



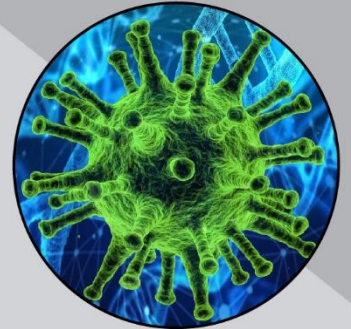
CivilsTap Himachal



# Current Affairs MONTHLY May 2021

By CivilsTap Himachal

For HPAS & Other  
Competitive Exam  
in Himachal Pradesh



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### 1.1 KOPILI FAULT ZONE

- **Recently**, several houses and buildings were damaged after an earthquake of magnitude **6.4 on the Richter scale** hit Assam. The preliminary analysis shows that the events are located near to **Kopili Fault**.
- This zone is a seismically active area, so it falls into the highest Seismic Hazard **Zone V**.
- The Kopili fault zone is a **300-km northwest-southeast trending fault**. It extends from the western part of Manipur to the tri-junction of Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
- The zone is associated with collision tectonics because of the Indian Plate subducting beneath the Eurasian Plate. Subduction is a geological process in which one crustal plate is forced below the edge of another.

### 1.2 PUTOLA NACH:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has provided an **Assam-based** trust the opportunity to focus on a near-forgotten form of string puppetry called **PutolaNach**.

#### About Putola Nach:

- The **string puppetry** of Assam is called PutalaNach and is performed in three areas with distinct characteristics.
- These areas are **Barpeta-Nalbari in western Assam, Kalaigaon in northern Assam and Majuli "island" in eastern Assam**.
- The Ramayana, either in its entirety or by episodes, is performed, as well as scenes from the Mahabharata. The puppeteers are happy to add dialogues or chants taken from bhaona, the local traditional theatre.

### 1.3 MEGHALAYA: 100-MILLION-YEAR-OLD BONES OF SAUROPODS DISCOVERED

- The researchers in the Geological Survey of India recently found fossil bone fragments of **Sauropod dinosaurs**. They were 100 million years old. These dinosaur bones were found in **West Khasi hills** in the district of **Meghalaya**. This is the first record of the Sauropods discovered in the region.

### 1.4 SVAMITVA SCHEME:

- Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has released the new framework for implementation of the **SVAMITVA Scheme**.
- SVAMITVA stands for **Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas**.
- **Launch:** It is a **center sector scheme** which was launched nationally on **National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April 2021**.
- **Aim:** To provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)
- **Survey of India** is a Technology Implementation Agency.

### 1.5 102ND CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT ACT:

- The Supreme Court of India has upheld the constitutional validity of the Constitution **102nd Amendment Act, 2018**.
- **About 102nd Amendment Act, 2018:** The 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018 gave constitutional status to the National Backward Classes Commission. The Amendment also gives the President Powers to notify backward classes. The 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act inserted the articles **338 B and 342 A** in Indian Constitution.

### 1.6 UDID PROJECT

- The **UDID project** has been under implementation since 2016. The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities** recently made it mandatory for all states and Union Territories to issue a certificate of disability only using the **UDID portal**. This is to come into force from June 1, 2021.
- UDID is the **Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities Project**.
- **About UDID Project:** The Project aims to create a National Database for the Persons with Disabilities. Also, it aims to issue a UDID, that is, a Unique Disability Identity Card to each person with disabilities.

**The Government of India collects only the following details from the person to create the UDID for him:**

- Personal details including his or her address.
- Employment details
- Identity Details
- Disability Details

### 1.7 "LARGE AREA CERTIFICATION SCHEME":

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare has conferred a land area in **the Andaman and Nicobar with organic certification**. This is the first large contiguous territory conferred with the organic certification under the '**Large Area Certification' (LAC) scheme**.
- This is a scheme of the **PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee System) certification program**.
- **Note:** PGS is a process of certifying organic products. It ensures that their production takes place in accordance with laid-down quality standards for organics.
- **About Large Area Certification Scheme:** The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under its flagship scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) has launched the Large Area Certification Scheme. The purpose is to provide a unique and quick organic certification to harness the potential land areas for organic products.

### 1.8 AYUSH MINISTRY LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN FOR "AYUSH 64" & "KABASURA KUDINEER"

- The Ministry of Ayush has launched a massive nationwide campaign to distribute two key products. One is the Ayurvedic drug **AYUSH 64**. The other is the **Siddha drug Kabasura Kudineer**. Both will provide benefit to the vast majority of out of hospital Covid-19 patients.



- **About Ayush 64:** Ayush-64 is a polyherbal Ayurvedic Drug (i.e. use of more than one herb). The drug was developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS). The drug can be useful for the treatment of asymptomatic, mild, and moderate COVID-19 infection cases.
- **About Kabasura Kudineer:** Kabasura Kudineer is a Siddha formulated drug. It has been found to be useful in the treatment of asymptomatic, mild, and moderate COVID-19 infection cases. Siddha is a traditional medicine originating in South India. It is one of the oldest systems of medicine in India.

### 1.9 PROJECT MEDICAB: AUGMENTATION OF HOSPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- IIT Madras supported start-up **Modulus Housing** has developed a portable hospital unit called '**MediCAB**'.
- Project MediCAB is an initiative of the Office of principal scientific advisor and IIT Madras.
- **Purpose:** It is a portable hospital unit that has been developed to boost healthcare infrastructure by assisting states to set up COVID-19 extension hospitals.
- The project is a decentralized approach to detect, screen, identify, isolate and treat COVID-19 patients in their local communities through these portable microstructures.

### 1.10 NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY: MAY 11

- Every year, India celebrates **National Technology Day on May 11**.
- **Theme:** Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future
- The **Ministry of Science and Technology** organises several events across the country to celebrate the day.

Why is National Technology Day celebrated in India?

- To mark the anniversary of **Pokhran Nuclear tests** that was conducted in **1998**.
- To highlight the importance of technological advancements for the country.

### 1.11 PM KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare recently announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the **eighth instalment** of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi:** Under the Scheme, the Government of India transfers Rs 6,000 to the account of small and marginal farmers. These funds are transferred in three instalments. The first instalment of Rs 2,000 is made between April and June. Second Instalment is made between August and November. The third instalment is made between December and March. This scheme was launched in in 2018.

### 1.12 TAUKTAE CYCLONE:

- **Tauktae Cyclone** is the first cyclone in 2021 in India. The Kerala Government has issued "Red Alert".
- This name has been given by Myanmar.

### 1.13 NOK CULTURE:

- The scientists from the **University of Bristol and Goethe** have found traces of bee wax in the potteries unearthed in Nigeria. These potteries belong to the **Nok Culture**.

#### About Nok Culture:

- The culture developed in Central Nigeria in 1500 BCE.
- The culture vanished in 500 AD.
- The people of Nok Culture belong to the Iron Age.

### 1.14 NATIONAL BAMBOO MISSION: MIS MODULE LAUNCHED

- The **National Bamboo Mission** recently launched the **Management Information System** to strengthen the domestic Agarbatti industry.
- **About the MIS Module:** It will collect data about Agarbatti production, availability of raw materials, location of stick making units, production capacity, functioning of units, etc. The system will act as an intermediary between the production units and the Agarbatti industry (as a whole). This will help to fill the information gaps.
- **About National Bamboo Mission:** The National Bamboo Mission was launched **in 2018-19**. It is currently implemented in twenty-one states. The Mission envisages promoting holistic growth of bamboo sector by adopting area-based, regionally differentiated strategy and to increase the area under bamboo cultivation and marketing.

### 1.15 MOORHEN YOGA MAT:

- Six young girls from Assam have developed a biodegradable and compostable yoga mat called '**Moorhen Yoga Mat**'.
- **Note:** The Mat was developed with the support of the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR). NECTAR is an autonomous body under the Department of Science & Technology (DST).
- **About Moorhen Yoga Mat:** The 'Moorhen Yoga mat' is named after **Kam Sorai or Purple moorhen** (a resident bird of Deepor Beel Wildlife sanctuary). The mat has been developed from Water Hyacinth. The mat is 100% biodegradable and 100% compostable mat.

### 1.16 AYUSH GHAR DWAR:

- In Himachal Pradesh, AYUSH Division launched a state-wide wellness programme '**AYUSH Ghar Dwar**' for COVID-19 sufferers, in **Solan district**.
- The initiative aims to offer a Holistic Healthcare Strategy by way of AYUSH to make sure not solely bodily but in addition psychological, social and religious wellbeing to COVID sufferers by way of AYUSH.

### 1.17 BONDA TRIBE:

- As many as 21 tribals across **eight different Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** in Odisha have tested positive for Covid-19. Among them, two people are from the Bonda tribe.

- **About Bonda Tribe:** Bonda tribes are one of the 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) found in Odisha. Bonda Tribes are primarily forest dwellers. They perform hunting and foraging for food in the wild.
- **Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) :** It is a classification by government of India which is created with the purpose of enabling improvement in the conditions of certain communities with particularly low development indices.

#### 1.18 SAMVEDNA:

- **SAMVEDNA is Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance.** It is a toll-free helpline through which children affected during COVID-19 pandemic are provided counselling.
- The main objective of SAMVEDNA is to provide psychological first aid and emotional support to the COVID-19 affected children.
- The tele-counselling is provided by the National Commission of Child Rights working under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

#### 1.19 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN WEST BENGAL:

- Recently, the West Bengal government has decided to set up a **Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad)**.
- For setting up the Council, a Bill has to be introduced in the Assembly and then a nod from the Governor is required. The Legislative Council in the State was abolished in **1969**.
- **About Article 169 (Creation and Abolition of State Legislative Assembly):** The Parliament can abolish a Legislative Council (where it already exists) or create it (where it does not exist) by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of each House present and voting, if the legislative assembly of the concerned state, by a special majority, passes a resolution to that effect.
- **Currently 6 states have bicameral legislature:** Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

#### 1.20 INDIA'S FIRST AGRICULTURE EXPORT FACILITATION CENTRE SET UP AT PUNE.

- The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) recently launched the first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre at **Pune**.
- The Centre will aid in boosting the agricultural and food exports of the state of Maharashtra.
- The centre will act as a one-stop shop to export agricultural food productions.
- The centre is open to anyone who is involved in agricultural exports.

#### 1.21 MEDICINE FROM THE SKY PROJECT: TELANGANA

- Recently, the Telangana government has selected **16 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs)** for pilot testing the ambitious 'Medicine from the sky', the first-of- its-kind project.
- The project involves delivery of medicines through multiple drones.
- The project is being launched following the approval granted by the Civil Aviation Ministry.

### 1.22 SIX HERITAGE SITES ADDED TO INDIA'S UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES TENTATIVE LIST:

- The **Union Culture Minister Prahlaad Singh Patel** recently announced that around six cultural heritage sites have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The following six places have successfully entered the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

- **Ganga Ghats of Varanasi**
- **Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu**
- **Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh**
- **Maharashtra Military Architecture**
- **Hire Benkal Megalithic site**
- **Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh**
- With this, the total number of sites in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative list has increased to 48.

### 1.23 NATIONAL ANTI-TERRORISM DAY: 21 MAY

- In India, the National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed on May 21 to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi.
- The day is also observed to spread the message of peace, harmony, and humankind and to promote unity among the people.

### 1.24 DI-AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE (DAP)

- Recently, the government has increased the subsidy to 140% on **Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertiliser** in order to retain the selling price for farmers at the current level.
- Recently, the international prices of phosphoric acid, ammonia etc. used in DAP have gone up by 60% to 70%.
- DAP is the second most commonly used fertilizers in India after urea. Farmers normally apply this fertiliser just before or at the beginning of sowing, as it is high in phosphorus (P) that stimulates root development.

### 1.25 GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES "CBID PROGRAM" ON REHABILITATION OF DIVYANGJAN

- The **Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment** has virtually launched a **6-month CBID** (Community Based Inclusive Development) Program on rehabilitation of **Divyangjan** (Persons with Disabilities).
- **Developed by:** The programme has been co-designed by the **Rehabilitation Council of India and the University of Melbourne.**
- **Aim:** The programme aims to create a pool of Grassroot rehabilitation workers at the community level. These workers will be trained for successfully discharging their duties. After training, the workers can then work alongside the ASHA and Anganwadi workers. They can handle cross-disability issues and facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society. The workers will be called 'Divyang Mitra' i.e. friends of persons with disabilities.

- **Nodal Body:** National Board of Examination in Rehabilitation under the Rehabilitation Council of India will conduct examinations. The board will also award certificates to pass-out candidates.

#### 1.26 NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA (NAI)

- A group of archivists and scholars has called for transparency in the proposed demolition of annexes that form part of the National Archives of India (NAI) in order to make way for the Central Vista project.
- **National Archives of India (NAI)** is a custodian of the non-current records of enduring value of the Government of India. It holds them in trust for the use of administrators and scholars.
- **Origin:** It was originally established as the Imperial Record Department in 1891 in Calcutta (Kolkata). This department was transferred to the new capital, New Delhi, In 1911, and it was shifted into the present building in 1926.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It functions as an Attached Office of the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Culture.
- **Significance:** It is the biggest archival repository in South Asia. It has a vast corpus of records viz., public records, oriental records among others which constitute an invaluable source of information.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi. It also has a Regional Office at Bhopal and three Record Centres at Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Pondicherry.

#### 1.27 CYCLONIC STORM YAAS:

- **Cyclone Yaas** was a relatively strong and highly damaging tropical cyclone that made landfall in Odisha and brought significant impacts to West Bengal during late May 2021.
- **Why Bay of Bengal experiences more cyclone as compared to Arabian Sea:** The Bay of Bengal is warmer than the Arabian Sea. This provides sufficient and continuous heat energy which is required to create and sustain a low-pressure system. Higher sea surface temperatures and humidity is directly related with the chances of formation of cyclones. Apart from that, Bay of Bengal receives higher rainfall and experiences a constant influx of fresh water from Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers. As a result, surface water keeps on getting refreshed. Thus, it is almost impossible for warm water to mix with cooler water beneath. It is an ideal situation for the formation of depression.

#### 1.28 COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA:

- Recently the **12th Annual Day** of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** was observed on **20th May**.
- Competition Commission of India is a statutory body responsible for enforcing the objectives of the **Competition Act, 2002**.
- CCI was established by the Central Government with effect from **14th October 2003**, but it became fully functional on **20th May 2009**.



### 1.29 VIRTUAL VESAK GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS ON BUDDHA PURNIMA

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Virtual Vesak Global Celebrations on Buddha Purnima on May 26, 2021. Over 50 most prominent Buddhist religious leaders from across the world also addressed the virtual congregation.
- Virtual Vesak Global Celebration on Buddha Purnima event was organised by Culture Ministry in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).
- **About Vesak** : It is also celebrated as Buddha Jayanti or Buddha Purnima. It is a holiday observed by Buddhists and Hindus across South and Southeast Asia including Tibet and Mongolia. This festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment and death of Gautama Buddha in Theravada Tibetan Buddhism and Navayana.

### 1.30 KERALA'S NEW SMART KITCHEN SCHEME:

- Chief Minister of Kerala, **Pinarayi Vijayan**, announced a secretary level committee will formulate guidelines and recommendations on implementation of "Smart Kitchen Scheme" in the state.
- Smart Kitchen Scheme will be launched by July 10, 2021.
- Under the scheme, women of state will be given loans to refurbish their kitchen.
- Loan will be provided with a low-interest rate in instalment schemes.
- Scheme seeks to reduce workload of women's domestic labour

### 1.31 ASSAM CM APPOINTS 'GUARDIAN MINISTERS':

- Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, appointed "Guardian Ministers" in the state.
- **Who is a Guardian Minister:** He/she is an ex-officio chairperson of the District Planning Committee (DPC), which is constituted in every district as per law. However, the rule does not mention who should head the DPC. It can be headed by administration as well as by elected representatives.

### 1.32 VAN GUJJARS NOMADIC TRIBE:

- Recently, the Uttarakhand high court has criticized the state government for neglecting and forcing families of Van Gujjar's nomadic tribe to survive in conditions below animal's existence.
- **About Van Gujjars nomadic tribes:** Van Gujjars are nomadic tribes inhabiting foothills of Himalayas and in states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. They are buffalo-herders. They are among the tribes who are living or have lived in deep dependence on wild habitats.

### 1.33 AYUSH SANJIVANI APP

- Recently, the Ministry of AYUSH launched its third version of **Ayush Sanjivani App** in a virtual event.
- It is developed by the **Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- The app intends to generate data on usage of **AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-rigpa and Homoeopathy)** advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of Covid-19.

