

# NOVEMBER : PRLELIMS 2021

Lenovo

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### 1.1 WORLD'S HIGHEST ALTITUDE MOVIE THEATRE OPEN IN LADAKH

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under the AYUSH ministry, has developed “Bal Raksha Kit” which is an immunity boosting kit.

#### About:

- This kit was developed keeping the third wave of the coronavirus disease in mind.
- This is an immunity booting kit, to protect the children up to the age of 16 from covid-19 infection till the time a vaccine is developed for them.
- On the occasion of National Ayurveda Day on November 2, 2021. About 10,000 kits will be distributed free-of-cost.

#### Aim of the kit

- This kit has been developed with the aim of amplifying the immunity of children in order to help them fight against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, that causes covid-19 disease.

#### Significance of the kit

- This kit is significant because no Covid-19 vaccine available for the children in India yet.

#### Ingredients of the kit

- Bal Raksha kit contains a syrup made up of basil, giloy, liquorice, cinnamon and dry grapes, which are have amazing medicinal qualities. The kit also comprises of Annu oil, Sitopaladi and Chyawanprash. These products help in boosting the immunity level with regular consumption.

#### Who prepared it?

- This kit has been developed under the strict guidelines of ministry of Ayush while it was manufactured by Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL) in Uttarakhand.

#### What other kit AIIA has developed?

- Apart from Bal Raksha Kit, AIIA has previously developed ‘Swasthya Raksha Kit’, ‘Arogya Raksha Kit’ as well as ‘Ayu Raksha Kit’.

### 1.2 GIRIRAJ SINGH LAUNCHES PEOPLE'S PLAN CAMPAIGN 2021

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Minister for Panchayati Raj & Rural Development, Giriraj Singh, launched “People’s Plan Campaign 2021- Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas” on September 30, 2021.

#### About:

- He also launched a Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard on the occasion.
- A booklet on People Plan Campaign-2021 was also released on order to prepare the plans for Financial Year 2022-23.
- Minister also launched the 10th issue of Gramoday Sankalp Magazine.

#### Need of accountable gram sabhas

- According to the minister, there is an emergent need of meaningful & accountable Gram Sabhas as well as proper utilisation of funds. There is also a need of raising own source revenues by Panchayats, bridging digital divide in rural areas, use of innovation & technology, converging all the resources available under several Flagship Programmes by Panchayati Raj Institutions etc.

#### About People’s plan campaign

- People’s Plan Campaign 2021 will be conducted with better people’s participation.



- Under the campaign, each activity will promote a sense of camaraderie and commitment in the citizens towards a common goal of overall development of villages.
- Campaign will be undertaken on a large scale and special efforts will be made in order to ensure maximum participation of vulnerable sections of society such as SC/ST/Women.

#### **Aim of Panchayat Development Plan**

- Panchayat Development plan aims to strengthen the role of elected representatives of Panchayats as well as SHG Women under the DAY-NRLM in Gram Sabha.

#### **Creation of assets**

- On the occasion, minister also suggested that, Panchayats should create assets from the allocated funds in order to increase the income sources of Panchayats.

#### **Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard**

- Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard was launched in order to help in increasing maximum participation by means of meeting of Gram Sabha, meeting of elected Panchayat Public Representatives and Standing Committee meeting of Gram Panchayat.

### **1.3 PM LAUNCHES SWACHH BHARAT MISSION-URBAN 2.0 AND AMRUT 2.0**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) along with the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0). These schemes were launched at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

#### **About:**

- Both the schemes, SBM-U 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0, are in line with the vision of PM Narendra Modi.
- These schemes are designed to realize the aspiration of making all cities Garbage Free and Water Secure.
- Both of the missions signify a step forward to effectively address the challenges of rapidly urbanizing India.
- It will also help in achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030 targets.

#### **Significance of the schemes**

- In the past 6-7 years, Swachh Bharat as well as AMRUT Missions have brought transformative changes in the lives of people. Both the missions have improved the urban landscape in India by adopting a scientific approach.

