2014 and Oct 2019 respectively. The ship's keel was laid in Feb 2009, followed by launching in Aug 2013.
- With an overall indigenous content of 76%, IAC is a perfect example of the nation's quest for "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat" and pro-

vides thrust to Government's 'Make in India' initiative.

- With the delivery of Vikrant, India has joined a select group of nations having the niche capability to indigenously design and build an Aircraft Carrier.

MIG-21 AIRCRAFT CRASH

A MiG-21 Bison aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Barmer, Rajasthan, on July 28, killing the two pilots aboard the trainer version of the fighter aircraft.

How many MiG-21 aircraft have crashed recently?

- There have been six MiG-21 Bison crashes in the last two 20 months, with five crashes in 2021 and one in 2022. Five pilots have lost their lives in these crashes. However, this is the first fatal trainer aircraft crash of the MiG-21 Bison in a long time.

How many MiG-21 Bison aircraft are in IAF?

- There are four squadrons of MiG-21 Bison aircraft currently in service in the IAF with each squadron comprising 16-18 aircraft, including two trainer versions. Out of these one squadron, Srinagar-based No 51 Squadron, is going to be retired from service or 'number plated' in IAF jargon on September 30 this year, leaving three squadrons in service.
- Out of these three squadrons, one will be number plated each year and, thus, MiG-21 Bison will be phased out of IAF by 2025. The IAF is looking towards reviving these squadrons back into service with the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.

CANTONMENTS ACT, 2006

The Government of India has proposed amendments in the Cantonments Act, 2006 by incorporating provisions for imparting, inter-alia, greater democratisation to Cantonment Boards including direct election of Vice-President.

About:

- This information was given by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. He said the draft bill is under finalization. The elections to Cantonment Boards are proposed to be held thereafter.
- Defence Minister said a framework for cutting out civil areas of certain Cantonments and to merge them with neighbouring State municipalities is under consultation with concerned States.
- He said this will provide uniformity in local governance and greater ease of living for

citizens in the process.

HELICOPTERS

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) has received the Letter of Intent from the Services for the manufacture of 12 light utility helicopters (LUHs), which have been designed and developed indigenously.



About:

- At the same time, nine light combat helicopters (LCH) have been manufactured against the sanction of 15 limited series production (LSP) variants and are in the process of being handed over to the Services. The Army is in negotiations for acquiring 11 more Apache AH-64E attack helicopters from the U.S.
- Last November, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of an initial lot of 12 LUHs, six each for the Army and the Air Force.
- In June, the Army raised its first LCH squadron in Bengaluru which will move to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Eastern Command once complete next year.
- As of now, the Army is looking at acquiring around 111 LUHs and 95 LCHs. Army sources had said that seven LCH units are planned for a combat role in the mountains, each with 10 helicopters. The IAF is scheduled to raise its first LCH squadron in the next few months.
- The Cabinet Committee on Security earlier gave sanction for the procurement of 39 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the U.S. Following this, the IAF inducted 22 Apaches procured under a deal signed in September 2015.

Ex VINBAX 2022

The 3rd Edition of Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise “Ex VINBAX 2022” began at Chandimandir. It will continue till 20th August.



- About:
- The exercise is a sequel to a previously conducted bilateral exercise in Vietnam in 2019 and a major milestone in strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Vietnam.
- India and Vietnam share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and defence cooperation is a key pillar of this partnership. Vietnam is an important partner in India's Act East policy and the Indo-Pacific vision.
- The theme of Ex VINBAX - 2022 is the employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team as part of the United Nations Contingent for Peace Keeping Operations.

GUN HILL

To commemorate the victory of Indian Armed Forces and pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the Gunners in “Operation Vijay”, Point 5140 at Dras, in Kargil sector has been christened as “Gun Hill”.



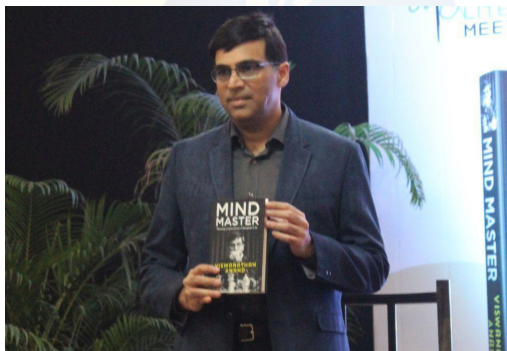
About:

- Regiment of Artillery of Indian Army, with lethal and accurate firepower, was able to have a telling effect on the enemy troops and their defences including Point 5140, which was the key factor in early completion of operations.



A NEW EDITION OF VISWANATHAN ANAND'S MEMOIR 'MIND MASTER' RELEASED SOON

- Hachette India has announced the expanded paperback edition of five-time world chess champion Viswanathan Anand's widely acclaimed memoir "Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life".
- The book, featuring a bonus chapter on how to navigate uncertainty and rapidly changing realities in the wake of the pandemic, will hit the stands on July 15. It is written by Anand with author-journalist Susan Ninan.



- In "Mind Master", Anand looks back at a lifetime of games played, opponents tackled and circumstances overcome and draws from its depths significant tools that will help every reader to navigate life's challenges. There are many nuggets that Anand touches upon with characteristic wit, easy wisdom and disarming candour in the book.

INDIA'S UNDERNOURISHED POPULATION DROPS TO 224.3 MILLION AS PER UN REPORT

- India's population of 224.3 million undernourished people has decreased over the past 15 years according to the UN report. However, the number of obese adults and anaemic women has increased in the world's second-most populous nation.
- According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 report, which was released by the World Health Organization (WHO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), and Food

and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 828 million people worldwide were suffering from hunger in 2021, up about 46 million from 2020 and 150 million since the COVID-19 pandemic's outbreak.

About

- There were 224.3 million undernourished persons in India in 2019–21, down from 247.8 million in 2004–06.
- The number of stunted children under the age of five decreased from 52.3 million in 2012 to 36.1 million in 2020 and the number of overweight children under the age of five decreased from three million to 2.2 million in 2020.
- However, India, which has a population of over 1.38 billion, saw an increase in the number of obese adults from 25.2 million in 2012 to 34.3 million in 2016, and an increase in the number of women with anaemia between the ages of 15 and 49 from 171.5 million in 2012 to 187.3 million in 2019.
- From 11.2 million in 2012 to 14 million in 2020, exclusively breastfed infants up to the age of five months.