### 1.34 YUVA – PRIME MINISTER’S SCHEME FOR MENTORING YOUNG AUTHORS:

- The Ministry of Education has launched “**YUVA- Prime Minister’s Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors**”.
- YUVA stands for “**Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors**”. The scheme is in line with the PM's vision of encouraging young writers to write about India’s freedom struggle. Call on the young generation to write about freedom fighters was taken in PM’s Mann ki Baat in January 2021. YUVA is a part of India@75 Project which seeks to bring perspectives of young generation of writers on themes including Freedom Fighter, Unsung Heroes, Unknown and Forgotten Places etc.

### 1.35 PM-CARES FOR CHILDREN SCHEME

- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched a PM-CARES for Children scheme for children **orphaned** due to COVID-19. As per data, about **577 children** have lost their parents till date.
- **About PM-CARES for Children scheme:** Children who lost either parents or surviving parents or legal guardians or adoptive parents due to COVID-19 disease, will be supported through the PM-CARES fund. Under the PM-CARES scheme, contributions will be made through the PM CARES Fund till they attain the age of **18 years**. Contribution will help in creating a corpus of **Rs 10 lakh** for them. They will be given a monthly stipend for five years starting from 18 years till 23 years to fulfil their personal requirements. After they attain 23 years of age, they will be given a full amount of **Rs 10 lakh** to use it professionally or personally. Scheme will ensure free education for such kids by giving them admissions in nearest Kendriya Vidyalayas or private schools fees for which will be given from the PM CARES fund. Provisions are there for educating kids between **11 to 18 years** in residential schools like **Sainik Schools and Navodaya Vidyalayas**. They will also be enrolled under Ayushman Bharat Scheme to provide them **health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh till 18 years**. Premium will be made by the PM CARES Fund.

### 1.36 RBI JOINS ‘NETWORK FOR GREENING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM’

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the **Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)** as a member.

#### About Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS):

- NGFS was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit in December 2017.
- **Purpose:** It is a group of Central banks and financial supervisors. The NGFS aims to accelerate the scaling up of green finance and develop recommendations for central banks’ role in climate change.
- **Headquarters:** It is located at the Bank of France headquartered in Paris.
- **Members:** As of April 2021, the NGFS consists of 90 members and 13 observers.
- **Significance for RBI:** As Green Finance has assumed significance in the context of climate change. So the RBI expects to benefit from the membership of NGFS by learning and contributing to global efforts on Green Finance.

### 1.37 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN INDIA SHOOTS UP TO 8% IN APRIL: CMIE

- The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) report on unemployment in India has been released. As per the report Unemployment Rate in India is increasing.

#### Key Findings of the Report:

- **Increase in Unemployment rate:** The Unemployment rate in India has increased to 8% in April 2021 from 6.5% in March 2021.
- **Unemployment Rate (UER)** is the percentage of the labor force that is willing to work and are actively looking for a job but are unemployed.
- **The labour participation rate (LPR)** was 40% in April 2021. It is the worst since the national lockdown was imposed in May 2020.
- **LPR** is the ratio of the working age population greater than 15 years of age to labor force either working or looking for work. In other words, it measures the number of persons engaging in the labour force as a percentage of the working-age population.

### 1.38 "SWAMIH FUND"

- The government of India's SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable & Mid-Income Housing) Fund has completed its first residential project in Mumbai.

#### About SWAMIH Fund:

- **SWAMIH Fund** is a government-backed investment fund set up in the year **2019**.
- **Purpose:** The fund was formed to provide relief to developers that require funding to complete a set of unfinished projects. Consequently, it will also ensure the delivery of homes to the homebuyers.

### 1.39 INDIA BEGINS EXPORT OF GI CERTIFIED "GHOLVAD SAPOTA"

- A consignment of **Dahanu Gholvad sapota (naseberry)** has been exported to the **United Kingdom from Maharashtra's Palghar district**. This will provide a major boost to future shipments of Geographical Indication (GI) certified products from India.

#### About Gholvad Sapota:

- The Geographical Indication (GI) certification of Gholvad Sapota is held **by Maharashtra Rajya Chikoo Utpadak Sangh**.
- The fruit is popular for its sweet and unique taste. The unique taste is believed to be derived from the calcium-rich soil of the Gholvad village in Palghar district.

### 1.40 BIHAR'S SHAHI LITCHI:

- India has exported the first consignment of GI-certified Shahi Litchi from Bihar to the United Kingdom by air route.

What is a GI Tag?

- Geographical indication (GI) tag is given to an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product such as handicraft and industrial goods which are originating from definite geographical territory. The tag provides an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially linked to the place of its origin. It also helps growers to get premium price of product as no other producer can misuse name to sell similar goods.
- **Registered GIs:** Darjeeling tea, Kangra paintings, Tirupati laddu, Nagpur orange and Kashmir pashmina are some of the examples of registered GIs in India.

#### **1.41 FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT JUMPS 19% TO \$59.64 BN IN 2020-21:**

- Foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country grew 19 per cent to USD 59.64 billion during 2020-21 on account of measures taken by the government on the fronts of policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business.



CivilsTap Himachal

## National News: Practice MCQs

**QUESTION 1.** Kopili fault zone, which caused an earthquake recently, is located underneath which region of India?

- A. North India
- B. North east India
- C. South India
- D. South west India

**QUESTION 2.** Chota Char Dham, a famous Hindu pilgrimage circuit, is located in which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Bihar
- D. Odisha

**QUESTION 3.** 91st Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2003 is related to?

- A. Ministers in a State shall not exceed 15% of the total number of members.
- B. Cooperatives societies
- C. Right to information
- D. Anti-defection law

**QUESTION 4.** With which state, PUTOLA NACH, a form of puppetry, is associated:

- A) Assam
- B) Andhra Pradesh

C) Jharkhand

D) Bengal

**QUESTION 5.** In which north eastern Indian state, a fragmented fossil bone of Sauropod dinosaur has been found for the first time?

- A) Sikkim
- B) Assam
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Manipur

**QUESTION 6.** Under which ministry SVAMITVA SCHEME has been launched:

- A. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- B. Ministry of food processing
- C. Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Ministry of Environment

**QUESTION 7.** Under which Article 102 Constitution amendment act has been inserted

- A. Article 338
- B. Article 338A
- C. Article 339
- D. Article 338 B

**QUESTION 8.** UDID project, run by government, aims to -

- A. Provide unique I.Ds to people with disabilities.



- B. Track passenger movement under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme.
- C. make a national database of lost or missing children.
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 9.** Under which flagship scheme Large Area Certification Scheme has been launched?

- A. Param parogat krishi vikas yojana
- B. kisan svanidhi yojana
- C. Per drop more crop
- D. Svamitva yojana

**QUESTION 10.** Ayush 64 and Kabasura Kudineer, recently approved drugs for COVID-19, belong to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ School of traditional medicine respectively.

- A. Homeopathy and Siddha.
- B. Ayurveda and Siddha.
- C. Ayurveda and Unani.
- D. Siddha and Unani.

**QUESTION 11.** Project MediCAB, an initiative of IIT Madras, is a -

- A. portable hospital unit.
- B. low cost ambulance.
- C. on call taxi services for COVID patients.
- D. dispensary on wheels.

**QUESTION 12.** 'Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana' comes under the ambit of which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

- B. Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- C. Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- D. Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

**QUESTION 13.** The theme for National Technology Day 2021 was Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future. It is celebrated every year on-

- A. May 11
- B. May 12
- C. May 13
- D. May 14

**QUESTION 14.** Under PM- Kisan Samman Nidhi, small and marginal farmers are given annually, an amount of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ equal installments.

- A. 6000, 2
- B. 8000, 2
- C. 9000, 3
- D. 6000, 3

**QUESTION 15.** The first cyclone to hit India in 2021, Tauktae, is given this name by -

- A. India
- B. Myanmar
- C. Thailand
- D. Indonesia

**QUESTION 16.** The Nok culture or civilization seen recently in news, thrived in-

- A. Nigeria
- B. Puerto Rico
- C. Malaysia

D. USA

**QUESTION 17.** The National Bamboo Mission launched in 2018-2019 is currently implemented in \_\_\_\_\_ states.

A. 21

B. 24

C. 26

D. 17

**QUESTION 18.** The Moorhen Yoga Mat, seen recently in news, is a 100% biodegradable mat developed from

A. Water Hyacinth

B. Molasses

C. Lichens

D. Paddy Residue

**QUESTION 19.** Which state in India recently launched a holistic wellness programme called 'AYUSH Ghar Dwar'?

A. Uttarakhand

B. Haryana

C. Madhya Pradesh

D. Himachal Pradesh

**QUESTION 20.** What is the language of the Bondo tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) found majorly in Odisha, called?

A. Remo

B. Malwai

C. Magh

D. Tipra

**QUESTION 21.** COVAX is a global initiative which aims to secure \_\_\_\_\_ vaccine doses against COVID by end of 2021

A. 2 billion

B. 3 billion

C. 500 million

D. 2.5 billion

**QUESTION 22.** Samvedna, seen recently in news, is a helpline to-

A. prevent child trafficking.

B. provide information about cyclone Tauktae.

C. provide counselling to children during pandemic.

D. None of the above

**QUESTION 23.** Which of the following states does not have a State Legislative Council?

A. Maharashtra

B. Telangana

C. Bihar

D. Punjab

**QUESTION 24.** India's first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre has been set up at-

A. Chennai

B. Dahej

C. Pune

D. Mumbai

**QUESTION 25.** Which state has launched a pilot project for drone-delivery of medicines called 'Medicine from the Sky'?

A. Punjab

B. Telangana

C. Goa

D. Himachal Pradesh

**QUESTION 26.** The Hire Benkal Megalithic Site which was recently added to UNESCO's World Heritage List is situated in-

A. Maharashtra

B. Karnataka

C. Telangana

D. Punjab

**QUESTION 27.** Which is the nodal ministry for Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana?

A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

B. Ministry of AYUSH

C. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

D. Ministry of Women and Child Development

**QUESTION 28.** National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed to commemorate-

A. Kargil war

B. Mumbai terrorist attacks

C. death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi

D. death anniversary of Indira Gandhi

**QUESTION 29.** The Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program on rehabilitation of Divyangjan is launched by which ministry?

A. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

C. Ministry of Ayush

D. Ministry of Finance

**QUESTION 30.** The headquarters of National Archives of India is situated in-

A. New Delhi

B. Mumbai

C. Kolkata

D. Ghaziabad

**QUESTION 31.** A severe cyclonic cyclone named Yass, is active in Bay of Bengal. It was named by which country?

A. Myanmar

B. India

C. Oman

D. Pakistan

**QUESTION 32.** Competition Commission of India consists of a chairman and \_\_\_\_\_ members.

A. 5

B. 6

C. 4

D. 9

**QUESTION 33.** The proposed Mekadetu dam is planned to be constructed on which south Indian river?

A. Cauvery

B. Mahanadi

C. Godavari

D. Krishna

**QUESTION 34.** Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon at-

A. Bodh Gaya

B. Kapilavastu

C. Sarnath

D. Lumbini

**QUESTION 35.** One-Stop Centre scheme is implemented by which ministry?

A. Ministry of Finance

B. Ministry of Women and Child Development

C. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare

D. Ministry of Defence

**QUESTION 36.** The proposed Smart Kitchen Scheme will be started by which state?

A. Kerala

B. Maharashtra

C. Telangana

D. Himachal Pradesh

**QUESTION 37.** Which state/UT recently introduced the concept of Guardian Minister, to head districts for implementation of government schemes?

A. Tamil Nadu

B. Puducherry

C. Assam

D. Meghalaya

**QUESTION 38.** Van Gujjars, a nomadic tribe seen recently in news, is found in \_\_\_\_\_?

A. Salt flatlands of Kutch in Gujarat.

B. Foothills of Himalayas in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

C. tropical evergreen forest in Kerala.

D. None of the above

**QUESTION 39.** Recently, a smart window material, which can automatically control climate of buildings, has been developed by-

A. IIT Ropar

B. IISER Mohali

C. IIT Delhi

D. IIT Guwahati

**QUESTION 40.** Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal, has been released lately by-

A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

B. Ministry of AYUSH

C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

D. None of the above

**QUESTION 41.** Ayush Sanjivani App, has been developed jointly by the Ministry of Ayush and \_\_\_\_\_?

A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

C. Ministry of Women and Child Development

D. None of the above

**QUESTION 42.** In case of Covid-19 virus, there are 16 NSPs. NSP stands for

A. Newly Synchronized Protein

B. Newly Selected Pattern

C. Non Supported protein

D. Non-Structural Proteins

**QUESTION 43.** YUVA scheme comes under the ambit of which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C. Ministry of Skill Development
- D. Ministry of Education

**QUESTION 44.** Under PM-CARES for Children scheme, a corpus of \_\_\_\_\_ will be made for children orphaned due to covid.

- A. 10 lakhs
- B. 20 lakhs
- C. 5 lakhs
- D. 50 lakhs

**QUESTION 45.** When was Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) launched?

- A) 2015
- B) 2014
- C) 2018
- D) 2017

**QUESTION 46.** According to latest report by CMIE, the unemployment rate in India in April 2021 is

- A. 8%
- B. 7.5%
- C. 6.8%
- D. 8.5%

**QUESTION 47.** The famous chikoo product, Gholvad Sapota is registered GI tag under which state?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Punjab

**QUESTION 48.** Shahi Litchi, has a registered Geographical Indication (GI) Tag from the state of-

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Bihar
- D. Punjab

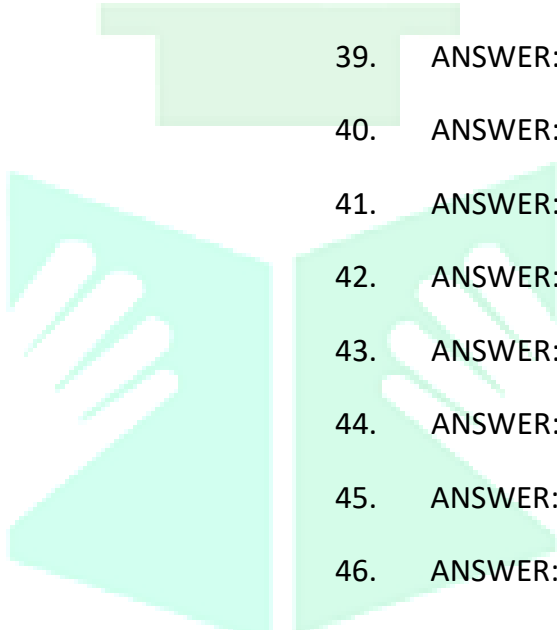
**QUESTION 49.** MCA21 seen recently in news is-

- A. a medium combat aircraft developed by DRDO.
- B. an online portal of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- C. a gene sequence recently discovered in mice.
- D. None of the above.

**Answer Key:**

- 1. ANSWER: B
- 2. ANSWER- B
- 3. ANSWER-A
- 4. ANSWER: A
- 5. ANSWER: C
- 6. ANSWER: A



- 
7. ANSWER: D
8. ANSWER: A
9. ANSWER: A
10. ANSWER: B
11. ANSWER: A
12. ANSWER: B
13. ANSWER: A
14. ANSWER: D
15. ANSWER: B
16. ANSWER: A
17. ANSWER: A
18. ANSWER: A
19. ANSWER: D
20. ANSWER: A
21. ANSWER: A
22. ANSWER: C
23. ANSWER: D
24. ANSWER: C
25. ANSWER: B
26. ANSWER: B
27. ANSWER: A
28. ANSWER: C
29. ANSWER: A
30. ANSWER: A
31. ANSWER: C
32. ANSWER: B
33. ANSWER: A
34. ANSWER: C
35. ANSWER: B
36. ANSWER: A
37. ANSWER: C
38. ANSWER: B
39. ANSWER: D
40. ANSWER: B
41. ANSWER: B
42. ANSWER: D
43. ANSWER: D
44. ANSWER: A
45. ANSWER: D
46. ANSWER: A
47. ANSWER: B
48. ANSWER: C
49. ANSWER: B

### 1.42 INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY OR LABOUR DAY

- The **first of May** is a national, public holiday in many countries across the world, in most cases as "International Workers' Day" or a similar name.
- The theme of International Labour Day 2021 is yet to be announced. The 2020 theme was **"Maintaining safety and security at the workplace"**.
- The first Labour Day in India was hosted by the **Labour Kisan Party in Madras in 1923**. It was initiated by the Labour Union Movement.

### 1.43 INDIA-RUSSIA 2+2 DIALOGUE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Russian President Vladimir Putin recently agreed to establish a "2+2 Ministerial Dialogue". The "2+2 Ministerial" dialogue is held between the defence ministers and foreign ministers.

#### About 2+2 Dialogue:

- India holds similar dialogues with the US, Australia and Japan.
- Russia is the first non-QUAD member with which India is to hold the dialogue.
- In 2021, President Vladimir Putin is to visit India to hold the India-Russia bilateral summit. The summit is alternatively held in India and Russia.