#### **AMRUT 2.0 mission**

- AMRUT 2.0 mission will help in making cities self-reliant. It will ensure water security across the cities. This mission has been launched with the aim of providing 100 percent coverage of water supply to all households in 4,700 urban local bodies. This target will be achieved by providing 2.68 crore tap connections and 100% coverage of sewerage across 500 AMRUT cities. An outlay of Rs 2.87 lakh crore has been sanctioned for this mission.

#### **SBM-U 2.0**

- SBM-U 2.0 mission seeks to make all cities 'Garbage Free'. It also seeks to ensure grey and black water management across the cities that are not covered under AMRUT. Mission will focus on source segregation of solid waste by utilizing the principles of 3Rs that is "Reduce, reuse, recycle". An outlay of Rs 1.41 lakh crore has been sanctioned for SBM-U 2.0.

### **1.4 DIGI SAKSHAM PROGRAMME**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Digi Saksham Programme was launched by the Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav.

#### **About:**

- This digital skills programme was launched with the objective of enhance the employability of youth by improving their digital skills which has become an essential thing in increasingly technology driven era.
- Digi Saksham is a joint initiative of Microsoft India and Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- It is an extension of the government’s ongoing programmes of supporting youth from rural & semi-urban areas.
- Programme will be implemented in the field by “Aga Khan Rural Support Programme India (AKRSP-I)”.

#### **Training to youth**

- Under the DigiSaksham initiative, free of cost training will be provided to more than 3 lakh youth, in digital skills including basic skills & advance computing, in the first year. This training programme can be accessed through the National Career Service (NCS) Portal. The initiative gives priority to the job-seekers from semi urban areas who belongs to disadvantaged communities as well as who have lost their jobs amidst ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **Types of Training**

- Digi Saksham initiative comprises of three types of training viz.,
- Digital Skills self-paced learning
- VILT mode training (virtual instructor led) and
- ILT mode training (instructor led)- ILT training is in person training and would be conducted for SCs & STs in India, at the Model Career Centres (MCCs) and National Career Service Centres (NCSC).

#### **In what areas training would be provided?**

- Under the initiative, training would be provided in areas such as Java Script, Data Visualisation, Power Bi, Advance Excel, HTML, software development fundamentals, programming languages, introduction to coding etc.

## **1.5 KAMDHENU DEEPAWALI 2021 CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Former Cabinet Minister and former chairman of rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog launched the “Kamdhenu Deepawali 2021 campaign”.

#### **About:**

- This campaign was launched for manufacturing and marketing about 100 Crore Deepak lamps & Laxmi-Ganesh Idols made up of cow-dung.
- Under the campaign, Cows will be economically used by economically utilising Cow Dung and Cow Urine along with its Milks, Curd & Ghee.
- Using the Panchgavya from cow, 300 items are getting made now, including Deepak, Candles, Lamps, Havansamagri, Sambrani cup, Hard Board, Dhoopbatti, incense sticks, Wall piece, Laxmi-Ganesh idols etc.

#### **Gomaya lamps**

- The Gomaya lamps were made by Cow Entrepreneurs and Cow owners. This lamp will save the environment by providing eco-friendly alternative for chemical based Chinese lights.

#### **Who trains the start-ups?**

- Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog have been providing training in association with the volunteer organizations across India, giving rise to huge number of Cow dung based Start Ups.

#### **Significance of the campaign**

- This campaign would benefit the Cow Entrepreneurs across India. It is an Eco friendly campaign which will also help Gaushalas in becoming Self Sustainable. Campaign would also empower the ‘Start-up India’ and ‘Atma Nirbhar Bharat’ vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

#### **About Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog**

- It is an agency working under the “Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying” of “Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying”. It was established to protect cows. The agency organises

animal husbandry on scientific & modern lines. It also takes steps to preserve & improve breeds as well as prohibit slaughter of cows & calves. Agency also functions as an integral part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

### **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**

- This mission was started in December 2014 by government with the aim of developing & conserving indigenous bovine breeds and genetic upgradation of bovine population.