A NEW BOOK TITLED 'GETTING THE BREAD: THE GEN-Z WAY TO SUCCESS' BY PRARTHNA BATRA

- Young YouTuber Prarthna Batra's debut book 'Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success' launched by sporting icon Sakshi Malik.
- In Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success, Prarthna Batra shares her worldview as well as her experiences of interviewing eminent leaders, entrepreneurs, and media personalities for her popular YouTube channel.

HIMACHAL GOVERNOR RAJENDRA VISHWANATH UNVEILS BOOK 'THE MCMAHON LINE'

- The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, recently released a book titled "The McMahon line: A century of discord".
- The book has been authored by General JJ Singh (Retd), the former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and former Chief of

Army Staff (CoAS).

- The book is based on the experiences and research of General JJ Singh on the India-China border dispute. A short film related to the McMahon line was also screened. This is the second book written by him.



A BOOK TITLED “DILIP KUMAR: IN THE SHADOW OF A LEGEND” BY FAISAL FAROOQUI

- A new book on the legendary actor of Indian cinema, Yusuf Khan, better known as Dilip Kumar, has been released by author Faisal Farooqui.
- The book is titled “In the Shadow of a Legend: Dilip Kumar”.
- The book is a tribute to Dilip Kumar the man more than Dilip Kumar the actor. Farooqui is the founder and CEO of Mouthshut.com, one of India’s leading review and rating platforms.

UTTARAKHAND CM DHAMI RELEASED THE BOOK “BEYOND THE MISTY VEIL

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami released the book “BEYOND THE MISTY VEIL”, Temple Tales of Uttarakhand written by Ms Aradhana Johri (Senior IAS) on the temples of Uttarakhand.
- This book will be known as an authentic introduction to the divine temples of Uttarakhand in the country and abroad. Former IAS officer Aradhana Johri who had served earlier as the District Magistrate of Nainital



IMPORTANT DAYS

NATIONAL DOCTOR'S DAY CELEBRATES ON 1ST JULY

- India celebrates National Doctor's Day on July 1, the birth anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, an eminent physician, academician, freedom fighter and politician. Doctor's Day is celebrated globally on different dates. The date changes from country to country.
- National Doctor's Day marks the role of doctors who work tirelessly to ensure that patients remain in good health. The day celebrates the efforts taken by the healthcare staff for their hardwork and dedication.



National Doctor's Day 2022: Theme

- Each year a new theme is given. For 2022, the theme for National Doctor's Day is "Family Doctors on the Front Line."

National Doctor's Day: History

- It was in 1991, when the day was first established. Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy is remembered on this day. He was a famous doctor and West Bengal's second chief minister. Interestingly, his birthday and death anniversary are on the same day. The day honours Dr Roy and also recognises everyone's effort to patients.

Know About Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy:

- Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy was born in 1882 in Patna. He was the youngest of the five siblings. Dr BC Roy studied at Presidency College in Kolkata and later at Patna College with Honours in Mathematics. In 1901, he joined the Calcutta Medical College. After completing medical studies in India, Dr BC Roy left for England only with a small sum of money for higher studies.
- He was repeatedly refused admission at St.

Bartholomew's Hospital but he was determined and kept submitting his application. After nearly 30 applications, Dr BC Roy was admitted, say records. In just a little over two years, he became a member of the Royal College of Physicians and a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

- During the freedom movement, Dr BC Roy became close to Mahatma Gandhi. In 1933, when the Mahatma was starting a fast in Poona, Dr BC Roy went to see him. Gandhiji had refused medicines because they were not made in India.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 01ST JULY

- The Chartered Accountants' Day or CA Day is held on 01 July every year in India. It is also known as ICAI Foundation Day. The day is marked to commemorate the foundation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on July 1, 1949. ICAI is among the oldest professional institutions in the country and also the second largest professional accounting and finance body in the world in terms of members.



WORLD SPORTS JOURNALISTS DAY

World Sports Journalists Day – which is also known as International Sports Journalists Day – is celebrated every year on 2nd of July.

About:

- World Sports Journalist Day was first observed in 1994 when the International Sports Press Association decided to commemorate it in honours of its 70th Anniversary.
- The day is observed to honour all sports journalists around the world and also brings

awareness about the sports journalism to the common people.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COOPERATIVES

Marked by cooperatives worldwide since 1923 and officially proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on the centenary of the ICA in 1995, the International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July.

About:



- This year, the day was observed on 2 July to highlight the contributions of the cooperative movement. This year all the cooperatives across the globe will be celebrating the International Day of Cooperatives under the theme of 'Cooperatives Build a Better World.'
- The International Day of Cooperatives is commonly known as Coops Day.
- The aim of Coops Day is to increase awareness of cooperatives and promote the movement's ideas of international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, and world peace.
- Since 1995, the ICA and the United Nations through the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (CO-PAC) have jointly set the theme for the celebration of CoopsDay.

WORLD UFO DAY: 02 JULY

- The World UFO Day (WUD) is held on July 2 every year globally. It is a day dedicated to the undoubted existence of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) by World UFO Day Organization (WUFODO).
- WUD aims to raise awareness about the existence of UFOs and encouraging people to think about the possibility of us not being alone in the Universe.
- The World UFO Day provides an oppor-

tunity to these explorers and enthusiasts to discuss, decode, and deduce multiple theories related to UFOs.

INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC BAG FREE DAY 2022: 03 JULY

- The International Plastic Bag Free Day is held on July 3 around the world to spread awareness that a plastic bag free world is possible and that sound environmental alternatives to single use plastic bags are available. 2022 is the 13th edition of the celebrations.
- The day is an initiative by Bag Free World for the purpose of getting rid of the single-use of plastic bags around the world and promoting environmental conservation by encouraging us all to stay away from the use of plastic bags and instead look for more eco-friendly alternatives.



- The first International Plastic Bag Free Day was observed on July 3, 2008, when Rezero, a member of Zero Waste Europe (ZWE), initiated it. The holiday was only observed in Catalonia in its inaugural year. However, a year later, ZWE introduced the International Plastic Bag Free Day to the European Union

DIGITAL INDIA WEEK 2022 AT GANDHINAGAR

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Digital India Week 2022 at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The theme of this Digital India Week is 'Catalyzing New India's Techade' to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India Week 2022 will also have a three-day long orientation program 'India Stack Knowledge Exchange- Showcasing India Stack and India's Digital Products and Service' from 7th July.
- About The Digital India Week 2022 programme:
- The Digital India Week 2022 programme

will demonstrate the digital platforms like Aadhaar, UPI, Cowin and Digilocker among others which have provided ease of life to the citizens.