### 1.44 KAREN REBELS:

- The Karen Rebels recently seized a military post in **Myanmar**. The post is located close to the border of north western Thailand.
- Karen Rebels are the oldest rebel group in Myanmar. They have formed the Karen National Union (KNU). They have been fighting against the Myanmar government since **1949**. They are fighting for an independent state called "Kawthoolei". It is one of the longest running civil wars in the world.

### 1.45 ROC:

- **The World largest airplane, named Roc, built by Stratolaunch recently completed its second test flight from Mojave Air and Space Port in California.**
- The flight reached an altitude of 4,267 metres during its test flight.
- It reached a top speed of 320 kilometres per hour.
- The plane can carry more than 220 tonnes of payload.
- It has been named "Roc". Roc is an enormous bird usually addressed in the mythological stories of the Middle East. It is quite popular from "Sinbad, the Sailor".

### 1.46 OPCW (ORGANIZATION FOR PREVENTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPON)

- India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) **GC Murmu** has been selected as an external auditor to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). His term will be for 3 years, starting in 2021.

### About OPCW:

- OPCW is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention. This convention has been in force since **1997**.
- **Members:** It has 193 members including India.
- **Headquarters:** The Hague, Netherlands.
- **Significance:** The OPCW was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.
- **Relations with UN:** OPCW is not a United Nations (UN) organization. However, by the 2001 Relationship Agreement between the OPCW and the UN, the OPCW reports on its inspections and other activities to the UN through the office of the Secretary-General.

### 1.47 LAG B'OMER

- **Lag B'Omer** is an annual Jewish festival. It is celebrated in the **Hebrew month of Iyar**.(It is a month of 29 days. Iyar usually falls in April–May on the Gregorian calendar.)
- Recently, more than forty-four people died here due to a stampede (in Meron of Israel). They were gathered at the reputed tomb of Shimon Bar Yochai for Lag B'Omer.

### 1.48 WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY

- Every year, **May 5th** is World Hand Hygiene Day.
- This day is organized by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** to raise awareness of the importance of hand hygiene in preventing many serious infections.
- The theme for the year 2021 is **Saving Lives the Second Time: Clean Hands**.
- It is believed that hand washing is the most effective measure that can be taken to avoid various infections, including the COVID-19 virus.

### 1.49 WORLD ATHLETICS DAY

- **May 7th** is World Athletics Day 2020.
- The basic target of World Athletics Day is to promote the participation of young people in athletics.
- World Athletics Day is organized by the International Athletics Federation (IAAF). World Athletics Day was celebrated for the first time in 1996.

### 1.50 WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY: MAY 8

- Every year, the World Migratory Day is celebrated biannually on the second Saturday of May and October. This year, it is celebrated on May 8th. The previous World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated on October 10th(Theme- Birds connect our world)
- The main objective of celebrating the World Migratory Day is to increase awareness of migratory birds and their importance in international cooperation to conserve them. It also creates awareness for conserving the habitats of the migratory birds, especially the wetlands.
- This year, the World Migratory Bird Day (that falls in the month of May) is celebrated under the following theme:
- **Theme:** Sing, fly, Soar – Like a Bird

### 1.51 WORLD THALASSEMIA DAY: MAY 8

- Every year World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated on **May 8**. The day is celebrated to encourage the patients suffering from Thalassaemia.
- **Theme:** Addressing Health Inequalities across the Global Thalassaemia Community
- **Thalassaemia Disease:** The disease is an inherited blood disorder that is passed from parents to children. When a person gets infected with the disease, his or her body loses the ability to produce haemoglobin. Eventually the red blood cells count reduces. Red Blood Cells are the carriers of oxygen. Thalassaemia can cause anaemia, leaving the person fatigued. The disease is most common in South Asian, African and Mediterranean countries.

### 1.52 DAHLA DAM:

- After months of fierce fighting in **Kandahar**, the Taliban have taken control of Afghanistan's second-largest dam **Dahla Dam**.
- It is now under Taliban control and provides irrigation to farmers through a network of canals as well as drinking water for the provincial capital.
- **The Arghandab Dam is another name for the Dahla Dam.** It is situated in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, in the Shah Wali Kot District. It was constructed in **1952** and is located on the Arghandab River.

### 1.53 G7 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEET

- Recently, Foreign Ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) countries (USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan) held a meeting in **London, UK**.
- The **47th G7 Summit will be held in June 2021**. The UK is the host country.
- **Invited Guests:** Australia, India, South Korea, South Africa and the Chair (Brunei Darussalam) of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa will also join the G7 Summit in June.

#### About Group of Seven (G7):

- It is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in **1975**.
- The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy.

### 1.54 "VOLCANIC ERUPTION" OCCURS IN INDONESIA'S "MOUNT SINABUNG":

- **Indonesia's Mount Sinabung** has erupted releasing a massive column of volcanic ash and smoke up to 3,000 metres (3 km) into the sky.

#### About Mount Sinabung:

- Mount Sinabung is located in **North Sumatra in Indonesia**. It is among more than 130 active volcanoes in Indonesia. (Indonesia is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific's Ring of Fire).
- The volcano was dormant for 400 years before exploding in 2010. It exploded again in 2014 and 2016.

### 1.55 INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY: MAY 12

- Every year, the International Nurses Day is celebrated on **May 12**. The birth anniversary of **Florence Nightingale** is celebrated as the International Nurses Day. The day is celebrated to mark the contributions made by the nurses to the society.
- **Theme:** A VOICE TO LEAD A VISION FOR FUTURE HEALTHCARE

### 1.56 SHAVUOT

- Shavuot in Hebrew means **Weeks**. It took seven weeks of trekking through the desert to reach Mount Sinai. It is called the “Feast of Weeks”. It is a Jewish holiday that occurs in the Hebrew month of Sivan, that is, between May 15 and June 14.

#### About Shavuot

- According to the Bible, Shavuot marks the wheat harvest in the Land of Israel.
- Also, it commemorates the anniversary of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.
- It is one of the three pilgrimage festivals of Judaism.
- It is celebrated traditionally in the Land of Israel.

### 1.57 AL-AQSA MOSQUE & SHEIKH JARRAH: ISRAEL-PALESTINE

- Recently, Israeli armed forces attacked **Al-Aqsa Mosque** in the Haram esh-Sharif in Jerusalem, ahead of a march by Zionist nationalists commemorating Israel’s capture of the eastern half of the city in 1967.
- The threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah escalated the crisis further.

#### Al-Aqsa Mosque:

- It is one of the holiest structures in the Islamic faith. It sits inside a 35-acre site known by Muslims as Haram al-Sharif, or the Noble Sanctuary, and by Jews as the Temple Mount.
- The site is part of the Old City of Jerusalem, sacred to Christians, Jews and Muslims.
- It is believed to have been completed early in the 8th century and faces the Dome of the Rock, the golden-domed Islamic shrine that is a widely recognized symbol of Jerusalem.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, has classified the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls as a World Heritage Site.
- This way the programme provides employment opportunities as well.

### 1.58 UN GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK (UNGRSW) 2021:

- In 2021, the United Nations is celebrating its sixth United Nations Global Road Safety Week between 17th May, 2021 and 23rd May, 2021. This year, in 2021, the Global Road Safety Week is celebrated under the following theme:
- **Theme:** Streets for Life
- The tagline of the theme is **#Love30**



### 1.59 WORLD AIDS VACCINE DAY: MAY 18

- Every year, the World AIDS Vaccine Day is celebrated on May 18. The day is also called the HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Vaccine Awareness Day.
- **Theme:** Global Solidarity
- **About World AIDS Vaccine Day:** The day is commemorated to honour thousands of volunteers, health professionals, community leaders and scientists who work together to develop the AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) vaccine.
- **Why is AIDS Vaccine Day celebrated on May 18:** The concept of AIDS Vaccine was rooted by the then US President Bill Clinton in his speech at the Morgan State University on May 18, 1997.

### 1.60 BRICS

- Recently, India virtually hosted the **7th meeting of the BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG)** under the Science, Technology, and Innovation track of the BRICS 2021.
- The Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, and Department of Science and Technology (DST) coordinated the meeting.

#### About BRICS:

- BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- In 2001, the British Economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- The grouping was formalised during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers' in 2006.
- South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.
- India has assumed the BRICS Presidency from January 2021.

### 1.61 MOUNT NYIRAGONGO ERUPTS IN EASTERN DR CONGO

- The Government of Democratic Republic of Congo has launched an evacuation plan for "eastern city of Goma" after volcano Mount Nyiragongo erupted.
- **About Mount Nyiragongo:** It is one of the world's most active and dangerous volcanoes. It has an elevation of 3,470 m in Virunga Mountains which are associated with the Albertine Rift. Volcano is located inside Virunga National Park, in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### 1.62 ANA- FIRST NAMED ATLANTIC STORM OF 2021:

- According to the National Hurricane Centre, Miami, subtropical storm **Ana** is drifting northeast across the Atlantic Ocean after causing rain to Bermuda. Thus, the first named Atlantic storm will cause no damage to land and will dissipate soon.

### 1.63 UNION HEALTH MINISTER CHAIRS 74TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY:

- Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chairman of WHO Executive Board, **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, chaired the 74th World Health Assembly in virtual mode.

- **About World Health Assembly:** The World Health assembly is the key decision-making body of WHO. Assembly is attended by delegations from Member States of WHO. It focuses on a specific health agenda, prepared by the Executive Board. Primary functions of the assembly include- determining policies of Organization, appointing Director-General, supervising financial policies, and reviewing & approving proposed programme budget. The Health Assembly is held in Geneva, Switzerland annually.

#### 1.64 WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

- World No Tobacco Day is being observed on **May 31, 2021** under the theme “**Commit to quit**”. It is observed since 1987 after member states of World Health Organisation created “World No Tobacco Day”.
- Top Smoking countries: 10 countries with the largest number of tobacco smokers as of 2019 are- China, India, Indonesia, USA, Russia, Bangladesh, Japan, Turkey, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

### International Affairs: Practice MCQs

**QUESTION 1.** What was the theme of international Labour Day 2020?

- A. Maintaining safety and security at the workplace
- B. Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners
- C. Maintaining safety and security at the workplace
- D. Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement

**QUESTION 2.** India has recently conducted 2+2 Dialogue with which country?

- A. Japan
- B. Australia
- C. Russia
- D. USA

**QUESTION 3.** The Karen Rebels is a rebel group fighting for independent statehood in:-

- A. Myanmar
- B. Thailand
- C. Sudan
- D. Ireland

**QUESTION 4.** Roc, recently seen in news, is a:

- A. A new species of lichen.
- B. World’s largest aircraft
- C. A drone developed by DRDO
- D. An anti-tank missile procured by India from Israel.

**QUESTION 5.** When did the OPCW convention come into force?

- A. 1997
- B. 1998

C. 1999

D. 1996

**QUESTION 6.** Lag B'Omer is an annual festival of-

A. Mormons

B. Jews

C. Buddhists

D. Jains

**QUESTION 7.** World Hand Hygiene Day is organised by World Health Organization (WHO) every year on -

A. May 4th

B. May 5th

C. May 6th

D. May 7th

**QUESTION 8.** World Athletic Day is celebrated on -

A. May 6

B. May 7

C. May 8

D. May 9

**QUESTION 9.** World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated on May 8th. The theme for the year 2021 is-

A. Sing, fly, Soar – Like a Bird.

B. Fly High-Like A Bird.

C. Birds connect our world.

D. None of the above.

**QUESTION 10.** Which of the following statements about Thalassemia disease is incorrect?

A. It is a communicable disease.

B. Thalassemia patients have low hemoglobin producing ability.

C. Thalassemia Day is celebrated every year on May 8.

D. None of the above.

**QUESTION 11.** Dahla dam, recently seen in news, is situated in which country?

A. Ethiopia

B. Kenya

C. Pakistan

D. Afghanistan

**QUESTION 12.** TRIPS agreement, that encompasses Intellectual Property Rights, is enforced by-

A. World Bank.

B. International Monetary Fund.

C. World Intellectual Property Organization.

D. World Trade Organization.

**QUESTION 13.** Interpol's ID-Art app is aimed to:

A. promotes inter-agency coordination.

B. solves crimes with the help of artificial intelligence.

C. protects cultural property.

D. none of the above.

**QUESTION 14.** Which of the following is not a member of G7 grouping?

- A. USA
- B. Japan
- C. China
- D. Italy

**QUESTION 15.** At which part of Indonesia Mount Sinabung is located

- A. North Sumatra
- B. South Sumatra
- C. North java
- D. South java

**QUESTION 16.** What was the theme for International Nurses Day 2021 -

- A. Nursing in times of COVID
- B. A voice to lead a vision for future healthcare
- C. Nursing at the frontline
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 17.** Shavout is a major religious and harvest festival of:

- A. Sikhs
- B. Shia sect of Islam
- C. Jews
- D. Jains

**QUESTION 18.** Sheikh Jarrah, a place recently seen in news, is located in-

- A. Jerusalem, Palestine
- B. Juba, South Sudan
- C. Damascus, Syria
- D. Kabul, Afghanistan

**QUESTION 19.** World Agri-Tourism Day is celebrated every year on which day?

- A. May 16
- B. May 17
- C. June 16
- D. June 17

**QUESTION 20.** The theme for UN global Road Safety Week 2021 is -

- A. Safe roads Safer World
- B. Roads for life.
- C. Streets for life.
- D. None of the above.

**QUESTION 21.** International Tea Day is observed globally on May 21 since 2019. Earlier it was observed on-

- A. December 15
- B. November 15
- C. October 15
- D. December 16

**QUESTION 22.** Which member country is the current president of BRICS?

- A. Brazil
- B. Russia
- C. India
- D. China

**QUESTION 23.** Mt Nyiragongo, an active volcano, seen recently in news is located in-

- A. Indonesia
- B. Japan

C. Kenya

D. Democratic Republic of Congo

**QUESTION 24.** Ana, a storm seen recently in news, developed in-

A. Atlantic Ocean

B. Bay of Bengal

C. Arabian sea

D. South Pacific Ocean

**QUESTION 25.** World Health Assembly, a key decision making body of World Health Organisation, normally, is held every year in which city?

A. Geneva

B. Bonn

C. Paris

D. Rome

**QUESTION 26.** The Shu kingdom, whose sacrificial ruins have been discovered recently, was a major ancient kingdom in-

A. Thailand

B. China

C. Mongolia

D. Korea

**QUESTION 27.** World No Tobacco Day 2021, was celebrated on May 31, with the theme\_\_\_\_\_?

A. tobacco kills

B. give up on poison

C. I can quit

D. Commit to quit

**Answer Key:**

1. ANSWER: A

2. ANSWER: C

3. Answer A

4. ANSWER: B

5. ANSWER: A

6. ANSWER-B

7. ANSWER: B

8. ANSWER: B

9. ANSWER: A

10. ANSWER: A

11. ANSWER: D

12. ANSWER: D

13. ANSWER: C

14. ANSWER: C

15. ANSWER: A

16. ANSWER: B

17. ANSWER: C

18. ANSWER: A

19. ANSWER: A

20. ANSWER: C

21. ANSWER: A

22. ANSWER: C

23. ANSWER: D

24. ANSWER: A

25. ANSWER: A  
26. ANSWER: B  
27. ANSWER: D





### 1.65 “MACS 1407” – A NEW HIGH-YIELDING, PEST-RESISTANT SOYBEAN VARIETY

- Scientists from **MACS- Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) Pune** in collaboration with the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** have developed a variety of Soybean called **MACS 1407**.
- The **MACS-ARI** is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology.
- **MACS 1407** is a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean.
- **Cultivation:** It is suitable for cultivation in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern states.

### 1.66 CARNIVAC-COV

- Russia recently produced the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines for animals. The name of the vaccine is **Carnivac-Cov**. The World Health Organisation recently confirmed the possibility for transmission of viruses between humans and animals.
- It was produced by **Roselkhoznadzor**, a federal service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance in Russia.
- The Russian scientists believe that the use of the vaccine will help to prevent virus mutations.
- The results of the vaccine trials say that it has a good immunogenic effect.
- COVID-19 mainly spreads through human-to-human transmission. However, there is evidence of human to animal transmission. This is possible mainly because it is a zoonotic virus.

### 1.67 “VARIANTS OF CONCERN” (V O C):

- The **Variants of concern (VOC)** together with widespread relaxation of COVID-19 appropriate behaviour resulted in the 2nd wave of Covid-19 in India.
- The term variant of concern (VOC) is a category assigned to a newly emerged variant of a virus with an increased ability of transmission.