## **1.6 PANDORA PAPERS LEAK**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, several prominent Indian names have been included in the Pandora Papers leak.
- There are over 300 Indian names in the leak, including over 60 prominent ones.
- Pandora Papers are 11.9 million leaked files from 14 global corporate services firms which set up about 29,000 off-the-shelf companies and private trusts.

### **About:**

- The Pandora Papers reveal how trusts are used as a vehicle in conjunction with offshore companies set up for the sole purpose of holding investments and other assets by business families and ultra-rich individuals.
- The trusts can be set up in known tax havens which offer relative tax advantages.
- For Example: Samoa, Belize, Panama, and the British Virgin Islands.
- They reveal how the rich set up complex multi-layered trust structures for estate planning, in jurisdictions which are loosely regulated for tax purposes, but characterised by air-tight secrecy laws.
- Businesses have created a new normal after countries have been forced to tighten the laws on such offshore entities with rising concerns of money laundering, terrorism funding, and tax evasion.
- The Panama and Paradise Papers dealt largely with offshore entities set up by individuals and corporations respectively.

### **Reasons for Setting up Trusts Overseas:**

- Secrecy:
- Overseas trusts offer remarkable secrecy because of stringent privacy laws in the jurisdiction they operate in.
- Maintain a Degree of Separation:
- Businesspersons set up private offshore trusts to project a degree of separation from their personal assets.
- Avoid Tax in the Guise of Planning:
- Businesspersons avoid their Non-resident Indians (NRI) children being taxed on income from their assets by transferring all the assets to a trust.
- Prepare for Estate Duty Eventuality:
- There is a pervasive fear that estate duty, which was abolished back in 1985 will likely be re-introduced soon.
- Setting up trusts in advance will protect the next generation from paying the death/inheritance tax, which was as high as 85% in the more than three decades after its enactment (The Estate Duty Act, 1953).
- Flexibility in a Capital-Controlled Economy:
- India is a capital-controlled economy. Individuals can invest only USD 2,50,000 a year under the Reserve Bank of India's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).
- To get over this, businesspersons have turned to NRI, and under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, NRIs can remit USD 1 million a year in addition to their current annual income, outside India.
- Further, the tax rates in overseas jurisdictions are much lower than the 30% personal Income-Tax rate in India
- Grey Areas of Indian Taxation:

- There are certain grey areas of taxation where the Income-Tax Department is in contest with offshore trusts.
- After the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, came into existence, resident Indians have to report their foreign financial interests and assets.
- NRIs are not required to do so.
- The I-T Department may consider an offshore trust to be a resident of India for taxation purposes if the trustee is an Indian resident.
- In cases where the trustee is an offshore entity or an NRI, if the tax department establishes the trustee is taking instructions from a resident Indian, then too the trust may be considered a resident of India for taxation purposes.

#### **Government's Initiatives:**

##### **Legislative Action:**

- The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018
- The Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017
- The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016
- The Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

##### **International Cooperation:**

- Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs):
- India is proactively engaging with foreign governments with a view to facilitate and enhance the exchange of information under Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs)/Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs)/Multilateral Conventions.
- Automatic Exchange of Information:
- India has been a leading force in the efforts to forge a multilateral regime for proactive sharing of financial information known as Automatic Exchange of Information which will greatly assist the global efforts to combat tax evasion.
- Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act of USA:
- India has entered into an information sharing agreement with the USA under the act.

## **1.7 DRDO DARE TO DREAM 2.0 & YOUNG SCIENTISTS AWARDS**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitated the winners of 'Dare to Dream 2.0' Contest organised by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).

#### **About:**

- Awards were given to 40 winners, including 22 in Individual category and 18 in Start-up category.
- On the occasion, 'Dare to Dream 3.0' was also launched to promote innovators & start-ups and provide a platform for the young ignited minds in the country.
- Minister also presented "DRDO Young Scientists awards" for the year 2019. 16 DRDO scientists, aged under 35 years, were awarded for their outstanding contribution in fields of their expertise.

#### **Dare to Dream Contest**

- Dare to Dream contest was launched by DRDO across India to promote Indian academicians, individuals and start-ups for developing emerging defence and aerospace technologies or systems. Under the contest, DRDO provides technical and financial support to the winners, in a bid to realise their ideas under "Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme".