- Startups, government leaders and industry and academia experts will participate in this programme.
- An exhibition with more than 200 stalls has been set up at Mahatma Mandir by Indian unicorns and startups. Prime Minister Modi also visited this exhibition and interacted with the people connected with startups and unicorns.

WORLD ZONOSIS DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 6TH JULY

- World Zoonoses Day is marked annually on 6 July to commemorate the first vaccination administered against a zoonotic disease like influenza, ebola and West Nile virus. Zoonotic diseases are caused by viruses, parasites, bacteria and fungi. These germs can lead to several kinds of illnesses, ranging in severity, in people and animals. Some can even cause death. Unlike in humans, animals may often appear healthy even when they carry such germs.
- World Zoonosis Day 2022: History
- World Zoonoses Day was instituted on 6 July 1885 to educate and raise awareness about zoonotic diseases that can transmit from animals to humans. It commemorates French biologist Louis Pasteur, who administered the first dose of the first vaccine against

WORLD KISWAHILI LANGUAGE DAY: 07 JULY

- World Kiswahili Day is celebrated on the 7th of July every year following a declaration by UNESCO member states in this regard. Kiswahili is one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa and the most widely spoken in sub-Saharan Africa. Kiswahili is also the only African language that is an official language of the African Union.
- This first celebration of the World Kiswahili language day will be held under the theme 'Kiswahili for peace and prosperity'. The mission of the annual celebration is to promote the use of Kiswahili language as a beacon for peace, and enhanced multiculturalism.

NATIONAL FISH FARMERS' DAY 2022: 10 JULY

- National Fish Farmers Day is celebrated on 10th July every year to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the Country.
- It is 65th National Fish Farmers Day being celebrated across the Country.
- National Fisheries Development Board, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India celebrated the National Fish Farmers Day virtually at National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) Hyderabad.

National Fish Farmers' Day: History

- Every year, this annual event is celebrated to commemorate Professor Dr Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Alikunhi for their contribution in achieving the successful induced breeding of major carps on 10th July 1957 at Angul in Odisha for the first time in the country through the administration of carp pituitary hormone extract in the breeding of major carps.
- The technology was later on standardised and fine-tuned by developing synthetic hormones for quality seed production across the country. This pioneering work of induced breeding over the years has transformed the growth of the aquaculture sector from traditional to intensive aquaculture practices and led to the success of the modern aquaculture industry.

WORLD POPULATION DAY 2022 OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 11 JULY

- World Population Day is observed every year on July 11 to raise awareness about global population issues.
- The major purpose of this day is to raise awareness of all the negative impacts that population growth has had on the steady development of nature.
- Globally, this day is celebrated by organising seminars, discussions, educational sessions, public contests, slogans, workshops, debates, songs, etc.

World Population Day 2022: Theme

- The theme for this year is "A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all – Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all". As the theme suggests, there are 8 billion people living today but not all of them have equal rights and opportunities.

World Population Day: History

- It was founded in 1989 by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Devel-

opment Programme. On July 11, 1990, the day was first observed in more than 90 nations. Since then, a number of UNFPA national offices as well as other organizations and institutions, in collaboration with governments and civil society, have observed World Population Day.

WORLD PAPER BAG DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 12TH JULY

- Every year, World Paper Bag Day is observed on July 12 to raise awareness of the importance of using paper bags instead of plastic bags. This day is dedicated to spreading awareness of the ill effects of plastic and how detrimental they are to our environment. Paper bags can easily be used to replace one-time-use plastic bags which are non-biodegradable or, in other words, take hundreds of years to decompose in landfills.



World Paper Bag Day 2022: Theme

- The theme for Paper Bag Day this year is, “If You’re ‘fantastic’, Do Something ‘dramatic’ To Cut The ‘Plastic’, Use ‘Paper Bags’.”

World Paper Bag Day: History

- Francis Wolle, an American inventor, created the first paper bag machine in 1852. Later in 1871, Margaret E. Knight introduced another machine to generate flat-bottom paper bags and rose to fame as “The mother of the grocery bag”. Better paper bag designs and manufacturing processes were developed over time by inventors Charles Stilwell and Walter Deubener in the years 1883 and 1912 respectively.

WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY 2022 CELEBRATES GLOBALLY

- World Youth Skills Day 2022 is observed annually on July 15. It focuses on the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

- This day is to equip young people around the world with essential skills for employment, work, and entrepreneurship.
- This day is meant to commemorate, acknowledge and celebrate the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment and entrepreneurship.



World Youth Skills Day 2022: Theme

- Every year, World Youth Skills Day is marked with a certain theme set by the United Nations. The theme for 2022 is ‘Transforming youth skills for the future’.

World Youth Skills Day: History

- In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day, to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.
- Since then, World Youth Skills Day has provided a unique opportunity for dialogue between young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, firms, employers’ and workers’ organizations, policy-makers and development partners.

WORLD DAY FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE 2022

- World Day for International Justice is observed on July 17 to commemorate the organisations that work to bring justice to the victims of international criminal acts. It also commemorates the establishment of modern court systems in the world. The day focuses on the advocacy of fundamental human rights and the promotion of international criminal justice.

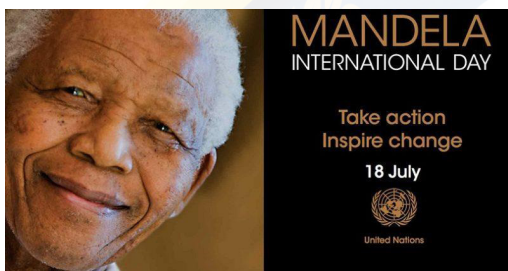
World Day for International Justice: History

- On July 17, 1998, 120 countries came together to sign a treaty titled the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- The establishment came to be known as the International Criminal Court (ICC), which came into force on July 1, 2002. To

celebrate the signing of the Rome Statute, World Day for International Justice has been celebrated every year ever since.

NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 18 JULY

- Every year on July 18 the world marks Nelson Mandela International Day. The day is a remembrance of the first democratically elected President of South Africa and his long years of struggle for justice against apartheid.
- As a human rights lawyer, a political prisoner, a global mediator, and the first democratically elected leader of a free South Africa, he had dedicated his life to serving humanity.