Properties of VOC: The VOC is characterized by three sinister properties:

- **Increased Transmission Efficiency:** In many countries, including India the VOC, by virtue of increased transmissibility, has started off a new wave(s) of epidemic transmission.
- **Virulence:** It is the ability to cause severe/life-threatening disease. The UK variant has the worst virulence. The South Africa and Brazil variants do not seem to have higher virulence.
- **Immune to antibodies** generated by previous vaccination or infection: Most vaccines were made using antigens made from the D614G variant. However, these vaccines show low efficacy on the South African, Brazil and UK variants. Hence, reinfection can occur in spite of immunity provided by earlier D614G infection or vaccination.

### SARS Cov-2 Variants:

- Alpha: B.1.1.7 (UK)
- Beta: B.1.351 (South Africa)
- Gamma: P.1 (Brazil)

- Detla: B.1.617.2 (India)

Note: The original pandemic virus (founder variant) was **Wu.Hu.1 (Wuhan virus)**. In a few months, variant **D614G** emerged and became globally dominant.

### 1.68 PROJECT PYRASOL

- **CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai** has inaugurated the Integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot project. These projects focus on urban waste management. The project is also part of the Indo-German project 'Pyrasol'.

#### About Project Pyrasol:

- Project Pyrasol is a part of **the Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC) flagship programme 2+2 Project.**
- **Aim:** To transform urban organic waste into biochar (charcoal produced by pyrolysis) and energy in smart cities. Pyrolysis is a process of chemically decomposing organic materials at elevated temperatures in the absence of oxygen. The process typically occurs at temperatures above 430 °C (800 °F) and under pressure. It simultaneously involves the change of physical phase and chemical composition of organic material. Pyrolysis is an irreversible process.
- **Awarded to:** The project was awarded to CSIR-CLRI by the Indo-German Science & Technology Centre.
- **Significance:** The project will lead to technology development for the joint processing of Fibrous Organic Waste (FOW) and Sewage Sludge (SS) of Indian smart cities. These FOW and SS will get converted into hygienic and highly valuable biochar. Apart from that, the joint processing will also perform associated energy recovery, carbon sequestration and environmental improvement.

### 1.69 MAYFLOWER 400: FIRST ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SHIP

- **Mayflower 400** is the world's first Artificial Intelligence ship.
- It is **15m long and weighs 9 tonnes**. It is basically a trimaran that navigates with complete autonomy. The ship is covered with solar panels.
- The ship is to study marine pollution and analyze plastics in water. The voyage is important because more than 80% of the underwater world remains unexplored.
- It has been taught on how to avoid collisions. Thus, the ship can correct itself. It has been trained with hundreds of hours of audio data. The training will help the ship to detect the presence of marine animals and thereby provide information about the population distribution of these animals in the ocean.
- Sophisticated cameras and radars will act as the eyes and ears of the ship. There are six cameras on the ship.
- The research team is to monitor the ship twenty-four hours from England.
- It is capable of self-activating a hydrophone that can listen to whales.
- After the launch, Mayflower will become the first unmanned vehicle to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

### 1.70 PARKER SOLAR PROBE: DETECTED RADIO SIGNAL FROM VENUS

- The NASA Spacecraft **Parker Solar Probe** has discovered a natural radio signal from **Venus**. These signals were detected when the space probe flew over the upper atmosphere of Venus.

#### Parker Solar Probe

- It was launched in **2018** to study the outer corona of the sun. It is to reach 9.86 solar radii, that is, 6.9 million kilometers from the centre of the sun by 2025.

### 1.71 MILLISECOND PULSARS DISCOVERED

- A group of astronomers has discovered 8 millisecond pulsars located within dense clusters of stars, known as “**globular clusters**,” using **South Africa’s MeerKAT radio telescope**.
- **Millisecond pulsars** are neutron stars, the most compact star known, that spin up to 700 times per second.
- **Millisecond pulsars** are extremely compact stars mainly made up of neutrons and are amongst the most extreme objects in the universe.

### 1.72 NASA’S “CREW-2 MISSION” LAUNCHED:

- US launched **4 astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS)** as part of collaboration between **NASA and SpaceX** under the Commercial Crew Program. The mission is **called Crew-2 Mission**.
- **Crew-2 Mission** is the second crew rotation of the SpaceX Crew Dragon and the first with international partners.
- The mission carried four astronauts to ISS. Among them, two are from NASA and two are from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the European Space Agency (ESA).
- The central focus of the mission will be to continue research on a series of Tissue Chips in Space studies.
- Tissue Chips are small models of human organs that contain multiple cell types that behave similarly to the human body organs.
- According to NASA, these chips can potentially speed up the process of identifying safe and effective drugs and vaccines.
- Scientists can use these tissue chips in space to study diseases that affect specific human organs, which would take months or years to develop on Earth.

### 1.73 COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) SCAN

- **CT scans** have been in the news since some Covid positive patients with mild to moderate Covid symptoms, as well as those with negative RT-PCR results who have Covid symptoms, have requested the test.
- CTS are also known as **Computed Tomography Scan**.
- It's a non-invasive medical imaging procedure used in radiology to obtain accurate images of the body for diagnosis.
- CT scanners calculate X-ray attenuation by various tissues within the body using a revolving x-ray tube and a row of detectors in the gantry.

- The tomographic (cross-sectional) images (virtual "slices") of a body are created using multiple X-ray measurements taken from various angles, which are then processed on a computer using reconstruction algorithms.
- Because of the negative effects of ionizing radiation, its use is often limited.

#### 1.74 "TIANHE" – CHINESE SPACE STATION CORE MODULE:

- China has launched the main module of its first permanent space station named **Tianhe**, or the "Heavenly Harmony" module.
- Tianhe is the core module of China's permanent space station. Tiangong Space Station is its name.
- The module was launched into space aboard a Long March 5B rocket from the Wenchang Launch Center in China.

About Tiangong Space Station:

- It is a planned Chinese Permanent space station to be placed in Low Earth orbit.
- The Space Station roughly will have one-fifth the mass of the International Space Station. Also, it will be the size of the decommissioned Russian Mir space station.
- The operations of the station will be controlled by the Beijing Aerospace Command and Control Center in China.

#### 1.75 VINCOV-19

- The CSIR Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology has developed **VINCOV-19**, which may be the first specific drug for the treatment of COVID-19, which contains therapeutic antibodies.
- The VINCOV-19 is a series of antibodies collected from horses after they were given inactivated Coronavirus injections.
- It works better when given early in the infection.

#### 1.76 2DG- DRDO'S ANTI-COVID DRUG

- The Drugs Controller General of India recently approved an oral drug to treat COVID-19 called the **2-DG**.
- The 2-DG was developed by the **Defense Research Development Organization** for Emergency Use.
- 2-DG is **2-Deoxy – D – Glucose**.
- It was developed in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories.
- The drug ensures faster recovery of hospitalised patients and will reduce supplemental oxygen dependence during clinical trials.

#### 1.77 MUCORMYCOSIS

- A number of Covid-19 patients are developing a serious fungal infection known as **Mucormycosis also called black fungus**.
- It is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes, which is abundant in the environment.

- It mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness.
- **Transmission:** It occurs through inhalation, inoculation, or ingestion of spores from the environment.
- **Mucormycosis does not** spread between people or between people and animals.

#### 1.78 NASA'S "OSIRIS-REX MISSION" TO BEGIN RETURN FROM "ASTEROID BENNU":

- **NASA's OSIRIS-REx Mission** will depart from asteroid **Bennu** and start its two-year-long journey back to Earth.

OSIRIS-REx Mission:

- OSIRIS-REx stands for **Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer**.
- The mission was launched in **2016**. It was the first U.S. mission to successfully collect a sample from an asteroid.
- **Aim:** To travel to a near-Earth asteroid named Bennu and bring a small sample back to Earth for study.
- **Asteroid Bennu:** Asteroid Bennu is named after an Egyptian deity. It is as tall as the Empire State Building. It is located about 200 million miles away from the Earth. The asteroid was discovered by a team from the NASA-funded Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research team in 1999.

#### 1.79 SPACEX: "DOGE-1 MISSION TO THE MOON":

- SpaceX is to launch **DOGE-1**, a satellite that is completely funded with crypto currency. Days earlier Musk did mention DOGE crypto currencies in a TV show he was hosting.

About DOGE-1

- It is the first ever commercial payload to be paid with Dogecoin.
- The satellite weighs 40 kilograms.
- The satellite is to be launched in 2022.
- The DOGE-1 is a payload of Geometric Energy Corporation. The company is to obtain lunar spatial intelligence from cameras and sensors with integrated computational and communication systems.
- DOGE-1 is to be launched in Falcon 9.

#### 1.80 AMPHOTERICIN B

- **A severe shortage of amphotericin, an anti-fungal injection**, and other anti-fungal drugs used to treat mucormycosis is causing patients further problems. Mucormycosis is a life-threatening infection that occurs in around 30% of diabetics after Covid-19.
- The injection of **Amphotericin B** is used to treat severe and potentially fatal fungal infections.
- It belongs to the antifungal drug class.
- It functions by inhibiting the growth of infection-causing fungi.
- It's usually injected into a vein.

- Amphotericin B was isolated from *Streptomyces nodosus* in 1955, and it was first used in medicine in 1958.

#### 1.81 FIRST PRIVATE ASTRONAUT MISSION- Ax-1

- NASA recently signed an agreement with Axiom space.
- Under the agreement, **Axiom** is to send its astronauts to the International Space Station. This is the first private astronaut mission to the space station. The mission has been named as **Ax-1**.
- The Axiom astronauts will spend eight days in the space station. They will conduct activities to coordinate with the space station on the ground. This is like a testing or learning project. Also, Axiom will purchase crew supplies, orbit resources, cargo delivery to space and storage from NASA.

#### 1.82 AFRICAN SWINE FEVER:

- The African swine fever has struck **Meghalaya**. Earlier, it had struck **Mizoram**.

##### About African swine fever

- It was first detected in Africa in the **1920s**.
- There is no cure to the disease and thus the only way to stop the disease from spreading is by culling the animals.
- It is not a threat to human beings. This is because the disease spreads from animal to animal.

#### 1.83 NOTIFIED DISEASES:

- The **Black Fungus disease** has been declared as notified disease in Haryana. This means that the Government Authorities have to be informed about each case of Black Fungus Disease.
- Notified diseases are also called Notifiable diseases. It is any disease whose occurrence has to be reported to the Government by law.
- WHO on Notifiable Diseases: The WHO International Health Regulations, 1969 has made disease reporting mandatory. This will help WHO in its global surveillance and advisory role. Currently the list is limited only to three main disease namely yellow fever, cholera and plague. And of course COVID-19.

#### 1.84 SIMORGH SUPERCOMPUTER:

- Iran recently launched its supercomputer called **Simorgh**. This supercomputer is hundred times more powerful than the previous Iranian supercomputers.
- The Supercomputer has been named after the phoenix-like bird called the Simurgh.
- The Simorgh Supercomputer was developed by the Amirkabir University of Technology in Tehran, the capital of Iran.
- It is located at the Iranian High Performance Computing Research Centre.
- The performance capacity of the simorgh Supercomputer is 0.56 petaflops. It is to reach 1 petaflops in two months. In its subsequent levels it is to reach a speed of 10 petaflops.
- It comprises 42 racks in an area of 250 square metres. In future this is to be upgraded to 400 square metres.



### 1.85 DIPCOVAN

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation** have developed an antibody detection kit for the early screening of COVID-19.
- The Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences, a lab of DRDO, in association with Delhi based firm Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd, has developed DIPCOVAN, the DIPS-VDx COVID 19 IgG Antibody Microwell ELISA for sero surveillance.

About:

- The kit can detect the spike as well as the nucleocapsid (S and N) proteins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with a high sensitivity of 97% and specificity of 99%.
- DIPCOVAN aims for the qualitative detection of IgG antibodies in human serum or plasma, targeting the SARS-CoV-2 related antigens.

### 1.86 WHITE FUNGUS:

- New Cases of **White Fungus** from Covid-19 patients have been reported in states such as Bihar and others.
- White Fungus is also known as **Candidiasis**. It is a type of fungal infection caused by a yeast (a type of fungus) called Candida.
- Candida normally lives on the skin and inside the body in places such as the mouth, throat, gut without causing any problems.
- However, candida can cause infections if it grows out of control or if it enters deep into the body (for example, the bloodstream or internal organs like the kidney, heart, or brain).
- **Symptoms:** Symptoms of white fungus vary depending on the area affected. Most infections result in minimal complications such as redness, itching, and discomfort. However, complications may be severe or even fatal if left untreated in certain populations.
- COVID-19 patients on oxygen support can inhale these fungal spores if their ventilators and oxygen support equipment is not sanitised properly.

### 1.87 VIPER ROVER:

- Recently, **US space agency NASA** has announced plans to send its first mobile robot to the Moon in 2023. Mobile robot will search for ice and other resources on and below the surface of the moon. This mission is an example showing “robotic science mission” and “human exploration” go hand in hand.

### 1.88 INTERNET EXPLORER TO RETIRE IN JUNE 2022:

- Microsoft recently announced that the Internet Explorer 11 desktop browser will be retired on June 15, 2022, for some versions of Windows 10. However, Internet Explorer-based websites and applications will continue to work on new Microsoft Edge (Internet Explorer) mode till 2029.

### 1.89 ASPERGILLOSIS FUNGAL INFECTION

- Amid the country's battle against covid-19 pandemic and increasing cases of mucormycosis, Doctors in Ghaziabad, Mumbai and Gujarat have reported cases of new disease called 'aspergillosis'.
- Aspergillosis is a fungal infection, fungal growth or allergic reaction caused due to Aspergillus fungus. The fungus is found indoors as well as outdoors. It lives on decaying vegetation or dead leaves. This fungal infection is not as deadly as black fungus but it can turn fatal too.

### 1.90 YELLOW FUNGUS

- After black and white fungus, the recent case of yellow fungus has become a cause for concern.
- Yellow fungus, also called **mucor septic**, initially develops by the presence of moulds (a type of fungi) in the environment.
- It may be present with unnecessary fatigue, rashes, burning sensation on skin etc.
- Humidity levels below 30-40% can promote the growth of fungus.
- It may not start from the lungs but it invades internal organs of the body and affects the entire functioning.

### 1.91 OPERATION SAMUDRASETU II

- The Indian Navy recently launched **Operation SamudraSetu II**. The operation will aid in fulfilling oxygen requirements of the country.
- Under the operation, warships have been deployed to carry liquid oxygen filled cryogenic containers.
- Two ships **INS Talwar and INS Kolkata** have been diverted for this operation.
- **INS Airavat** is to enter Singapore to embark liquid oxygen tanks.
- **INS Jalashwa** will also be diverted to the mission.
- The other ships deployed in **Trikand, Kochi and Tabar** will also be diverted to join the national effort.
- The **INS Shardul** from the Southern Naval Command has been readied to join the operation.

### 1.92 "PYTHON-5" AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE:

- Indigenously developed **Tejas Aircraft** has been cleared to carry fifth-generation **Python-5 air-to-air missile** as part of its weapons package.
- **Python-5** is a fifth-generation air-to-air missile (AAM) manufactured by Israeli Rafael Advanced Defence Systems.
- The Python-5 Missile was first used in the 2006 Lebanon war. During the war, it destroyed two Iran-made UAVs.

### 1.93 DDOS ATTACK

- The **Belgian Government** sites were recently knocked offline due to a DDoS attack. Several government sites and Internet Service Providers of the public sector of the country were hit hard by DDoS.
- **DDoS is Distributed Denial of Service**. It is a cyber threat that seeks to disrupt the normal traffic of a targeted server. This is done by controlling a network of malware infected devices.

- This is like an unexpected traffic jam arriving at a destination.

#### 1.94 IRON DOME OF ISRAEL

- On May 11, 2021, a video showing rockets fired by Hamas in Gaza targeting Israel can be seen being intercepted or blocked by the Israeli Iron Dome Air defence system. To the viewer, it appears that the rockets were hitting an invisible shield.

What is Iron Dome?

- It is an air defence system.
- It neutralizes any missiles or rockets.
- It is a short-range ground air-to-air defence system.
- It is used to counter rockets, mortars, aircraft, helicopters, mortars artillery and unmanned vehicles.

#### 1.95 INS RAJPUT

- The first destroyer of the Indian Navy, INS Rajput, will be decommissioned on May 21. It was commissioned on 04 May 1980. After rendering service for 41 years, it will be decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard of Visakhapatnam.
- INS Rajput was built by Russia in the 61 Communards Shipyard. Its Original Russian name was 'Nadezhny'.
- INS Rajput served for both Western and Eastern Fleets and its first commanding officer was Capt GulabMohanlalHiranandani. It is the 1st Indian Naval Ship to be associated with an Indian Army regiment – the Rajput Regiment. It participated in many operations including Operation Aman, Operation Pawan, Operation Cactus, etc.

#### 1.96 DEFENCE MINISTER LAUNCHES SEHAT OPD PORTAL:

- Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, has launched 'Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD Portal.