#### **New system developed by DRDO**

- On the occasion, three indigenously developed products or systems by DRDO were handed over to Armed Forces:

- **ARINC818 Video Processing and Switching Module:** It has been developed for Indian Air Force. The state-of-the-art module comprises of high bandwidth, channel bonding, low latency and easy networking. It was provided for 5th generation aircraft development programmes.
- **Sonar Performance Modelling System:** It was developed for the Indian Navy. It is useful for Indian Naval Ships, submarines as well as under water surveillance stations etc.
- **Bund Blasting Device Mk-II:** This device has been developed for Indian Army. It will help in reducing the height of Ditch-cum-Bund obstacles for enhancing mobility of mechanised infantry during wartime.

## 1.8 ROAD TRANSPORT MINISTRY'S SCHEME FOR 'GOOD SAMARITANS'

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Ministry of road, transport & highways launched a scheme for "Good Samaritans".

### About:

- Scheme will be effective from October 15, 2021 and will run till March 31, 2026.
- Under the scheme, a cash award of Rs 5,000 will be provided per accident, to those saving the life of a road accident victim by rushing the person to hospital within the 'golden hour' of the accident.
- Cash award will be provided to motivate the general public in order to help the road accident victims in emergency situation.
- Cash award will also be accompanied with a certification of appreciation.

### National Level Awards

- Besides award in each case, ministry would also be giving 10 national level awards for the "worthiest Good Samaritans".
- Most Worthy Good Samaritans will be selected from those who have been awarded during the entire year.
- They will be given an award of Rs 1,00,000 each.
- MoRTH will provide Rs 5 lakh of initial grant to the transport department of states and UTs for awarding the cash prize.
- As per amendment, if Good Samaritan informs about the incident to the police at the first hand, then police will provide an acknowledgement on official letter pad, after verifying details from doctor.
- Individual Good Samaritan will be awarded a maximum five times in a year.

### What is golden hour?

- 'Golden hour' is the 1-hour time period after a traumatic injury. During this period, there is the highest possibilities of preventing death by providing prompt medical care.

### Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 2019

- Rules had been notified under Section 134A of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act 2019, on September 29, 2020 by the ministry.

## 1.9 MINISTRY OF TOURISM ORGANISING CONFERENCE ON BUDDHIST CIRCUIT

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Tourism is organising a "Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour and Conference from October 4 to October 8, 2021 in a bid to tap the potential of the Buddhist tourism.

### About:

- The FAM tour will comprise of the visit of prominent Buddhist sites as well as conferences at Bodh Gaya and Varanasi.
- This conference is likely to be attended by 125 delegates including tour operators, media, hoteliers, and officials of Ministry of Tourism & State Governments.

- Around 100 local tour operators and other stakeholders of tourism & hospitality sector will attend the event at Bodh Gaya and Varanasi for discussing the key issues with respect to the development and promotion of tourism in the circuit.

#### **Buddhist Tourism in India**

- India is among world's largest reservoirs of history, culture, heritage, philosophy, and religion. With these reservoirs, India is counted amongst the most desired destinations for tourists as well as pilgrims. India has a rich ancient Buddhist Heritage comprising of important sites associated with Lord Buddha. Indian Buddhist heritage is of great interest for the followers of Buddhism across the world. It has remained an inspiration & guide to traditions and customs of India.

#### **Buddhist Conclave**

- Buddhist Conclave is organised by Ministry of Tourism every alternate year. It is organised with the objective of promoting India as a Buddhist Destination and major markets worldwide. In the year 2021, the International Buddhist Conclave is scheduled from November 17 to 21.

#### **Other initiatives by Ministry of Tourism**

- Ministry has showcased the Buddhist Sites on "Incredible India Website" and has developed a dedicated website "www.indiathelandofbuddha.in". It aims to promote rich Buddhist Heritage across India.
- Ministry is also working on projects for capacity building including Linguistic Tourist Facilitator training in Japanese, Thai, Chinese and Vietnamese, languages.