Nelson Mandela International Day 2022: Theme

- The theme for Nelson Mandela International Day 2022 is “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are”, according to the United Nations.
- The theme finds significance given the geopolitical landscape in eastern Europe as well as sporadic conflicts in the Horn of Africa, followed by the crisis in Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and various other parts of the world, as the UN chief notes.

WORLD CHESS DAY 2022 CELEBRATES GLOBALLY ON 20 JULY

- World Chess Day is celebrated annually on July 20 globally.
- The day marks the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924.
- On this day, we can observe the day by teaching someone or learning how to play the game. Also, we can consider a 24-Hour Marathon or share your story about your own chess strategy.



History of World Chess Day:

- On 12 December 2019, the General Assembly proclaimed 20 July as World Chess Day to mark the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924.
- It is believed that the game of chess, which was once known as “Chaturanga”, dates back almost 1500 years and originated in India.
- It later made its way to Persia, where it flourished under Arab rule and eventually spread to Southern Europe. In Europe, chess evolved into its current form during the 15th century. It changed into a modern sport by the end of the 15th century.

INTERNATIONAL MOON DAY OBSERVED ON 20 JULY

- The General Assembly declared International Moon Day, a United Nations-designated international day to be observed annually on 20 July.
- International Moon Day 2022 is chosen as the day to educate and promote awareness on the status and prospects for humanity. In cooperation with United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the International Moon Day 2022 will be observed as an annual event and general public celebrations will be held all over the world.

International Moon Day: History

- An application by submitted by the Moon Village Association at the 64th UN-COPU-OS Session stating to observe July 20 as International Moon Day.
- The day was selected to commemorate the first human landing on the moon done on July 20, 1969, with the United States' Apollo 11 mission. On December 9 2021, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution stating that July 20 will be observed every year as International Moon Day.

WORLD BRAIN DAY CELEBRATES GLOBALLY ON JULY 22

- The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) celebrates World Brain Day on every July 22, focusing on a different theme each year. According to WHO, good brain health is a state in which every individual can realize their own abilities and optimize their cognitive, emotional, psychological and behavioural functioning to cope with life situations.
- What is the theme of World Brain Day 2022?
- World Brain Day (WBD) 2022 is dedicated to the theme “Brain Health for all” as our brains continue to be challenged by pandemics, wars, climate change and the myriad of disorders impacting human existence globally.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING DAY

National Broadcasting Day was observed on July 23, 2022.

About:



- On this day in 1927, the first-ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company.
- On the 8th of June, 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio.
- Since 1927, Radio has been an important part of people's life in India. All India Radio has been serving to inform, educate and entertain the masses truly living up to its motto - 'Bahujan Hitaya, Bahujana Sukhaya'.

AAYKAR DIWAS OR INCOME TAX DAY CELEBRATES BY CBDT ON JULY 24

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) observed the 162nd Income Tax Day (also known as Aaykar Diwas) on 24 July 2022.
- The purpose of this tax was to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence against British Rule in 1857.

- The day was first celebrated in 2010.
- On 24 July 1860, Income Tax was introduced for the first time in India by Sir James Wilson. The purpose of this tax was to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence against British Rule in 1857.

About the Central Board of Direct Taxes:

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.
- The officials of the Board in their ex-officio capacity also function as a Division of the Ministry dealing with matters relating to levy and collection of direct taxes. Historical Background of C.B.D.T.

WORLD DROWNING PREVENTION DAY: 25TH JULY

- World Drowning Prevention Day is observed every year on July 25 and was established by the UN General Assembly Resolution “Global drowning prevention” from April 2021. This international advocacy event provides a platform to draw attention to the devastating and deep effects drowning has on families and communities while also outlining life-saving strategies to stop it.

History of World Drowning Prevention Day:

- A General Assembly decision declared April 20, 2021, as World Drowning Prevention Day.
- Each year, this international advocacy event provides a platform for highlighting the catastrophic effects of drowning on families and communities as well as providing suggestions for its prevention.
- Every stakeholder is encouraged to observe World Drowning Prevention Day by emphasising the need for coordinated, urgent, and multi-sectoral action on tried-and-true drowning prevention measures.
- This includes UN agencies, civil society organisations, governments, the private sector, academia, and individuals.
- On World Drowning Prevention Day this year, WHO is encouraging everyone to “do one thing” to prevent drowning. WHO suggests using the hashtag #DrowningPrevention for this occasion on social media.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM 2022

- International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is observed every year on July 26. The day is observed to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem” and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.

History of the day:

- The UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) General Conference established the day in 2015.
- On this day in 1998, a Greenpeace worker named Hayhow Daniel Nanoto passed away from a heart attack while participating in a sizeable demonstration to restore the mangrove wetlands in Muisne, Ecuador.

CRPF 84TH RAISING DAY OBSERVES ON 27 JULY 2022

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), observed its 84th Raising Day on 27 July 2022.
- The day celebrates the immense and unparalleled contribution of the force in upholding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation. CRPF is India’s largest Central Armed Police Force, which operates under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)



History of CRPF:

- CRPF came into existence as the ‘Crown Representative’s Police’ on 27 July 1939. After Independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on the enactment of the ‘CRPF Act’ on 28 December 1949, which constituted CRPF as an armed force of the Union.
- After Independence, CRPF contingents were tasked to check infiltration and

trans-border crimes in Kutch, Rajasthan, and Sindh borders. They were, subsequently, deployed on the Pakistan border in Jammu & Kashmir following Pakistan’s infiltration.

- During the 1962 Indo-China war, the force once again assisted the Indian Army in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Further, in the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars, CRPF provided shoulder-to-shoulder support to the Indian Army, both on the Western and Eastern borders.
- CRPF was the first paramilitary force in India, which sent its forces in the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. For the first time, 13 companies of CRPF including a detachment of women were airlifted to join the Indian Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka to fight the militant cadres.
- CRPF personnel were also sent to Haiti, Namibia, Somali, Maldives, Kosovo and Liberia to deal with the law and order situation there, as a part of another UN Peacekeeping Mission.

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY 2022 OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 28TH JULY

- World Hepatitis Day is observed each year on 28 July to raise awareness of viral hepatitis, which causes inflammation of the liver that leads to severe disease and liver cancer.
- This day is an opportunity to step up national and international efforts on hepatitis, encourage actions and engagement by individuals, partners and the public and highlight the need for a greater global response as outlined in the WHO’s Global hepatitis report of 2017.



On World Hepatitis Day 2022, WHO is highlighting the need for bringing hepatitis care closer to the primary health facilities and communities so that people have better access to treatment and care, no matter what type of hepatitis they may have.