About SeHAT Portal:

- Portal has been launched to provide telemedicine services in Armed Forces, further strengthening the commitment of governments towards e-governance and digital India. Through this OPD, serving defence personnel from Army, Air force, Navy and ex- service personnel can get teleconsultations from specialists' doctors in Armed forces. OPD will provide benefits to around four crore people and family members of defence personnel.

#### 1.97 NSA COMMISSIONED VESSEL SAJAG

- National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval, has commissioned Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel **Sajag**. It was a nation dedicated to safeguard maritime interests.
- Offshore Patrol Vessel, Sajag has been constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited, which was commended by NSA for indigenously developing ships for Maritime Armed forces with state-of-the-art machinery, latest technology sensors and equipment.

## Practice MCQs:

**QUESTION 1.** -MACS 1407, recently seen in news, is a

- A. High-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean.
- B. Closest planet discovered to the Milky Way galaxy.
- C. World's fastest computer developed by Apple.
- D. New missile developed by DRDO indigenously.

**QUESTION 2.** Carnivac-Cov, the first Covid vaccine for animals is produced by-

- A. USA
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. Denmark

**Question 3:** The term "Variant of Concern", seen often in news, is used for:

- A) Climate change
- B) Forest Fire
- C) COVID 2019
- D) H1N1

**Question 4:** CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai has inaugurated the Integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot project. India has partnered with which country?

- A. AUSTRALIA
- B. GERMANY

C. CHINA

D. USA

**QUESTION 5:** With respect to space exploration, POX 186 recently seen in the news is?

- A) Largest body in kuiper belt
- B) Newly discovered moon of Neptune
- C) Quantum satellite launched by Israel
- D) First blow away galaxy to be discovered

**QUESTION 6:** Mayflower 400, seen recently in news, is -

- A) A new species of orchid flower.
- B) Largest horticulture festival held in Amsterdam every April.
- C) New launch vehicle launched by SpaceX.
- D) World's first artificial intelligence ship.

**QUESTION 7:** Parker solar probe, launched by NASA in 2018, aims to reach \_\_\_\_\_ kilometres from the centre of the sun to study the outer corona of the sun.

- A) 6.9 million
- B) 7.9 million
- C) 6.5 million
- D) 7.5 million

**QUESTION 8:** The MeerKAT telescope which was used recently in the discovery of millisecond pulsars is located in -

- A) Chile
- B) South Africa

C) India

D) USA

**QUESTION 9:** NASA's "Crew-2 Mission" has been launched with the collaboration of which space agency

A. ISRO

B. Jaxa

C. ESA

D. Space x

**QUESTION 10:** The Computed Tomography scan or CT scan uses \_\_\_\_\_ to obtain accurate images of the body for diagnosis.

A. light rays.

B. Beta radiation.

C. Gamma rays.

D. X-rays

**QUESTION 11:** Recently Tianhe space station core module has been launched in space through which rocket:

A. ROCKET 1B

B. ROCKET 3B

C. ROCKET 5B

D. ROCKET 7B

**QUESTION 12:** VINCOV-19, which might be first potential specific drug for COVID-19, uses therapeutic antibodies derived from -

A. Bats

B. Horses

C. Cows

D. None of the above.

**QUESTION 13:** Which of the following statements about the Osteocytes, cells found in the human body, is incorrect?

A. Osteocytes are found in bone tissues.

B. Osteocyte cells do not divide.

C. Osteocytes are dendritic (tree) shaped, similar to nerve cells.

D. Osteocytes are the most abundant cells in bones.

**QUESTION 14:** 2DG, the oral drug recently approved by Drugs Controller General of India against COVID-19, was developed by -

A. Defence Research Development Organisation.

B. AIIMS, Delhi.

C. National Institute of Virology, Pune.

D. None of the above.

**QUESTION 15:** The headquarters of Arctic Council are at-

A. Stockholm, Sweden.

B. Ottawa, Canada.

C. Tromso, Norway.

D. Reykjavik, Iceland.

**QUESTION 16:** Mucormycosis, seen recently in news, is a \_\_\_\_\_ disease.

A. viral

B. fungal

C. bacterial

D. none of the above

**QUESTION 17:** NASA's OSIRIS-REx Mission has been launched in which year

- A.2015
- B.2016
- C.2017
- D.2021

**QUESTION 18:** Which Space Agency is planning to launch “DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon”:

- A. NASA
- B. ISRO
- C.JAXA
- D. SPACEX

**QUESTION 19:** Which famous Personality is suffering from Asperger’s Syndrome?

- A. Elon Musk
- B. Jeff Bezos
- C. Anil Ambani
- D. Mukesh Ambani

**QUESTION 20:** Amphotericin B, seen recently in news, is:

- A. a COVID vaccine developed by Bulgaria
- B. a recently discovered toxin released by Black Mamba snake
- C. an antifungal drug
- D. none of the above

**QUESTION 21:** Yaogan satellite recently seen in news, was launched by

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. Korea
- D. Mangolia

**QUESTION 22:** NASA signed an agreement recently to send the first private astronaut mission to space with which company?

- A. SpaceX
- B. Blue Origin
- C. Axiom Space
- D. Virgin Galactic

**QUESTION 23:** Voyager 1, seen recently in the news, was launched in ?

- A. 1977
- B. 1978
- C. 1976
- D. 1987

**QUESTION 24:** African swine fever is a \_\_\_\_\_ disease.

- A. Fungal
- B. Bacterial
- C. Viral
- D. Protozoan

**QUESTION 25:** What do you mean by Blood Moon?

- A. It is a total solar eclipse.
- B. It is a partial lunar eclipse with red glow
- C. It is a total lunar eclipse with a red glow.
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 26:** The Winchcombe Meteorite, seen recently in news, was recovered from which country?

- A. Luxembourg
- B. France



C. UK

D. Germany

**QUESTION 27:** JUICE or Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer is a spacecraft that will go on to study 3 Jupiter satellites- Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. This mission is undertaken by-

A. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

B. European space agency

C. Roscosmos

D. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

**QUESTION 28:** Which authority has the power to declare a disease as a notified disease?

A. State Government

B. Union Government

C. District Chief Medical Officer

D. Both A and B

**QUESTION 29:** Which country has recently launched the Simorgh supercomputer?

A. Israel

B. Saudi Arabia

C. Iran

D. Jordan

**QUESTION 30:** The primary objective 'Okeanos Explorer', seen recently in news is-

A. to explore and map the ocean floor.

B. to take the first drone flight in the Martian atmosphere.

C. to verify the new height of Mt. Everest.

D. None of the above.

**QUESTION 31:** SPOT or Scalable and Portable Testing, a newly invented test for COVID is a \_\_\_\_\_ based test.

A. Saliva

B. Blood

C. Sweat

D. None of the above

**QUESTION 32:** Which company is partnering to produce Johnson and Johnson vaccine in India?

A. Biological E

B. Serum Institute of India

C. Sun Pharma

D. Dr Reddy's

**QUESTION 33:** DIPCOVAN, an antibody detection kit for the early screening of COVID-19, has been developed by-

A. Serum Institute of India

B. Bharat Biotech

C. Defence Research and Development Organisation

D. AIIMS Bhubaneswar

**QUESTION 34:** Monkey fever is also known as Kyasanur Forest Disease. Kyasanur forest is situated in-

A. Andhra Pradesh

B. Telangana

C. Karnataka

D. Tamil Nadu

**QUESTION 35:** Another name for fungal infection, Candidiasis, seen recently in news is-

A. Yellow fungus

B. Black Fungus

C. White fungus

D. None of the above

**QUESTION 36:** Which space agency announced that it will send its first mobile robot, VIPER, on moon in 2023?

A. European Space Agency

B. Roscosmos

C. NASA

D. JAXA

**QUESTION 37:** Which of the following is not an internet browser?

A. Google Chrome

B. Microsoft edge

C. Mozilla Firefox

D. Apple Siri

**QUESTION 38:** The 22-degree Sun Halo, seen recently in Bengaluru, is produced by-

A. Altostratus clouds

B. Stratus clouds

C. Cumulonimbus clouds

D. Cirrus clouds

**QUESTION 39:** Starlink Project, a satellite internet program is undertaken by which private space company?

A. Sierra Nevada Corporation

B. Virgin Galactic

C. Blue Origins

D. Space X

**QUESTION 40:** 'NGC 691' seen recently in the news a?

A. spiral galaxy

B. a potential habitable planet, 50 light years away

C. meteor

D. asteroid

**QUESTION 41:** Aspergillosis, heard recently in news, is a \_\_\_\_\_ disease.

A. bacterial

B. viral

C. fungal

D. protozoan

**QUESTION 42:** Which of the following drugs is used against yellow fungus?

A. Imdevimab

B. Amphotericin B

C. Remdesivir

D. Dexamethasone

**QUESTION 43:** Operation SamudraSetu II is associated with:

A. bringing back stranded Indians abroad.

B. export of grains to famine hit countries of Indian Ocean region.

C. Aid in fulfilling the oxygen requirements of the country.

D. None of the above.

**QUESTION 44:** Python-5 Missile has been inducted in the weapon package of which Aircraft

- A. Rafael
- B. Tejas
- C. Mig21
- D. Mig 30

**QUESTION 45:** - What does the acronym DDoS stand for?

- A. Denied Distribution of Services.
- B. Distributed Denial of Software.
- C. Distributed Denial of Service.
- D. Deny Distribution of Services.

**QUESTION 46:** The air defence system Iron Dome, seen recently in news, was invented by-

- A. USA
- B. Israel
- C. Russia
- D. China

**QUESTION 47:** Cape Canaveral, often seen in news, is a famous cape in-

- A. Atlantic Ocean
- B. Pacific Ocean
- C. Indian Ocean
- D. Mediterranean Sea

**QUESTION 48:** The first destroyer of the Indian Navy, INS Rajput, decommissioned lately, was originally procured from which country?

- A. Russia
- B. USA

- C. Israel
- D. Germany

**QUESTION 49:** SeHAT portal, launched recently, aims to \_\_\_\_\_?

- A. provide telemedicine services in armed forces.
- B. promote Horticulture focussed agricultural technology.
- C. provide hearing aids to disabled.
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 50:** 'Steadfast Defender 21 war games' were organised by-

- A. NATO
- B. Quad
- C. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- D. BRICS

**QUESTION 51:** The Open Skies Treaty came into force in which year?

- A. 2001
- B. 2002
- C. 2004
- D. 2005

**QUESTION 52:** The newly commissioned naval vessel 'Sajag' is a \_\_\_\_\_?

- A. corvette
- B. stealth fighter
- C. frigate
- D. patrol Vehicle

ANSWER: D

**Answer Key:**

1. ANSWER: A
2. Answer: B
3. ANSWER: C
4. ANSWER: B
5. ANSWER: D
6. ANSWER: D
7. ANSWER: A
8. ANSWER: B
9. ANSWER: D
10. ANSWER: D
11. ANSWER: C
12. ANSWER: B
13. ANSWER: C
14. ANSWER: A
15. ANSWER: C
16. ANSWER: B
17. ANSWER: B
18. ANSWER: D
19. ANSWER: A
20. ANSWER: C
21. ANSWER: A
22. ANSWER: C
23. ANSWER: A
24. ANSWER: C
25. ANSWER: C
26. ANSWER: C
27. ANSWER: B
28. ANSWER: A
29. ANSWER: C
30. ANSWER: A
31. ANSWER: A
32. ANSWER: A
33. ANSWER: C
34. ANSWER: C
35. ANSWER: C
36. ANSWER: C
37. ANSWER: D
38. ANSWER: D
39. ANSWER: D
40. ANSWER: A
41. ANSWER: C
42. ANSWER: B
43. ANSWER: C
44. ANSWER: B
45. ANSWER: C
46. ANSWER: B
47. ANSWER: A
48. ANSWER: A
49. ANSWER: A
50. ANSWER: A
51. ANSWER: B
52. ANSWER: D

## Appointments

### 1.98 MARTHA KOOME

- **Martha Karambu Koome** is Kenya's first woman chief justice. She is the first woman to head any of the three branches of government.
- **Koome**, 61, a calm but staunch women's rights crusader, takes over the judiciary ahead of next year's general elections and would likely play a decisive role in adjudicating any eventual election disputes.

### 1.99 GUILLERMO LASSO

- **Guillermo Lasso, a conservative, assumed presidency of Ecuador** on May 24, 2021 and has become first right-wing leader in 14 years in Ecuador.
- He is a banker, businessman, writer and politician who recently became 47th president of Ecuador. He is the first center-right president in two decades.

### 1.100 BASHAR AL-ASSAD

- **Bashar al-Assad** was re-elected as President for a fourth term in war-ravaged Syria, amid accusations that polls were "neither free nor fair".
- He is a Syrian politician, who is the 19th president of Syria since 2000, succeeding his father who served from 1971 to 2000. He also served as commander-in-chief of Syrian Armed Forces and regional secretary of Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party in Syria. He started to work as a doctor in Syrian Army.

### 1.101 AASHRITHA V OLETY:

- **Aashritha V Olety** is India's 1st woman flight test engineer.
- Squadron Leader, Aashritha V Olety is the first and only woman in the IAF qualified for the role, and as a flight test engineer, she will be responsible for evaluating aircraft and airborne systems before their induction into the armed forces.
- Aashritha V Olety, a native of Karnataka, has graduated as part of the 43rd Flight Test Course.

### 1.102 UJJWALA SINGHANIA-38TH NATIONAL PRESIDENT FICCI FLO

- **Ujjwala Singhania** takes over as 38th National President FICCI FLO
- Ujjwala Singhania has been appointed as the National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO), the oldest women-led & women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia.
- As the 38th National President of FLO, Singhania will focus on empowering women by facilitating an enabling environment that promotes entrepreneurship, industry participation and economic development of women.
- Under her leadership, FLO will carry out many interventions towards fostering larger contributions of women in India's Industrial and economic growth story.

### 1.103 SUBODH KUMAR JAISWAL

- **Senior IPS officer Subodh Kumar Jaiswal** was appointed on May 25, 2021, as the new CBI director for two years, as per the personnel ministry order.
- **Selection**-Subodh Kumar Jaiswal was picked by the government from a panel of three officers who were shortlisted by the PM Modi-led high-level selection committee consisting of the leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.

### 1.104 JAGJIT PAVADIA

- **Jagjit Pavadia**, the former Narcotics Commissioner of India and a retired officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs), has been elected president of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).
- She is the first Indian to be heading the Vienna-based organization and the second woman to hold this office.

### Practice MCQs

QUESTION 1: Martha Karambu Koome has become first woman chief justice of which country?

- A. South Africa
- B. Kenya
- C. Chad
- D. Nigeria

QUESTION 2: Guillermo Lasso has been recently elected as the President of-

- A. Argentina
- B. Bolivia
- C. Kenya
- D. Ecuador

QUESTION 3: Which of the following countries does not border Syria?

- A. Iraq
- B. Lebanon
- C. Turkey
- D. Iran

QUESTION 4: Who recently became India's 1st woman flight test engineer?

- A. Aashritha V Olety
- B. Bhavana Kanth
- C. Avani Chaturvedi
- D. Mohana Singh

QUESTION 5: Who has been appointed as the 38th national president of FICCI Ladies Organisation?

- A. Ujjwala Singhania
- B. Roshni Nadar
- C. Aditi Gupta
- D. Vandna Luthra

QUESTION 6: Pinarayi Vijayan was recently sworn as Kerala Chief Minister for the \_\_\_\_\_ time?

- A. second
- B. first
- C. Third



D. fourth

QUESTION 7: Who has been appointed as CBI Director recently?

A. Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

B. Kumar Rajesh Chandra

C. V.S.K. Kaumudi

D. None of the above

QUESTION 8: Who has been recently elected as the president of the International Narcotics Control Board?

A. Tsang Yin-Hung

B. Rakesh Asthana

C. Jagjit Pavadia

D. None of the above

**Answer:**

1. ANSWER: B

2. ANSWER: D

3. ANSWER: D

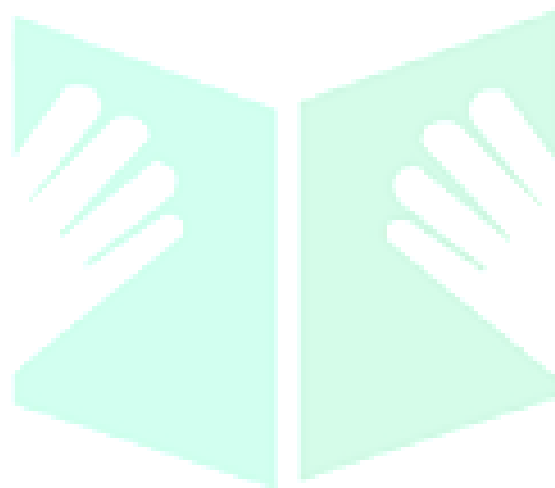
4. ANSWER: A

5. ANSWER: A

6. ANSWER: A

7. ANSWER: A

8. ANSWER: C



CivilsTap Hlmachal

### 1.105 GLOLITTER PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT

- Around 30 Countries from across the oceans have joined the **GloLitter Partnerships Project** to tackle marine plastic litter.
- **The GloLitter Partnerships Project** was launched by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- The Government of Norway provided initial funding for the project.
- **Aim:** The project aims to help the maritime transport and fishing sectors to adapt to a low-plastic future. To achieve this goal, this initiative will assist developing countries to apply best practices for prevention, reduction, and control of marine plastic litter from those sectors.
- **Participating Countries:** 30 Countries will be participating in the project. India is one of the participating countries.