### **1.10 VICE PRESIDENT INAUGURATES MAHABAHU BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER HERITAGE CENTRE**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre in the presence of Governor Jagdish Mukhi and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati in the state of Assam.
- The centre was originally served as the residence of the British deputy commissioner of Kamrup. Nearly 150 years after it was constructed, the iconic DC Bungalow of Guwahati was opened to the public as a heritage centre.
- After the British annexed Assam in 1826 (after the Treaty of Yandaboo), the post of DC was created for Guwahati in 1839.
- Several sites were surveyed for DC residence before Barphukanar Tilla on the banks of the Brahmaputra, where cannons used in the Battle of Saraighat lay scattered, was chosen. Post-independence, it continued to be the DC's bungalow until 2011.

### **1.11 EWS QUOTA**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) has questioned the methodology adopted by the government in fixing Rs. 8 lakh as the annual income limit to identify the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) for providing 10% quota in public jobs and educational institutions.

#### **About:**

- The 10% EWS quota was introduced under the 103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019 by amending Articles 15 and 16.
- It inserted Article 15 (6) and Article 16 (6).
- It is for economic reservation in jobs and admissions in education institutes for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
- It was enacted to promote the welfare of the poor not covered by the 50% reservation policy for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).

- It enables both Centre and the states to provide reservation to the EWS of society.

## 1.12 PALK BAY SCHEME AND MARINE FISHERIES BILL

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union Government is considering increasing the unit cost of deep-sea fishing vessels from Rs 80 L to Rs 1.3 Cr under the Palk Bay scheme to make it more attractive to fisherfolk.
- Earlier, the Marine Fisheries Bill 2021 was tabled in the Parliament during the Monsoon session.

### About Palk Bay Scheme:

- The Scheme, “Diversification Of Trawl Fishing Boats From Palk Straits Into Deep Sea Fishing Boats”, was launched in 2017 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- It was launched as part of the umbrella Blue Revolution Scheme.
- The Blue Revolution is part of the Government's efforts to promote fishing as an allied activity for farmers in order to double their incomes.
- It is a Tamil Nadu-specific scheme aimed at providing 2,000 vessels in three years to fishermen of the State and motivating them to abandon bottom trawling.
- Bottom trawling, an ecologically destructive practice, involves trawlers dragging weighted nets along the sea-floor, causing great depletion of aquatic resources.
- Another objective of the scheme is to “reduce fishing pressure” around the proximity of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) so that Tamil Nadu fishermen do not cross the IMBL and fish in Sri Lankan waters.
- The Funding pattern of the scheme is Centre 50%, State 20%, Institutional funding 10% and Beneficiary 20%.
- The Scheme is limited to vessels costing upto Rs. 80 Lakh.
- The scheme is not part of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- **Marine Fisheries Bill:**  
The Bill proposes to only grant licenses to vessels registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, to fish in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- It also proposes punishments for fishermen breaching the EEZ without a licence, not complying with Indian Coast Guard (ICG) orders, and obstructing ICG officials.
- The Bill prohibits fishing by foreign fishing vessels, thus nationalising our EEZ.
- It proposes social security for fish workers and calls for protection of life at sea during severe weather events.

## 1.13 IFSCA LAUNCHES GLOBAL FINTECH HACKATHON SERIES ‘I-SPRINT’21’

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has launched the global FinTech Hackathon Series ‘I-Sprint’21’.
- The first Sprint of the series is “Sprint01: BankTech”, which focuses on FinTechs for the Banking sector. Sprint01: BankTech is organised jointly by IFSCA and GIFT city in collaboration with NITI Aayog.
- IFSCA was established by the Ministry of Finance on April 27 2020, as a unified regulator of all financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India. It has its headquarter at GIFT city in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

## 1.14 JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA FLAGS OFF THE DOON DRONE MELA

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia has flagged off the Doon Drone Mela 2021 in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Minister flagged off the event with a paragliding demonstration and also interacted with the drone companies exhibiting their prototypes at the Doon Drone Mela.
- The day marked the demonstration of the Drone & Aerosports Demonstrations that included a paragliding demonstration by the Border Security Force, a Paramotor demonstration by Harsh Sachan, and an agriculture spraying drone demonstration by IoTechWorld Aviation & Dhaksha.