World Hepatitis Day 2022: Theme

- The theme for world hepatitis day 2022 is ‘Bringing hepatitis care closer to you.’ The

main theme is to focus on raising awareness of the need to make hepatitis care more accessible.

World Hepatitis Day 2022: History

- The World Health Organisation launched a campaign to make the world free of hepatitis.
- The World Hepatitis Alliance was founded in the year 2007 and the first community-organized World Hepatitis Day was observed in 2008.
- The date of 28 July was chosen because it is the birthday of Nobel-prize-winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg. It was in the year 1967 that Baruch Samuel Blumberg discovered the Hepatitis B virus

WORLD NATURE CONSERVATION DAY 2022 CELEBRATES GLOBALLY

- World Nature Conservation Day is observed on July 28 every year.
- The objective is to spread awareness regarding the preservation of nature and biodiversity for a healthy environment which is required for stable and prospering humankind. It is also marked as the day to create positive opinions about climate change. World Nature Conservation Day acknowledges that a healthy environment is a foundation for a stable and healthy society.
- World Nature Conservation Day 2022: Theme
- This year World Nature Conservation Day will be celebrated under the theme “Cut Down on Plastic.”

INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY 2022 OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 29 JULY

International Tiger Day 2022:

- International Tiger Day is observed globally on 29th July every year. The day is celebrated to raise awareness among individuals, organisations, and governments about the importance of the conservation of tigers. This day aims to encourage all to take appropriate action to save the wild cats. As per World Wildlife Fund, approximately 95 per cent of the population of tigers has declined in the last 150 years.

International Tiger Day 2022: Theme

- This year's theme for International Tiger Day 2022 is “India launches Project Tiger to revive the tiger population”. They support initiatives that collaborate with regional people to safeguard tigers and also take strong action against poaching and illegal trade.

International Tiger Day: History

- International Tiger Day was introduced in 2010 after it was discovered that 97 per cent of tigers had disappeared in the past century, with only about 3,000 remaining.
- Since tigers were on the verge of extinction, a number of countries signed an agreement at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia to prevent the situation from worsening. Tigers are found in only 13 countries of the world, while 70 per cent of its tigers are in India only.

Types and colour of Tiger:

- Tigers are of different colours like White tigers, White tigers with black stripes, Brown tigers with black stripes, and Golden tigers and watching them walk can be a wonderful sight. So far, Bali Tiger, Caspian Tiger, Javan Tiger, and Tiger Hybrids are the species that are extinct.

WORLD RANGER DAY 2022 IS OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 31 JULY

- World Ranger Day is observed on 31st July every year.
- The International Ranger Federation established this day to honour the contribution of Park Rangers to the preservation of nature.
- World Ranger Day offers a chance to support their vital work, which ranges from environmental campaigning to education. The day is also an opportunity to pay tribute to rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Who Are The Rangers?

- A ranger is a person, who is tasked with maintaining and guarding parks and other naturally protected places.
- Rangers typically collaborate with staff personnel and other volunteers to maintain footpaths, bridges, stiles, and gates.
- They spend most of their time outside and serve as the national park authority's eyes and ears. They serve as a point of contact for locals and tourists as well as the national park authorities

WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2022: 30 JULY

- World Day Against Trafficking is observed annually on 30 July to make people aware of who is being trafficked. The day aims to educate people that trafficking in persons is considered to be a crime, including the exploitation of women and children for tragic jobs of forced labour and sex.
- Every year across the globe, this trafficking, this exploitation of more than 25 million victims by sexual exploitation or forced labour, generates more than \$150 billion in criminal revenue. It represents a comprehensive security issue, fuelling corruption, irregular migration and terrorism.

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2022: Theme

- This year's theme "Use and abuse of technology" focuses on the role of technology as a tool that can both enable and impede human trafficking.



ART AND CULTURE

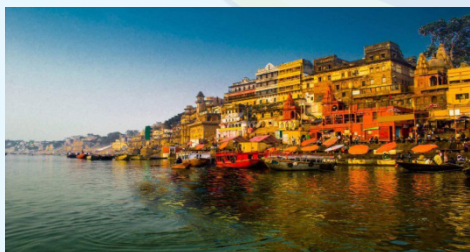
KHARCHI FESTIVAL

- A week-long traditional Kharchi festival, offering prayer to 14 gods and goddess, began with thousands of devotees converging at Khayerpur on the eastern outskirts of the Tripura.
- Kharchi Puja is predominantly a tribal festival but it owes its origins to Hindu religion.
- Devotees and sadhus from across India and neighbouring Bangladesh have also participated in the festival.



VARANASI NAMED 1ST CULTURAL AND TOURISM CAPITAL OF SCO

- The holy city of Varanasi showcasing India's culture and traditions over the ages will be declared the first "Cultural and Tourism Capital" of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- Varanasi will become the "Cultural and Tourism Capital" of the SCO for 2022-23 under a new rotating initiative by the eight-member organisation to promote people-to-people contacts and tourism among the member states.



Under this initiative:

- Each year a city of the cultural heritage of a member country that will take over the rotating Presidency of the organisation will get the title to highlight its prominence.
- The organisation's new initiatives ahead of this year's Heads of the State summit of the SCO scheduled to be held at Samarkand in Uzbekistan on September 15-16 this year.

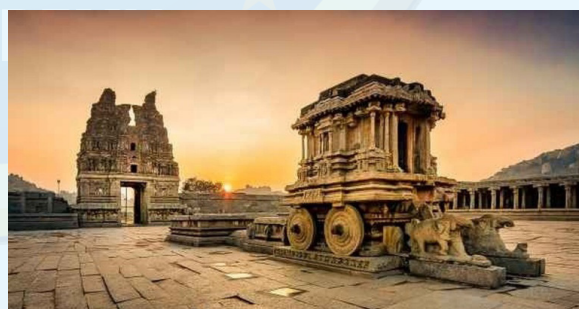
- The new initiative will come into force after the Samarkand summit following which India will take over the Presidency and host the next Heads of the State summit.

About the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

- The Beijing-headquartered Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an eight-member economic and security alliance comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
- The SCO is the successor to the Shanghai Five, a mutual security agreement formed in 1996 between China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
- On 15 June 2001, the leaders of these nations and Uzbekistan met in Shanghai to announce a new organisation with deeper political and economic cooperation; the SCO Charter was signed on 7 July 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003.
- Its membership has since expanded to eight states, with India and Pakistan joining on 9 June 2017. Several countries are engaged as observers or partners

NATIONAL CULTURE FUND (NCF)

Since inception, NCF has completed 52 projects with various donors.