### 1.106 INDIAN ARMY'S FIRST GREEN SOLAR ENERGY HARNESSING PLANT IN SIKKIM

- The Indian Army recently launched the first Green Solar Energy harnessing plant in **Sikkim**.
- The plant uses Vanadium based battery technology.
- It was built at an altitude of **16,000 feet**.
- The capacity of the plant is **56 KVA**.
- It was completed in collaboration with **IIT Mumbai**.
- Vanadium is a silver colored, transitional metal which is a good conductor of heat and electricity.
- Vanadium is used in making steel alloys, space vehicles, nuclear reactors, etc. It is also used in making girders, piston rods. Vanadium redox batteries are used in superconducting magnets. They are also used to create reliable renewable sources of energy.

### 1.107 ASIATIC LIONS

- **Recently**, eight Asiatic lions at Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park have tested positive for the deadly coronavirus.
- The **Asiatic Lion (Indian Lion)** is a member of the **Panthera Leo Leo subspecies** that is restricted to India.
- At present **Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary (GUJARAT)** is the only abode of the Asiatic lion.

### 1.108 CICADAS

- **Cicadas** are the world's longest living insects. They are winged, red eyed insects that live underground feeding on the roots. They emerge from the underground once every 12-17 years.
- Recently, it has been predicted that a group of Cicadas called the "**Brood X Cicadas**" are to emerge across the mid-Atlantic for the first time since 2004.

### 1.109 ANAMALAI TIGER RESERVE:

- **Two Tribal settlements (Kattupatti and Kuzhipatti) of Pulayar community within the limits of Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu** are gearing up for their annual festival of local deity Vairapattan.
- Anamalai Tiger Reserve: It is one of the four Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu. It forms part of the Southern Western Ghats. It forms part of the Anamalai Parambikulam Elephant Reserve declared in 2003. It is surrounded by Parambikulam Tiger Reserve on the East, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary and Eravikulam National Park on the Southwestern side (all belong to Kerala).

### 1.110 'FOREST PONDS' TO HARVEST RAINWATER

- Forest ponds to harvest rainwater and check groundwater depletion are being constructed in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- Under the **ParvatDhara scheme**, the HP government has initiated rejuvenation of water sources and recharging aquifers through the forest department with an outlay of Rs 20 crore.
- The department spent Rs 2.76 crore in 2020-21 for the construction of 110 big and small ponds, 600 check dams and 12,000 contour trenches along with plantation to store water and recharge the aquifers.
- The work was started in 10 forest divisions that include Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Jogindernagar, Nachan, Parvati, Nurpur, Rajgarh, Nalagarh, Theog and Dalhousie.
- Under the scheme, the cleaning and maintenance of existing ponds have been done. Also, the construction of new ponds, contour trenches, dams, check dams and retaining walls to control the soil erosion has been done, a forest official told IANS.

### 1.111 'WHITE-BELLIED HERON' SPOTTED IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- The white-bellied heron was spotted at Walong in the Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh. This is the first time the white-bellied heron was sighted at a height of 1,200 meters above sea level in India.
- The White-bellied Heron is a rare and elusive bird. It is the second-largest living species of heron.
- **Habitat:** It is one of the rarest birds in the world. At present, it is found only in Bhutan, Myanmar and the Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh, India.
- **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered

### 1.112 'BLUE NATURE ALLIANCE'

- Blue Nature Alliance has been launched with a goal to restore 7 million square miles of ocean in five years.

About Blue Nature Alliance:

- Blue Nature Alliance is a global partnership. It was founded and led by Conservation International, Pew Charitable Trusts, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Minderoo Foundation and Rob & Melani Walton Foundation.
- Aim: To safeguard global ocean biodiversity, build resilience to climate change, promote human well-being and enhance ecosystem connectivity.

- Targets: The alliance has a target to:
- Conserve 18 million square kilometres of ocean in five years.
- Protect 5% of the world's ocean in five years.
- Help the world achieve 30% ocean conservation by 2030.
- Target Oceans: The Alliance has started by targeting seven ocean locations. This includes Antarctica, Fiji, Canada, Seychelles, Palau, the Western Indian Ocean and Tristan da Cunha, an island in the South Atlantic Ocean.
- The alliance will begin work by working with local communities and national leaders. It aims to establish new marine protected areas (MPAs) and improve the management of existing ones.

### 1.113 KAZIRANGA ANIMAL CORRIDOR

- There are cases of clearance of forest land, digging and construction activities on at least three animal corridors within the eco-sensitive zone of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- The Supreme Court of India in its 2019 order had said that "No new construction shall be permitted on private lands which form part of the nine identified animal corridors."

Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve:

- It is located in the State of Assam and covers 42,996 Hectare (ha).
- It is the single largest undisturbed and representative area in the Brahmaputra Valley floodplain.
- It was declared as a National Park in 1974.
- It has been declared a tiger reserve since 2007.
- It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.
- It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International.
- It is the home to the world's most one-horned rhinos.
- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary has the highest density of one-horned rhinos in the world and second highest number of Rhinos in Assam after Kaziranga National Park.
- National Highway 37 passes through the park area.

### 1.114 BEEMA BAMBOO

- With the aid of **Beema Bamboo, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in Coimbatore has developed an "oxygen park."**

About Beema Bamboo:

- Beema or Bheema Bamboo is an excellent clone, selected from Bambusabalcooa, which is a bamboo species with higher biomass. The bamboo clone has been developed through conventional breeding methods.
- This species is thought to be one of the fastest-growing plants on the planet. Under tropical conditions, it grows one and a half feet every day.
- It is said to be the best "carbon sink" for reducing CO2 emissions.

### 1.115 OCEAN REWILDING:

- Rewilding is restoring to its natural uncultivated state. This is done by introducing animal or plant species that have been exterminated (destroyed completely) or driven out in a region. Ocean rewilding is introducing plant and animal life in the oceans and allowing them to grow without human interference.
- Today the oceans have lost their capabilities to store blue carbon. Blue carbon is the term for carbon captured by the coastal systems and oceans. It is higher than that captured by the land. The annual carbon sequestration rate for mangrove forests is four times greater than that of a tropical forest!

### 1.116 WATER HYACINTH:

- Biodegradable “Moorhen Yoga Mat” developed from “Water Hyacinth.”
- Water hyacinth is a free-floating and flowering invasive aquatic plant that originated from Amazon Basin, South America.

### 1.117 ASIAN GRACILE SKINK:

- A new species of an Asian gracile skink has been discovered recently at Anaikatti hills, Coimbatore.
- The New Species of Asian Gracile Skink has been named *Subdolusepsnilgiriensis* after Nilgiris. The species is closely related to *Subdolusepspruthi* found in parts of the Eastern Ghats.
- Features: The species has a slender body of just about 7 cm. It is sandy brown in colour. The unnoticeable limbs of skinks make them resemble snakes.
- Protection Status: *Subdolusepsnilgiriensis* is currently considered a vulnerable species.
- Significance: This species is only the third skink species discovered from mainland India in the last millennium.

### 1.118 A-76: WORLD'S LARGEST ICEBERG BREAKS OFF OF ANTARCTICA

- An Iceberg recently break off from the continent of Antarctica. This iceberg is now the largest iceberg in the world. It has been named as A-76.
- This Iceberg is 170 kilometres long and 25 kilometres wide. The iceberg was spotted by a European Space Agency satellite called Copernicus Sentinel. It is a two-satellite constellation that orbits the earth's poles.

### 1.119 WORLD BEE DAY

- The United Nations has designated **May 20 as "World Bee Day."**
- **Theme of the year 2020- Bee engaged:** Build Back Better for Bees.
- Bee day is celebrated to create awareness of the importance of pollinators and the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development.
- The main aim is to strengthen measures aimed at protecting bees and other pollinators, which will greatly help solve problems related to global food supply and eliminate hunger in developing countries.

### 1.120 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY:

- The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) (International Biodiversity day) is observed on **22nd May every year**.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1993 proclaimed 22nd May as IDB to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- The UNGA also declared the period 2011-2020 as the United Nations (UN) Decade on Biodiversity to promote the implementation of a strategic plan on biodiversity and its overall vision of living in harmony with nature.
- It also declared 2021-2030 as the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- **2021 Theme:** This year's theme is "We're part of the solution" which is a continuation of 2020 theme- Our solutions are in nature. This serves as a reminder that biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges.

### 1.121 WORLD TURTLE DAY 2021:

- World Turtle Day was celebrated on **May 23, 2021**. It is observed to raise awareness among people about turtles & tortoises and their habitats. Celebration of the day has been sponsored by a non-profit organisation "American Tortoise Rescue (ATR)" since 2000.
- **Theme for 2021 is-** 'Turtle Rocks!'

### 1.122 COP 28:

- Recently, the United Arab Emirates announced an offer to host the 28th session of Conference of Parties (COP 28) to the UNFCCC in Abu Dhabi in 2023.
- COP 26 was postponed in 2020 and will take place in Glasgow, UK in November 2021.

#### About UNFCCC:

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), signed in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development also known as the Earth Summit, the Rio Summit or the Rio Conference.
- India is among the select few countries to have hosted the COP of all three Rio conventions on climate change (UNFCCC), biodiversity (Convention on Biological Diversity) and land (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification).
- The UNFCCC entered into force on 21st March 1994, and has been ratified by 197 countries.
- It is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement. It is also the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.
- The UNFCCC secretariat (UN Climate Change) is the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change. It is located in Bonn, Germany.
- **Objective:**
- To achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous repercussions within a time frame so as to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally and enable sustainable development



### 1.123 BANNI GRASSLAND:

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered all encroachments to be removed from Gujarat's Banni grasslands within six months.
- Banni is the largest grassland of Asia situated near the Great Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.
- It is spread over 2,618 kilometres and accounts for almost 45% of the pastures in Gujarat.

### 1.124 ENDANGERED AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT DISCOVERED IN MIZORAM

- A new species of plant, called African violet, was discovered by Indian Institute of Science education and research (IISER), Bhopal.
- African violet is found in parts of Mizoram and adjoining areas in Myanmar.
- Discovery was done under Tropical Ecology and Evolution Lab, a unit of IISER. This species is found in only three locations currently in Mizoram.
- They are considered an endangered species.

### 1.125 JAYANTI: NEW SPECIES OF CRICKET

- Recently, a new species of Cricket named 'Indimimus jayanti' was found in the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh.
- The new species was named after Professor Jayant Biswas, one of the leading cave explorers in the country.

### Practice MCQs:

QUESTION 1: GloLitter Partnerships Project was launched by-

- a) International Maritime Organization and food and agriculture organization
- b) World Bank and International Maritime Organization
- c) Food and agriculture organization and United nations
- d) United nations and International Maritime Organization

QUESTION 2: In which state Indian Army's first green solar energy harnessing plant was launched:

- A) Assam

B) Andhra Pradesh

C) Sikkim

D) Himachal Pradesh

QUESTION 3: Crocidura Norcondamica a recently found species in Narcondam Island of the Andaman and Nicobar Archipelago belongs to which species?

A) Sea Grass

B) Shrews

C) Corals

D) Non venomous water snake

QUESTION 4: Gir national park and wildlife sanctuary, often seen in news, is famous for which species?

- A) Bengal tiger
- B) Asiatic lion
- C) Dhole
- D) Gharial

QUESTION 5: Xylophis Deepaki, a snake has been named after which famous herpetologist?

- A) Deepak Garg
- B) Deepak Sharma
- C) Deepak Annapurna
- D) Deepak Veerappan

QUESTION 6: Brood X, seen recently in news, is a -

- A) Species of cicadas, the longest living insects.
- B) Species of luminescent butterflies.
- C) Newly developed rocket launcher by DRDO.
- D) Anti-tank missile procured by India.

QUESTION 7: In which state Anamalai tiger reserve is situated:

- A. Kerala
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Karnataka

QUESTION 8: - Which of the following countries does not border Caspian Sea?

- A. Russia
- B. Iran

- C. Armenia
- D. Turkmenistan

QUESTION 9: - Which state has initiated the building of forest ponds to ensure rainwater harvesting and check groundwater depletion?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Sikkim
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

QUESTION 10: - White-Bellied Heron, seen recently in news, is categorized by IUCN as-

- A. Vulnerable species.
- B. endangered species.
- C. critically endangered species.
- D. 'extinct in wild' species.

QUESTION 11: - Which of the following is not the target oceans locations under the Blue Nature Alliance-

- A. Antarctica
- B. Arctic
- C. Canada
- D. Fiji

QUESTION 12: - Which one of the following statements about Kaziranga National Park is not correct?

- A. It is located in the State of Assam.
- B. It covers 42,996 Hectare.
- C. It is the largest national park in India.
- D. It is home to the largest population of one-horned rhinos in the world.

QUESTION 13: - Chinese Pangolin, seen recently in news, is categorized by IUCN as

- A. Vulnerable species.
- B. endangered species.
- C. critically endangered species.
- D. 'extinct in wild' species.

QUESTION 14: Beema Bamboo Oxygen Park has been developed in which city?

- A. Delhi
- B. Thiruvananthapuram
- C. Coimbatore
- D. Kochi

QUESTION 15: The UN Climate Change Conference COP26 will be held in-

- A. Glasgow
- B. Dublin
- C. London
- D. Beijing

QUESTION 16: Which of the following is known as 'Bengal Terror'?

- A. Royal Bengal Tiger
- B. Ferrel Cat
- C. Water hyacinth
- D. Monitor Lizard

QUESTION 17: A new species of skink called Asian Gracile skink has been discovered in -

- A. Khasi Hills
- B. Nilgiri Hills
- C. Mahadeo Hills

D. Great Nicobar island.

QUESTION 18: A new species of crickets, named 'Indimimus Jayanti' has been found in Kurra Caves located in \_\_\_\_\_?

- A. Telangana
- B. Odisha
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Chhattisgarh

QUESTION 19: Snow Leopard is categorised by IUCN as a/an-

- A. Vulnerable species.
- B. endangered species.
- C. critically endangered species.
- D. 'extinct in wild' species.

QUESTION 20: Sulawesi Island, considered home to oldest cave art, belongs to which country ?

- A. Brunei
- B. Thailand
- C. Vietnam
- D. Indonesia

QUESTION 21: A-76, the world's largest iceberg broke off recently from-

- A. Antartica
- B. Greenland
- C. Iceland
- D. Denmark coast.

QUESTION 22: The World Bee Day is celebrated on-

- A. May 17

B. May 18

C. May 19

D. May 20

QUESTION 23: International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated every year on -

A. May 21

B. May 22

C. May 23

D. May 24

QUESTION 24: What was the theme for World Turtle Day 2021, celebrated every year on May 23?

A. Turtles are cool

B. Turtle rocks

C. Turtles are awesome

D. None of the above

QUESTION 25: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat is located in-

A. Nairobi

B. Beijing

C. Bonn

D. Hague

QUESTION 26: Banni Grassland seen recently in news is found in-

A. Gujarat

B. Haryana

C. Rajasthan

D. Maharashtra

QUESTION 27: The 'Race to Zero' campaign aims to-

A. Ensure zero oil spills in the high seas.

B. Ensure zero carbon recovery.

C. Ensure zero covid deaths.

D. None of the above.

QUESTION 28: A new species of crickets, named 'Indimimus Jayanti' has been found in Kurra Caves located in \_\_\_\_\_?