About:

- Government of India has set up National Culture Fund (NCF) as a Trust on 28th November, 1996 under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890.
- NCF is managed by a (Governing) Council and an Executive Committee.
- The Council is chaired by the Union Minister of Culture and has a strength of 21 including 15 non-official members representing various fields including corporate

sector, private foundations and not-for-profit voluntary organizations.

- The aim of National Culture Fund (NCF) is to establish and nurture partnerships in the field of Culture and Heritage with private and public sectors, government, non-government agencies, private institutions and foundations and mobilize resources for the restoration, conservation, protection and development of India's rich, natural, tangible and intangible heritage.

TRIBAL REVOLTS

As she took oath as the 15th President of India, Droupadi Murmu scripted history by becoming the country's first tribal and only the second woman to occupy the country's highest constitutional office.

About:



- Addressing the nation after being sworn-in, she invoked four tribal revolutions that she said had strengthened tribal contribution to the freedom struggle.
- Santhal revolution: On June 30, 1855, over 10,000 Santals were mobilised by their leaders — Kanho Murmu, Chand Murmu, Bhairab Murmu and Sidho Murmu – to revolt against the East India Company over oppression by revenue officials, zamindars, and corrupt moneylenders.
- Paika rebellion: In several recent descriptions, the 1817 Paika Rebellion in Odisha's Khurda is referred to as the "original" first war of Indian Independence.
- Kol revolt: The Kols, tribal people from the Chhota Nagpur area, rose in revolt against the British in 1831.
- Bhil uprising: After the British intruded into the Bhil territory in Maharashtra's Khandesh region, the tribals pushed back fearing exploitation under the new regime in 1818. The revolt was led by their leader, Sewaram and was brutally crushed using the British military might.

ANUSILAN SAMITY

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan urged NCERT and the Education fraternity to include enough information about Anusilan Samity, especially in the upcoming National Curriculum Framework



About:

- Anusilan Samity was a prominent secret revolutionary society operating from Bengal in the 20th century with a mission to overthrow colonial rule and give momentum to India's struggle for freedom.
- Founded by Satish Chandra Pramatha Mitra, Aurobindo Ghose and Sarala Devi, Anusilan Samity was one among the many illustrious institutions from the land of Bengal.
- Legends like, Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das, Surendranath Tagore, Jatindranath Banerjee, Bagha Jatin were associated with Anusilan Samity. Hedgewar was also an alumnus of the Samity.

1) National Doctor's Day celebrates on ____

- a) 1st July
- b) 2nd July
- c) 3rd July
- d) 4th July

2) National Doctor's Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of ____

- a) Muthulakshmi Reddy
- b) Jagadish Chandra Bose
- c) Bipin Chandra Roy
- d) Raja Ram Mohan Roy

3) The Chartered Accountants' Day is observed on ____

- a) 1st July
- b) 2nd July
- c) 3rd July
- d) 4th July

4) Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) founded in the year ____

- a) 1948
- b) 1949
- c) 1950
- d) 1951

5) 2022 UN OCEAN CONFERENCE was held at ____

- a) Kenya
- b) Portugal
- c) Spain
- d) Sweden

6) Consider the following statement

- 1) ALPHA CENTAURI is the closest planet in the solar system
- 2) The Alpha Centauri can only be seen from the Southern Hemisphere and is one of the "pointers" to the Southern Cross constellation depicted on the Australian national flag.

Which of the above statement is correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

7) International Sports Journalists Day is celebrated every year on ____

- a) 1st July
- b) 2nd July
- c) 3rd July
- d) 4th July

8) 14th BRICS SUMMIT hosted by ____

- a) Brazil
- b) Russia
- c) China
- d) India

9) India's largest floating Solar Power Project is located in

- a) Telangana
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Tamil Nadu

10) Yair Lapid officially became the 14th Prime Minister of ____.

- a) Italy
- b) Spain
- c) Portugal
- d) Israel

11) Consider the following statement

- 1) 'Dak Karmayogi', an e-learning portal of the Department of Posts
- 2) This portal has been developed 'In-House' under vision of 'Mission Karmayogi', with a view to bring efficiency in actions of all the employees of Government of India and transforming efficiency of bureaucracy with 'Minimum'.

Which of the above statement is correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

12) Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator was carried out successfully by

- a) ISRO
- b) DRDO
- c) DEFENCE MINISTRY
- d) ICAR

13) In which year the Imperial Bank of India became the State Bank of India?

- a) 1954
- b) 1955
- c) 1956
- d) 1957

14) UN projected India's urban population to be 675 million in ____

- a) 2030
- b) 2035
- c) 2040
- d) 2045

15) Consider the following statement

- 1) Researchers led by those from the National Centre of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bengaluru (NCBS-TIFR), have found a new pathway that regulates nitrate absorption in plants
- 2) The gene MADS27, which regulates nitrate absorption, root development and stress tolerance, is activated by the micro-RNA, miR444, therefore offers a way to control these properties of the plant.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

16) Consider the following statement

- 1) G-7 grouping of the world's "most industrialised nations" — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the U.K., Japan and the U.S. along with the European Union (EU) — launched a U.S.-led \$600 billion Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)
- 2) The initiative was billed as a "values-driven, high-impact, and transparent infrastructure partnership to meet the enormous infrastructure needs of low- and middle-income countries and support the U.S. and its allies' economic and national security interests."

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

17) Sterkfontein caves is located in

- a) Germany
- b) South africa
- c) France
- d) Portugal

18) Fifth Global Film Tourism Conclave (GFTC) held at

- a) Chennai
- b) Mumbai
- c) Goa
- d) Hyderabad

19) consider the following statement

- 1) The Vivek Express holds the title of the lon-

gest train route in the country which runs from Dibrugarh in Assam to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.

- 2) It covers 4247 km of distance and nine States

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

20) The International Plastic Bag Free Day is held on ____

- a) 1st July
- b) 2 nd july
- c) 3 rd july
- d) 4 th july

21) The first International Plastic Bag Free Day was observed in the year ____

- a) 2008
- b) 2009
- c) 2010
- d) 2011

22) Consider the following statement

- 1) The proposed Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) is set to benefit 13 districts of Rajasthan through interlinking of three rivers.
- 2) The project stipulates transfer of excess water from the Chambal river basin to the regions facing water scarcity.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

23) Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life" is the book about

- a) M. S Dhoni
- b) Viswanathan Anand
- c) Virat Kohli
- d) Mithali Raj

24) ____ tops state ranking for implementation of National Food Security Act 2022

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) Odisha
- d) Tamil nadu

25) Tamil Nadu ranked ____ in the state ranking for implementation of National Food Security Act 2022

- a) 9th
- b) 10 th
- c) 11 th
- d) 12th

26) DRDO was Founded in the year

- a) 1956
- b) 1957
- c) 1958
- d) 1960

27) _____ emerged the “best performers” in the third edition of States’ Start-up ranking, 2021

- a) Gujarat and Karnataka
- b) Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- c) Gujarat and Tamil Nadu
- d) Karnataka and Maharashtra

28) Rahul Narwekar, the youngest Speaker in the country is from which state?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Bihar
- d) Uttar Pradesh

29) Sini Shetty crowned Femina Miss India 2022 is from _____

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil nadu
- d) Uttar Pradesh

30) Article _____ of the Constitution states that “there shall be a Vice-President of India

- a) 63
- b) 64
- c) 65
- d) 66

31) How many members are nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the President of India for six-years term for their contributions towards arts, literature, sciences, and social services?

- a) Eleven
- b) Twelve
- c) Thirteen
- d) Fourteen

32) India Animal Health Summit 2022 at _____

- a) New Delhi
- b) Chennai
- c) Pune
- d) Lucknow

33) Consider the following statement

- 1) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change will be organizing “Hariyali Mahotsav”
- 2) The mahotsav is being organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in collaboration with the State Governments, Police Institutions and Schools of Delhi for undertaking plantation drives on the occasion.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

34) _____ and Rajasthan at top in list in unemployment rate

- a) Haryana
- b) Punjab
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Uttarakhand

35) Consider the following statement

- 1) India’s first Autonomous Navigation facility, TiHAN inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Science & Technology
- 2) TiHAN (Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation) is a multidisciplinary initiative that will make India a global player in the futuristic and next generation ‘smart mobility’ technology.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

36) Identify the personality associated with the following statement

- 1) He was an Indian revolutionary who fought against the British army by waging an armed campaign.
- 2) He was named “Manyam Veerdu” which means Hero of the Jungle by the locals for his heroic exploits.

Choose the correct answer

- a) Alluri Sitarama Raju
- b) Mangal pandey
- c) Veerapandiya kataboman
- d) Pulithevar

37) The death anniversary of Swami Vivekananda is observed on _____ every year

- a) 1st July
- b) 2 nd july
- c) 3 rd july
- d) 4 th july

38) Vivekananda is best known for his iconic speech at the world parliament of Religions in Chicago in _____

- a) 1893
- b) 1894
- c) 1895
- d) 1896

39) The Odisha government is chasing an ambitious target of completing implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) by granting all kinds of

rights mandated under the historic Act by ____.

- a) 2024
- b) 2025
- c) 2023
- d) 2026

40) Consider the following statement

- 1) Scheduled Tribes And Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is also known as the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
- 2) The Act recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

41) Mangarh hillock in ____ as a monument of National Importance in the year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh

42) Consider the following statement

- 1) India-born Gita Gopinath became the first woman and second Indian to feature on the 'wall of former chief economists' of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- 2) The first Indian to achieve the honour was Raghuram Rajan who was Chief Economist and Director of Research of IMF between 2003 and 2006.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

43) Polavaram irrigation project is built across the river ____

- a) Krishna
- b) Godavari
- c) Cauvery
- d) Ganga

44) 36th National Games to be held in ____

- a) Gujarat
- b) Tamil nadu
- c) Karnataka
- d) Maharashtra

45) Kharchi festival is the tribal festival celebrated in ____

- a) Tripura
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Mizoram
- d) Uttar Pradesh

46) ____ becomes first state to have 13 expressways in the nation

- a) UP
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Rajasthan

47) Consider the following statement

- 1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam on the National Education Policy in Varanasi.
- 2) The Shiksha Samagam is being put on by the Ministry of Education

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

48) India's first right-to-health bill will be enacted by which state ?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Haryana
- c) Tamil nadu
- d) Kerala

50) Environment (Protection) Act was enacted in the year ____.

- a) 1986
- b) 1987
- c) 1988
- d) 1989

51) A ____ refers to an extreme amount of rain that happens in a short period, sometimes accompanied by hail and thunder

- a) Flash Flood
- b) cloudburst
- c) Hailstorm
- d) Cyclone

52) Khejri trees, which is the State tree of ____

- a) Punjab
- b) Haryana
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh

53) WORLD POPULATION DAY

World Population Day is observed on the ____ every year.

- a) 11th July
- b) 12 th july

- c) 13 th july
- d) 14 th july

54) World population day was first marked in the year ____

- a) 1990
- b) 1991
- c) 1992
- d) 1993

55) National Fish Farmers' Day 2022 is observed on

- a) 10th july
- b) 11th July
- c) 12 th july
- d) 13 th july

56) Consider the following statement

- 1) The azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae and derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of planktons.
- 2) They are deep-sea representatives with the majority of species being reported from depths between 200 metres and 1,000 metres.

Which of the above statement is are correct

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

57) ____ came out on top in the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Rurban Mission's delta ranking for the month of June

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chattisgarh
- c) Punjab
- d) Haryana

58) India sets world record for building longest double-decker bridge in ____

- a) Pune
- b) Nagpur
- c) Mumbai
- d) Jaipur

59) India is set to surpass China as the world's most populous country in ____

- a) 2023
- b) 2024
- c) 2025
- d) 2026

60) ____ becomes first state in India to implement NEP at pre-primary level

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Haryana

61) ____ sets a world record and becomes first captain to win 13 straight T20I matches

- a) Saurav Ganguly
- b) Rohit Sharma
- c) Virat Kohli
- d) M.s dhoni

62) WEF's Gender Gap Report 2022: India ranks low at ____ globally

- a) 135th
- b) 136th
- c) 137th
- d) 138 th

63) I2U2 SUMMIT does not includes

- a) India
- b) Israel
- c) Italy
- d) US

64) Consider the following statement

- 1) India's Central Bureau of Investigation has joined the Interpol's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) initiative.
- 2) This will allow it to collaborate with investigators in other countries for detecting child sex abuse online and identifying abusers, victims, and crime scenes from audio-visual clips using specialised software

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

65) Consider the following statement

- 1) Dunagiri, a Project 17A frigate, will be launched into the Hooghly river
- 2) Christened after a mountain range in the state of Uttarakhand, 'Dunagiri' is the fourth ship of P17A Frigates.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

66) ____ has been selected as the SCO region's first "Tourism and Cultural Capital"

- a) Varanasi
- b) Amarnath
- c) Patna

67) Rafale fighter jets purchased from which country?