A. Telangana

B. Odisha

C. Meghalaya

D. Chhattisgarh

**Answer Key:**

1. ANSWER: A

2. ANSWER: C

3. ANSWER: B

4. ANSWER: B

5. ANSWER: D

6. ANSWER: A

7. ANSWER: C

8. ANSWER: C

9. ANSWER: C

10. ANSWER: C

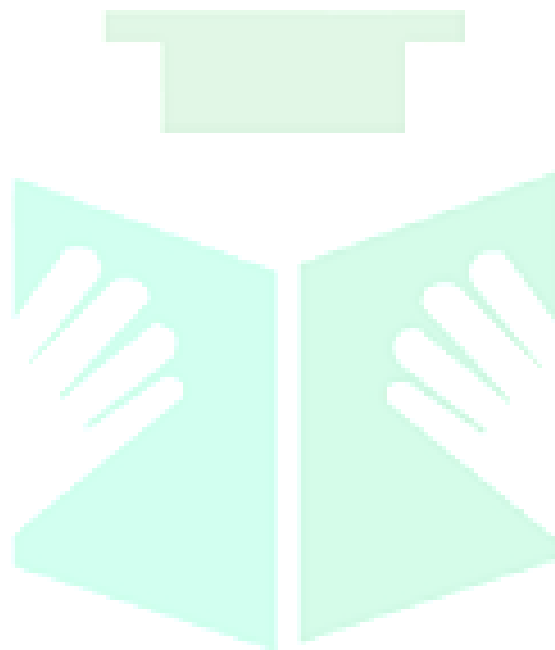
11. ANSWER: B

12. ANSWER: C

13. ANSWER: C

14. ANSWER: C

15. ANSWER: A
16. ANSWER: C
17. ANSWER: B
18. ANSWER: D
19. ANSWER: A
20. ANSWER: D
21. ANSWER: A
22. ANSWER: D
23. ANSWER: B
24. ANSWER: B
25. ANSWER: C
26. ANSWER: A
27. ANSWER: B
28. ANSWER: D



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## Reports

### 1.126 GLOBAL FOREST GOALS REPORT, 2021

- The United Nations recently released the Global Forest Goals Report, 2021. According to the report, the COVID-19 has increased the challenges faced by countries in managing their forests.
- During COVID-19 the forest dependent population faced reduced income, job losses, diminished access to markets and information. Most of the forest dependent population faced difficulty in accessing healthcare and basic services.

#### According to the report:

- Around 1.6 billion people rely on forests. This is 25% of the global population.
- Of the rural areas in the world, more than 40% live in Savannah and forests. This is 20% of the global population.

The report provides an overview of the six Global Forest Goals out of the twenty-six targets of the National Strategic Plan for Forests. The six goals are as follows:

1. Reverse Forest Cover Loss
2. Improve Forest Benefits and Livelihoods
3. Protect Forests and use sustainable forest products.
4. Mobilise resources.
5. Promote inclusive forest governance.
6. Cooperate and work across the sectors.

### 1.127 GLOBAL ELECTRIC VEHICLES OUTLOOK 2021

- **International Energy Agency (IEA)** has released a report titled “Global Electric Vehicle Outlook Report,2021”.
- The Global EV Outlook (GEVO) is an annual report published by IEA. The report looks at the latest EV trends. Apart from that, it also looks at the drivers for road transport sector electrification around the world.

#### Key Findings of Global Electric Vehicles Outlook 2021 related to India:

- More than 30% of the new vehicle sales in India will be electric by 2030.
- Electric Vehicles (EV) deployment in India will mainly be achieved through the electrification of two/three-wheelers. The report mentions that electric two/three-wheeler sales will reach a sales share of almost 50% by 2030.
- However, the lack of government spending under the FAME II Scheme has delayed EV deployment in India.
- Further, EV deployment was also delayed due to pressure on domestic automakers to focus on BS-VI innovation instead of EVs.

International findings of Global Electric Vehicles Outlook 2021:



- Three million new electric cars were registered in 2020. This was 41% higher than those registered in 2019.
- The rise in electric car sales in 2020 came even as the worldwide automobile market contracted by 16% due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Apart from that, the number of electric cars, buses, vans and heavy trucks on roads is expected to hit 145 million by 2030.
- Moreover, if the governments improve their efforts to meet international climate goals, then the number of global electric vehicles will increase to 230 million by 2030.

About International Energy Agency (IEA):

- It was established in 1974 as an autonomous intergovernmental organization under the OECD framework.
- Objective: To ensure reliable, affordable, and clean energy for its member countries and beyond.
- Members: It has 30 member countries and eight association countries. India became an associate member in 2017.
- Secretariat: Paris, France.

### 1.128 PURCHASING MANAGER INDEX

- The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was at 55.5 in April 2021, little changed from March's reading of 55.4.

**Key Points:**

- It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month.
- The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.
- It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is also constructed.
- The PMI is a number from 0 to 100.
- A print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.
- A reading at 50 indicates no change.
- It is usually released at the start of every month. It is, therefore, considered a good leading indicator of economic activity.
- PMI is compiled by IHS Markit for more than 40 economies worldwide.

### 1.129 "STATE OF WORKING INDIA 2021" – ONE YEAR OF COVID-19 REPORT:

- Azim Premji University's Centre for Sustainable Employment has released the annual State of Working India 2021: One Year of Covid-19 Report.

**About State of Working India 2021 Report:**

- Purpose: The report documented the impact of one year of Covid-19 on jobs, incomes, inequality, and poverty. The report also examines the effectiveness of policy measures undertaken by the government on relief and support programmes.
- Based on: The report is based on data sourced from
- Consumer Pyramids Household Survey of the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE)

### **1.130 GNAFC'S GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES**

- The Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) recently released the "2021 Global Report on Food Crises". The GNAFC is an international alliance formed by the European Union, United Nations and other governmental and non-governmental agencies.
- The report says that the economic crisis was the major reason to push 40 million people towards hunger in 2020. This has increased by 24 million as compared to that of 2019.

#### **Key Findings of the report**

- The conflicts, extreme weather and economic shocks related to COVID-19 are pushing millions of people into food insecurity.
- According to the report, more than 155 million people experienced acute food insecurity in 2020. This has increased by 20 million as compared to that of 2019. Of this, 133,000 people are under the most severe phase of food insecurity. They are mostly from Burkina Faso, Yemen and South Sudan.
- More than 28 million people faced emergency level food insecurity in 2020. Emergency level means they were one step away from starvation. Urgent actions prevented famine spreading.
- Around 75 million children were stunted globally and 15 million were wasted.
- Two out of three people facing food insecurity were from African continent.

### **1.131 'WORLD FOOD PRICE INDEX' REACHES HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE MAY 2014: FAO**

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has released the World Food Price Index.
- According to the index, world food prices have increased for the 11th consecutive month in April. Further, the prices also hit their highest level since May 2014.

#### **About World Food Price Index:**

- The index was introduced in 1996 to help in monitoring the developments in the global agricultural commodity markets.
- Purpose: The index is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.
- Commodities: It consists of the average of five commodity group price indices. Such as cereal, vegetable, dairy, meat and sugar. Also, these five indices are given weightage based on the average export shares.
- Base Year: 2014-16.

#### **About Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- It was established in 1945. The FAO is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

### **1.132 REPORT ON GLOBAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: INDIA IS THE 3RD-LARGEST EMITTER**

- The research and consulting firm, Rhodium Group, has released a report on Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

#### **Key Findings of the report:**

Global Greenhouse gas emissions including emissions of all six Kyoto gases have reached 52 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent in 2019. This is an 11.4% increase over the past decade.

The six main gases under Kyoto Protocol are:

- Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>);
- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>);
- Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O);
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs);
- Perfluorocarbons (PFCs);
- Sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>).

China alone contributed more than 27% of total Global Greenhouse gas emissions. Further, China's greenhouse gas emissions in 2019 exceeded the combined emissions of the US and other developed nations.

However, China's history as a major emitter is relatively short compared to developed countries. Since 1750, members of the OECD bloc have emitted four times more CO<sub>2</sub> on a cumulative basis than China.

The United States is the second-highest emitter. The US alone contributed 11% of the total Global Greenhouse gas emissions.

For the first time, India has surpassed the European Union and became the third-highest Global Greenhouse gas emitter. India contributed 6.6% of the total emissions.

### **1.133 "GLOBAL METHANE ASSESSMENT": THE UN REPORT ON HUMAN-CAUSED METHANE EMISSIONS**

- Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have released a report titled "Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions".
- **Objective:** The report has suggested that the world needs to dramatically cut methane emissions to avoid the worst of climate change.

#### **Key facts:**

Increase in Methane Emissions:

- Currently, Human-caused methane emissions are increasing faster than at any other time (since record keeping began in the 1980s).
- This was a cause of concern as methane was an extremely powerful greenhouse gas. It was responsible for about 30% of global warming since pre-industrial times.

#### Source of Methane Emissions:

- More than half of global methane emissions stem from human activities in three sectors: fossil fuels (35%), waste (20%) and agriculture(40%).
- Fossil fuel sector: Oil and gas extraction, processing and distribution account for 23%. Coal mining alone accounts for 12% of emissions.
- Waste sector: Landfills and wastewater make up about 20% of global anthropogenic emissions.
- Agricultural sector: Livestock emissions from manure and fermentation represent roughly 32%. Further, rice cultivation accounts for 8% of global anthropogenic emissions.

#### Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC):

- Climate and Clean Air Coalition is a voluntary partnership of governments, intergovernmental organizations, businesses, scientific institutions and civil society organizations.
- Aim: The coalition aims to protect the climate and improve air quality through actions to reduce short-lived climate pollutants.
- India is a member of the coalition.

#### **1.134 WORLD BANK'S "MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT BRIEF": INDIA IS THE TOP RECEIVER OF REMITTANCES**

- The World Bank has released a report titled "Migration and Development Brief, 2020".

#### About Migration and Development Brief Report:

- Prepared by: The report is prepared by the Migration and Remittances Unit, Development Economics (DEC)- the premier research and data arm of the World Bank.
- Aim: The report aims to provide an update on key developments. Especially in the area of migration and remittance flows and related policies over the past six months.
- The report also provides medium-term projections of remittance flows to developing countries.
- The report is produced twice a year.

#### Findings Related to India:

- India has received the highest amount of remittances in 2020. This was followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, Egypt, Pakistan, France and Bangladesh.
- India's Remittances: India has received over USD83 billion in remittances in 2020. This was despite the pandemic that devastated the world economy.
- In 2019, India had received USD83.3 billion in remittances.

- India's remittances fell by just 0.2% in 2020. This was due to a 17% fall in remittances from the United Arab Emirates. However, this was offset by the resilient flows from the United States and other host countries.
- Remittances outflow from India in 2020 was USD7 billion. In 2019, it was around USD7.5 billion.

### 1.135 WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX, WPI OF APRIL 2021:

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade recently released Wholesale Price in India for the month of April 2021. The WPI for the month of April 2021 stood at 128.1. The base year in calculating WPI is fixed as 2011-12.

#### WPI of April 2021

- The annual rate of inflation for the month of April 2021 was 10.49%
- The inflation rate is high in the month mainly because of price rise in crude petroleum which in turn increased the prices of petrol and diesel in the country. Also, the price rise is due to increase in cost of manufactured foods.

#### Groups of commodities

- There are three major groups of commodities that are used in calculating the rate of inflation. They are primary articles, manufactured products and fuel and power.

#### Primary Articles

- The weight of primary articles in WPI is 22.62%.
- The index of this group increased by 3.83%.
- The prices of minerals increased by 6.6%
- The prices of Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas increased by 4.8%
- The prices of food articles increased by 3.84%
- The price of non-food articles increased by 2.65%
- The above increases are in comparison with the month of March.

#### Fuel and Power

- The weight of fuel and power is 13.15%
- The index of this group decreased by 1%
- The prices of coals decreased by 0.32%
- The prices of Mineral oil decreased by 0.29%
- The prices of electricity decreased by 4.96%

#### Manufactured products

- The weight of manufactured goods is 64.23%
- The index of this group increased by 1.65%.

- The increase in this category was mainly contributed by food products, basic metals, chemicals, textiles, plastic and rubber products.

### **1.136 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN INDIA SHOOTS UP TO 8% IN APRIL: CMIE**

- The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) report on unemployment in India has been released. As per the report Unemployment Rate in India is increasing.

#### Key Findings of the Report:

- Increase in Unemployment rate: The Unemployment rate in India has increased to 8% in April 2021 from 6.5% in March 2021.
- Unemployment Rate (UER) is the percentage of the labor force who are willing to work and are actively looking for a job but are unemployed.
- The labour participation rate(LPR) was 40% in April 2021. It is the worst since the national lockdown was imposed in May 2020.
- LPR is the ratio of the working age population greater than 15 years of age to labor force either working or looking for work. In other words, it measures the number of persons engaging in the labour force as a percentage of the working-age population.
- Salaried Class: The size of the salaried class has also decreased in India. During 2019-20, there were 85.9 million salaried jobs. As of April 2021, there were just 73.3 million. This may impact the domestic consumption of the country.
- Lack of Demand: Lack of demand is hampering further growth due to the impact on income and consumer sentiment. Income is lower than it was a year earlier. 90% of families have seen income shrinkage.
- Migration of workers: Migration from urban areas to rural areas due to loss of jobs in cities has also increased the burden on the agriculture sector and rural India.

#### About CMIE:

- CMIE is a privately owned and professionally managed company headquartered in Mumbai. It was established in 1976 primarily as an independent think tank.
- Purpose: It produces economic and business databases and develops specialized analytical tools to deliver these to its customers for decision-making and for research

### **1.137 PROTECTED PLANET REPORT 2020:**

- The report, titled Protected Planet Report 2020, underlined the progress the world has made toward the ambitious goals agreed by countries in 2010 at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### About the Protected Planet Reports:

- The reports are released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with support from the National Geographic Society, a global non-profit.



- These are biennial landmark publications that assess the state of protected and conserved areas around the world.
- The report is the first in the series to include data on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) in addition to protected areas.
- OECM are a conservation designation for areas that are achieving the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside of protected areas.
- The 2020 edition provides the final report on the status of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and looks to the future as the world prepares to adopt a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 aimed to conserve 17% of land and inland water ecosystems and 10% of its coastal waters and oceans by 2020.

#### International Union for Conservation of Nature

- The IUCN is an international organization that works in the field of conservation of the world's flora and fauna.
- Its members include States, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples' organisations, experts, government agencies, etc.
- Headquarters- Gland, Switzerland

### **Practice MCQs**

QUESTION 1: - Global Forest Goals Report, 2021 is released by-

- A. United Nations
- B. World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- C. International Union for Conservation of nature
- D. Food and Agriculture Organization

QUESTION 2: Special 301 Report released by-

- A. UN
- B. USA
- C. IMF
- D. WHO

Question 3: "Global Electric Vehicles Outlook 2021" has been released by:

- A) International Energy Agency
- B) World Economic Forum
- C) International Atomic Energy Agency
- D) International Monetary Fund

QUESTION 4: Who releases the Purchasing Manager Index?

- A) IHS Markit
- B) Institute of London
- C) Singapore Government
- D) Asian Development Bank

QUESTION 5: "State of Working India 2021" – One Year of Covid-19 Report has been launched by

- A. Jio University
- B. Ashoka University
- C. Jindal University
- D. Azimpremji University

QUESTION 6: Global Report on Food Crises 2021 was recently released by-

- A. United Nations Environment Program.
- B. Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- C. Global Network Against Food Crises.
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 7: - World Food Price Index is released by-

- A. Food and Agriculture Organization.
- B. World Food Programme.
- C. Food Aid Foundation.
- D. None of the above.

QUESTION 8: - Which of the following gases is not included under the Kyoto Protocol?

- A. Ammonia.
- B. Carbon Dioxide.
- C. Methane.
- D. Sulphur Hexafluoride.

QUESTION 9: - 'Global Methane Assessment' report is released by

- A. Climate and Clean Air Coalition and United Nations Environment Programme.

B. International Union for Conservation of Nature and United Nations Environment Programme.

C. Worldwide Fund for Nature and International Union for Conservation of Nature.

D. Climate and Clean Air Coalition and International Union for Conservation of Nature.

QUESTION 10: "Nature in a Globalised World: Conflict and Conservation" has been launched by which organization

- A. IMF
- B. IUCN
- C. WEF
- D. IAEO

QUESTION 11: According to the World Bank's "Migration and development Brief", which country received the most remittances in 2020?

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Pakistan

QUESTION 12: The base year for Wholesale Price Index is fixed as -

- A. 2011-12
- B. 2016-17
- C. 2013-14
- D. 2014-15

QUESTION 13: According to latest report by CMIE, the unemployment rate in India in April 2021 is

- A. 8%
- B. 7.5%
- C. 6.8%
- D.8.5%

**Answer:**

- 1. ANSWER: A
- 2. ANSWER: B
- 3. ANSWER: A
- 4. ANSWER: A
- 5. ANSWER: D
- 6. ANSWER: C
- 7. ANSWER: A

QUESTION 14: The headquarters of IUCN are situated in-

- A. Paris
- B. Beijing
- C. Nairobi
- D. Gland

8. ANSWER: A

9. ANSWER: A

10. ANSWER: B

11. ANSWER: B

12. ANSWER: A

13. ANSWER: A

14. ANSWER: D

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### 1.138 MARK SELBY

- The English professional snooker player **Mark Selby** has won the World Championship for the fourth time. This time he won the title defeating Shaun Murphy.
- Mark Selby has won the World Championship in **2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021**.
- He was ranked world number one between **2015 and 2019**.