- a) USA

- b) France
- c) Russia
- d) Japan

68) Namsai Declaration signed between State of Assam and _____

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Mizoram
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Tripura

69) Consider the following statement

- 1) The government had launched PMFBY from kharif 2016.
- 2) Under the scheme, all farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing “notified crops” in the “notified areas” are eligible for coverage.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

70) Article ____ of the Constitution lays down that “no Member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or any committee thereof”, MPs do not enjoy the freedom to say whatever they want inside the House.

- a) 105(2)
- b) 106(2)
- c) 107(2)
- d) 108(2)

71) World Youth Skills Day 2022 is observed on

- a) July 12
- b) July 13
- c) July 14
- d) July 15

72) Skill India Mission was launched in the year

- a) 2014
- b) 2015
- c) 2016
- d) 2017

73) Consider the following statement

- 1) Mission Shakti scheme has been launched for the safety, security and empowerment of women.
- 2) It seeks to realize the government’s commitment to women-led development by making them equal partners in nation-building.

Which of the above statement is are correct

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

74) ____ becomes first Indian to enter men’s long jump final at World Athletics Championships

- a) Murali Sreeshankar
- b) Muthaiya murali
- c) Mariyappan Thangavelu
- d) Neeraj Chopra

75) World Day for International Justice is observed on

- a) July 17
- b) July 18
- c) July 19
- d) July 20

76) consider the following statement

- 1) NAMASTE scheme for cleaning of sewers and septic tank scheme is a joint venture of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- 2) It aims to achieve outcomes like zero fatalities in sanitation work in India, no sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter and all Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers have access to alternative livelihoods.

Which of the above statement is are correct

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

77) ____ and the World Food Programme (WFP), India, will launch the ‘Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices’ initiative for mainstreaming millets in Asia and Africa

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Work Bank
- c) WTO
- d) World economic forum

78) Consider the following statement

- 1) ‘SPRINT Challenges’, aimed at giving a boost to the usage of indigenous technology in Indian Navy, during Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar ‘Swavlamban’
- 2) This collaborative project is named SPRINT {Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), NIIO and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC)}.

Which of the above statement is are correct

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

79) ____ introduces the first digital Lok Adalat in India

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Tamil nadu

80) **2025 World Athletics Championships will be held in**

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) India
- d) United States

81) **Consider the following statement**

- 1) Government of India has set up National Culture Fund (NCF) as a Trust on 28th November, 1996 under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890.
- 2) NCF is managed by a (Governing) Council and an Executive Committee

Which of the above statement is are correct

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

82) **Consider the following statement**

- 1) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan'
- 2) It is implemented in 272 most vulnerable districts since August 2020 to address the problem of Drug Abuse among youth of India.

Which of the above statement is are correct

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

83) ____ **conducts the first-ever blackbuck survey**

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Telangana
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil nadu

84) ____ **to host 2028 Summer Olympic Games**

- a) Los Angeles
- b) Japan
- c) India
- d) France

85) **World Chess Day 2022 celebrates globally on**

- a) 19 july
- b) 20 July
- c) 21 july
- d) 22 nd july

86) **Kakrapar Atomic Power Station is situated in the state of ____**

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

87) **India and ____ signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for reintroduction of cheetahs into the historical range in India.**

- a) Nigeria
- b) Ghana
- c) Namibia
- d) South africa

88) ____ **releases Report on Digital Banks**

- a) RBI
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) UNION FINANCE MINISTRY
- d) SBI

89) **Draupadi Murmu was elected as the ____ president of india**

- a) 14th
- b) 15th
- c) 16 th
- d) 17 th

90) ____ **becomes first 100% Landlord Major Port of India**

- a) Kolkata
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru Port
- c) Kandhla
- d) Chennai

91) **which state ranks first in India Innovation Index 2021**

- a) Kerala
- b) Gujarat
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil nadu

92) ____ **tops in Smart City Fund utilisation**

- a) Kerala
- b) Gujarat
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil nadu

93) **National Broadcasting Day was observed on**

- a) July 23
- b) July 24
- c) July 25
- d) July 26

94) **Consider the following statement**

- 1) Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer

scheme for promoting institutional delivery.

- 2) Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) entitles every pregnant woman to free delivery, including for caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables, diet and blood

Which of the above statement is are correct

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None of the above

95) Burhanpur in ____ becomes first certified Har Ghar Jal district of the country.

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Punjab
- d) Haryana

96) Aaykar Diwas or Income Tax Day celebrates by CBDT on ____

- a) July 24
- b) July 25
- c) July 26
- d) July 27

97) ____ becomes the 1st Indian state to connect all registered commercial vehicles

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Rajasthan

98) India's bioeconomy likely to reach \$300 billion by ____

- a) 2025
- b) 2030
- c) 2035
- d) 2040

99) ____ was the top recipient country for remittances inflows in 2021

- a) Singapore
- b) India
- c) China
- d) Thailand

100) Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana was launched in the year _

- a) 2015
- b) 2016
- c) 2017
- d) 2018

Answers:

1	a	21	a	41	a	61	b	81	c		
2	c	22	c	42	c	62	a	82	c		
3	a	23	b	43	b	63	b	83	a		
4	b	24	c	44	a	64	c	84	a		
5	b	25	a	45	a	65	c	85	b		
6	c	26	c	46	a	66	a	86	a		
7	b	27	a	47	c	67	b	87	c		
8	c	28	a	48	a	68	a	88	b		
9	b	29	b	49	a	69	c	89	b		
10	d	30	a	50	a	70	a	90	b		
11	c	31	b	51	b	71	d	91	c		
12	b	32	a	52	c	72	b	92	d		
13	b	33	c	53	a	73	c	93	a		
14	b	34	a	54	a	74	a	94	c		
15	c	35	c	55	a	75	a	95	a		
16	c	36	a	56	c	76	c	96	a		
17	b	37	d	57	a	77	a	97	b		
18	b	38	a	58	b	78	c	98	b		
19	c	39	a	59	a	79	a	99	b		
20	c	40	c	60	a	80	a	100	c		