#### World Snooker Championship

- It has been held annually since 1927. It is played at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England. The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association organises the championship.

### 1.139 PHIL MICKELSON

- American professional golfer, **Phil Mickelson** has created history by winning the **2021 PGA Championship**, at the age of 50. With this victory, Mickelson became the **oldest player** to win a major title in the history of the PGA Tour.
- This is his sixth major title. Mickelson has now broken the record of being the oldest major championship winner in history at the age of 50 years, 11 months, and 7 days.
- This record was previously held by American Julius Boros when he captured the 1968 PGA Championship at age 48, 4 months and 18 days.

### 1.140 INDIA TO HOST 2022 FIFA UNDER-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP:

- India is all set to host "2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup" from October 11 to 30, 2022. It will be the second FIFA tournament to be hosted by India.

### 1.141 ARJAN BHULLAR

- **Arjan 'Singh' Bhullar** became the first Indian fighter to win the ONE Heavyweight World Title at the top-level (Mixed Martial Arts) MMA Championship event in Singapore on May 16, 2021, after defeating the long-time heavyweight king Brandon 'The Truth' Vera.
- Arjan Bhullar is an Indian Canadian mixed martial arts fighter. He was born and raised in Vancouver, Columbia. He is of Indian descent.
- He had won the Commonwealth Games gold medal in New Delhi in 2010. He also became the first Indian freestyle wrestler to represent Canada at the Olympics in London in 2012.
- Bhullar has also been the first Indian fighter to win a UFC fight where he defeated Luis Enrigue Barbosa de Oliveira in 2015.

### 1.142 ITALIAN OPEN, 2021

- Italian Open, 2021 was won by **Rafael Nadal**. This is his tenth title of the Rome Masters. The Italian Open, 2021 was held on May 16, 2021, in Rome. The Finals was held between Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. It is also known as Rome Masters.

#### About Italian Open:

- It was originally called the Italian International Championship. It is a tennis tournament held in Rome, Italy.
- It is a clay tennis tournament. There are four different types of tennis court surfaces. They are clay courts, carpet courts, hard courts and grass courts.
- It is an ATP Tours Masters 100 event.

#### 1.143 ICC TEST RANKINGS 2021

- Team India continued to hold its top spot on the ICC Test Team Rankings, which were released by the ICC on May 13, 2021.
- New Zealand's skipper **Kane Williamson** tops the Test Batting Rankings followed by Australia's **Steve Smith** at the second spot and Australia's **Marnus Labuschagne** stands third.
- Test Bowling Rankings-Australia's **Pat Cummins** takes up top spot, followed by India's **R Ashwin** who stands second. Ashwin is the sole Indian in the top ten. The third rank is held by New Zealand's Neil Wagner.
- West Indies' cricketer **Jason Holder** leads the ICC Test All-Rounder Rankings list, followed by England's **Ben Stokes** at 2nd rank and India's **Ravindra Jadeja** at the 3rd rank.

#### 1.144 LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS, 2021

- The Laureus World Sports Awards, 2021 was held in Seville. The awards are presented to honour individuals and teams who have achieved in sports throughout the year. It was established in 1999 by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation. It is supported by Mitsubishi, Mercedes Benz. The first Laureus World Sports Awards was presented in 2000.

In 2021, the following Laureus World Sports Awards were presented:

- Naomi Osaka (tennis, Japan) won the Sportswoman of the Year.
- Rafael Nadal (tennis, Spain) won the Sportsman of the Year.
- Billie Jean King (tennis, USA) won the Lifetime Achievement.
- FC Bayern (football, Germany) won the Team of the Year.
- Patrick Mahomes (American Football, USA) won the Breakthrough of the Year.
- Max Parrot (Snowboarding, Canada) won the World Comeback of the Year.
- Kickformore by Kickfair (football, German) won the Sport for Good.
- Mo Salah (football, Liverpool & Egypt) won the Sporting Inspiration Award.
- Lewis Hamilton (Formula One, Mercedes & UK) won the Athlete Advocate of the Year.
- This year the Laureus World sports Award for Action Sports person of the year was not awarded.

#### 1.145 TSANG YIN-HUNG

- Hong Kong mountaineer, Tsang Yin-hung, recorded “world’s fastest ascent of Everest by a woman” in just 26 hours.

**About:**

- Tsang climbed 8,848.86-metre Mountain in a record time of 25 hours and 50 minutes in her third attempt.
- Earlier in 2017, Tsang became first Hong Kong woman to climb the top.
- She broke the earlier record of Nepali women Phunjo Jhangmu Lama completed the climb in 39 hours 6 minutes.

### Mount Everest

- The highest mountain above sea level, in world, is in Mahalangur Himal sub-range of Himalayas. China–Nepal border runs across its summit point. Its snow height is of 8,848.86 m recorded recently in 2020 by Nepali and Chinese authorities.

### 1.146 ARZAN NAGWASWALLA:

- 1st Parsi on Indian cricket team since 1975.
- Arzan Nagwaswalla, a 23-year-old left-arm seamer from Gujarat, has been picked as a reserve player in the Indian Test squad named for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand in Southampton.
- Arzan Rohinton Nagwaswalla, hailing from a Parsi community in a village of Nargol, Nagwaswalla near the Maharashtra border, is the first Parsi cricketer to break into the national team since 1975 and the only active Parsi cricketer.
- Farokh Engineer played his final Test for India in 1975, while Diana Edulji's last game in the women's team came in July 1993.

### Practice MCQs :

QUESTION 1: Who won the world snooker championship 2021 held in England?

- A) Mark Selby
- B) Shaun Murphy
- C) Ronnie O'Sullivan
- D) Neil Robertson

QUESTION 2: Who won the 2021 PGA Championship?

- A. Shane Lowry
- B. Brooks Koepka
- C. Tiger Woods
- D. Phil Mickelson

QUESTION 3: Which country will host 2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup?

- A. India
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Qatar
- D. Malaysia

QUESTION 4: Who recently became the first Indian fighter to win the ONE Heavyweight World Title at the top-level (Mixed Martial Arts) MMA Championship?

- A. Arjan Bhullar
- B. Vijender Singh



C. Ritu Phogat

D. Sushil Kumar

QUESTION 5: Rafael Nadal won the Italian Open 2021 defeating \_\_\_\_\_?

A. Novak Djokovic

B. Roger Federer

C. Alexander Zverev

D. Daniil Medvedev

QUESTION 6: Who topped the ICC Test All-Rounder Rankings 2021, released recently?

A. R Ashwin

B. Ben Stokes

C. Jason Holder

D. Ravindra Jadeja

QUESTION 7: In 2021, the Laureus World Sports Awards for the best sportsman of the year has been given to

A. Billie Jean king

B. Lewis Hamilton

C. Sachin Tendulkar

D. Rafael Nadal

QUESTION 8: Tsang Yin-hung, who recently became the record holder of 'fastest climb on Mt Everest by a woman', belongs to which country-

A. Hong Kong

B. Japan

C. South Korea

D. Nepal

QUESTION 9: Who is the Parsi cricketer recently inducted in Indian cricket team?

A. Farzan Engineer

B. Cyrus Wadia

C. Arzan Nagwaswalla

D. None of the above

### Answer Key

1. ANSWER: A

2. ANSWER: D

3. ANSWER: A

4. ANSWER: A

5. ANSWER: A

6. ANSWER: C

7. ANSWER: D

8. ANSWER: A

9. ANSWER: C

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## Awards

### 1.147 SHYAMALA GANESH:

- The Japanese Government recently awarded the “**Order of Rising Sun**” to a Bengaluru based **Japanese teacher, Shyamala Ganesh**.
- Shyamala is a Japanese teacher at the Septuagenarian institution and also at the Ohara School of Ikebana in RT Nagar, Bengaluru. She has tutored more than hundreds of students since its inception 38 years ago. Ikebana is Japanese art of flower arrangement.
- Shyamala along with her husband Ganesh started a Japanese language school in 1983 in Bengaluru.

#### Order of Rising Sun

- The award is presented by the Emperor of Japan.
- It was created in 1875.
- The award is presented to those who have made distinguished achievements in promotion of Japanese culture, achievements in international relations, advancements in their field and conservation of environment.
- It was also awarded for exemplary military service before World War II.
- It is the third highest award presented by the Japanese Government.
- The culture of presenting the award to Non-Japanese recipients began in 1981.
- Women have been presented with the award since 2003.
- The award can also be presented posthumously.

### 1.148 DADASAHEB PHALKE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

- The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards was recently presented. These awards were introduced by the Government of India in 1969.

#### 2021 Awards

- Best Actor (Female): Deepika Padukone
- Best Actor (Male): Akshay Kumar
- Best International Feature Film: Parasite
- Best Director: Anurag Basu
- Best Film: Tanahji
- The late actor Sushant Singh Rajput won the “Critics Best Actor”. Actor Rajni Kanth is also being conferred with the award this year. He had already received Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan. He has spent more than forty five years in the film industry.

#### Dadasaheb Phalke

- Dadasaheb Phalke is the Father of Indian Cinema.

- The first film made by Phalke was Raja Harishchandra and this movie was the first full-length feature film of India.
- He has made twenty-seven short films and 95 feature length films during his career.
- In 2021, his 151st birth anniversary is being celebrated.
- The Government of India confers the “Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards” every year in his honour.

#### **1.149 WHITLEY AWARDS 2021:**

- The Whitley Awards are called “Green Oscars”. In 2021, the Whitley Award was won by Nuklu Phom of Nagaland. He is the only Indian to receive the award.

Whitley Awards:

- Whitley Awards are presented annually by the Whitley Fund for Nature. It is presented to recognise grass root level conservation leaders.
- It involves a process of reference, application and interview.
- The Whitley Fund for Nature was established by Edward Whitley in 1994. It has so far given 16 million pounds to support the work of two hundred environmental heroes.

Nuklu Phom:

- Nuklu Phom is creating “Biodiversity Peace Corridors”. The main objective is to extend the “Yaongyimchen Community Biodiversity Area”.
- Apart from conservation of wildlife and environmental protection he also extends his works to health, education and microfinance.
- Lemasachenlok Society was founded by him. It has worked towards sensitizing the locals about the Amur Falcons. It has set up three reserves that helped to increase the number of roosting Falcons.
- Nuklu Phom is popularly known as the “Amur Falcon Man of Nagaland”.

#### **1.150 WORLD CHOREOGRAPHY AWARD 2020:**

- The Emmy Award-nominated Indian choreographer Suresh Mukund has won the 10th Annual ‘World Choreography Award 2020’, (also known as Choreo Awards), becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious honour.

About:

- He won the award in the ‘TV REALITY SHOW/COMPETITION’ category, for his work on the hit American TV reality show ‘World of Dance’.
- Mukund is the director and choreographer of the Indian dance crew ‘The Kings’, which won the 2019 season of World of Dance.
- The World Choreography Awards, famously known as the “Oscars of Dance”, takes place every year, in Los Angeles, to showcase the most innovative and original works by the world’s best choreographers featured in television, film, commercials, digital content, and music videos.

### **1.151 INDIA BIODIVERSITY AWARDS 2021:**

- Recently, India Biodiversity Awards 2021 were presented on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22.

Who are the winners?

- Krishi Avam Paristhiki Vikas Sansthan (KRAPAVIS) won the award under the category 'Sustainable Use of Biological Resources.'
- Shaji N.M., who is also called as 'Tuber Man' of Kerala has won in the individual category of 'Conservation of domesticated species.'
- Khonoma Nature Conservation & Tragopan Sanctuary (KNCTS) in Nagaland won the award under 'Sustainable Use of Biological Resources' category.

### **What are India Biodiversity Awards?**

- The India Biodiversity Awards initiative was started jointly by ministry of environment, forest & climate change; National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2012. It recognizes and honour outstanding models from grassroot level for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and governance.

### **1.152 AMARTYA SEN CONFERRED SPAIN'S TOP AWARD IN SOCIAL SCIENCE:**

- Indian economist and Nobel Laureate, Amartya Kumar Sen, was conferred with "Princess of Asturias Award" in the social sciences category which is Spain's top prize. He was selected out of 41 candidates from 20 countries.
- Amartya Sen was selected for his best-known work- "Poverty and Famines".
- Sen has been conferred with Spain's highest prize in the social science category called "Princess of Asturias Award". It comprises a Joan Miro sculpture as a symbol, an insignia, a diploma, and a cash prize of 50,000 Euros. His candidature was forwarded by Director General of Casa Asia (Barcelona), Javier Parrondo.

### **About Amartya Kumar Sen:**

- He is an Indian economist and philosopher. He has taught and worked in the United Kingdom and United States since 1972. He has made contributions to welfare economics, economic and social justice, social choice theory, economic theories of famines, development economics, decision theory, public health etc. Currently, he is a professor in Thomas W. Lamont University and Professor of Economics & Philosophy at Harvard University.

### **1.153 VETERAN INDIAN CHEMIST C.N.R. RAO RECEIVES 2020 INTERNATIONAL ENI AWARD**

- Noted Indian scientist and Bharat Ratna Professor, C.N.R. Rao has been felicitated with the International ENI Award 2020 (also called the Energy Frontier award). The International ENI Award is considered to be the Nobel Prize in Energy Research.

About:

- He has been conferred the prize for his work on metal oxides, carbon nanotubes and other materials and two-dimensional systems.
- Professor Rao will be presented the ENI Awards 2020 on 14 October 2021, during an official ceremony held at the Quirinal Palace in Rome. The ENI Award is awarded annually by the Italian oil and gas company Eni to encourage better use of energy sources and increased environmental research.

#### 1.154 HOCKEY INDIA WINS ETIENNE GLICHITCH AWARD

- Hockey India has won the prestigious Etienne Glichitch Award in recognition of its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in the country.
- The awards were announced by the game's governing body FIH during the Hockey Invites virtual conference. It was part of its 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards.

#### 1.155 ANDREA MEZA

- Andrea Meza crowned 69th Miss Universe 2020.
- Miss Mexico Andrea Meza has been crowned as the 69th Miss Universe 2020. On the other hand, Miss India's Adline Quadros Castelino made it to the Top 4.
- Brazil's Julia Gama is the first runner-up; Peru's Janick Maceta is the second runner-up while India's Adline Castelino and Dominican Republic's Kimberly Perez are third runner-up and fourth runner-up, respectively.
- This year, the pageant is being held in Miami, Florida's Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood. Zozibini Tunzi of South Africa crowns her successor in the event.

### Practice MCQs

**QUESTION 1:** - The Japanese Government recently awarded the "Order of Rising Sun" to a Bengaluru based Japanese teacher named-

- A. D P Tripathi
- B. K Sivan
- C. Chidananda Murthy
- D. Shyamala Ganesh

**QUESTION 2:** Who won the award for best director in Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2021

- A. Anurag Basu
- B. Anurag Kashyap
- C. Mani Ratnam

D. Shyam Benegal

**QUESTION 3:** Whitley Award, also called the green Oscar, was given to which Indian conservationist?

- A. Vandana Shiva
- B. Rajendra Singh
- C. Irom Sharmila
- D. Nuklu Phom

**QUESTION 4:** Which Indian won the 10th Annual 'World Choreography Award 2020'?

- A. Bosco Martis
- B. Ganesh Hegde

C. Suresh Mukund

D. Remo D'Souza

**QUESTION 5:** Khonoma Nature Conservation & Tragopan Sanctuary is a conservation reserve found in-

A. Arunachal Pradesh

B. Ladakh

C. Meghalaya

D. Nagaland

**QUESTION 6:** Which Indian was recently awarded "Princess of Asturias Award", Spain's highest civilian award, in the social science category?

A. Kailash Satyarthi

B. Abhijit Banerjee

C. Amartya Sen

D. None of the above.

**QUESTION 7:** Which Indian scientist recently won International ENI Award 2020?

A. Ajay K Sood

B. C.N.R Rao

C. Gagandeep Kang

D. Udupi Ramachandra Rao

**QUESTION 8:** Etienne Glichitch Award is given in recognition of contribution to which sport?

A. Handball

B. Golf

C. Hockey

D. Cricket

**QUESTION 9:** Who was crowned Miss Universe 2020?

A. Jaick Maceta

B. Andrea Meza

C. Adline Castelino

D. Julia Gama

### **Answer Key**

1. ANSWER: D

2. ANSWER: A

3. ANSWER: D

4. ANSWER: C

5. ANSWER: D

6. ANSWER: C

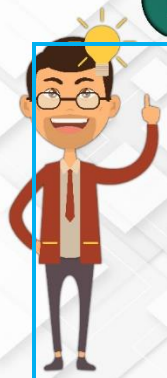
7. ANSWER: B

8. ANSWER: C

9. ANSWER: B



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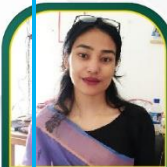
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