### 1.15 BATHUKAMMA FESTIVAL BEGINS IN TELANGANA

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The nine-day floral festival has begun in Telangana. The festival began with excitement as the women were dressed in traditional clothes and colourful processions were carried out in Telangana, the Bathukamma festival is celebrated during Durga Navratri.
- Bathukamma festival begins on the day of Mahalaya Amavasya and the festival continues till nine days, ending on the day of Durgashtami.

### 1.16 RAILWAYS LAUNCH TWO LONG HAUL FREIGHT TRAINS 'TRISHUL', 'GARUDA'

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Indian Railways has launched two long haul freight trains "Trishul" and "Garuda" — which are twice or multiple times longer than the normal composition of freight trains. These long haul trains provide a very effective solution to the problem of capacity constraints in critical sections.
- These trains are twice or multiple times longer than the normal composition of freight trains and provide a very effective solution to the problem of capacity constraints in critical sections.

### 1.17 NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The 28th anniversary of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was observed on 12th October 2021.

#### About

- It is a watchdog of human rights in the country, i.e. the rights related to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by Indian Constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

#### Establishment

- Established on 12th October, 1993, under Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993. It was amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006 and Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019
- It was established in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted for the promotion and protection of human rights in Paris (October, 1991) and endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December, 1993.

#### Composition

#### Key Members

- It is a multi-member body consisting of a chairman and four members. A person who has been the Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court is a chairman.

#### Appointment

- The chairman and members are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as its head, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament and the Union Home Minister.



## **Tenure**

- The chairman and members hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
- The President can remove the chairman or any member from the office under some circumstances.

## **Role and Function**

- It has all the powers of a civil court and its proceedings have a judicial character.
- It is empowered to utilise the services of any officer or investigation agency of the Central government or any state government for the purpose of investigating complaints of human rights violation.
- It can look into a matter within one year of its occurrence, i.e the Commission is not empowered to inquire into any matter after the expiry of one year from the date on which the act constituting violation of human rights is alleged to have been committed.
- The functions of the commission are mainly recommendatory in nature.
- It has no power to punish the violators of human rights, nor to award any relief including monetary relief to the victim.
- It has limited role, powers and jurisdiction with respect to the violation of human rights by the members of the armed forces.
- It is not empowered to act when human rights violations through private parties take place.

## **1.18 NEW RULES FOR ALLOWING ABORTION TILL 24 WEEKS**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Government has incorporated new rules under the “Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021, which was passed in March 2021.

### **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021**

- Under the new rules, the gestational limit for termination of pregnancy has been increased from 20 to 24 weeks for exceptional categories of women in India.
- Women for whom the limit has been increased comprise of minors; survivors of sexual assault, rape or incest; those having physical disabilities and those whose marital status changes during pregnancy that is in case of widowhood or divorce.
- It also includes cases of foetal malformation where there is risk of physical or mental abnormalities, mentally ill women and women in disasters or emergency situations, declared by the government.

### **Background**

- In past, opinion of one doctor was required to carry abortion of up to twelve weeks of conception. Opinion of two doctors was required for doing the abortion between twelve and twenty weeks.

### **State-level medical board**

- Under the new rules, state-level medical boards will be set up that will decide if a pregnancy can be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of foetal malformation.
- Boards will examine the woman & her reports and then either accept or reject the proposal for medical termination of pregnancy. This process will be completed within three days of receiving the request.
- Board will also ensure that the abortion procedure is carried with all precaution along with counselling, when advised by them. The procedure will be done within five days of receiving the request for it.

### **Should the rules be for all women?**

- Experts are of the view that, considering the advancements in scientific and medical technology, extended 24 week of gestation period should be open for all women and not just specific categories of women. They also note that, creation of state medical boards might create impediments for women’s access to abortion services

## 1.19 MYPARKINGS APP- HIGHLIGHTS

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur, launched the 'MyParkings' app on October 14, 2021.

### About:

- MyParkings App is a first-of-its-kind initiative.
- On this app, people can book parking slots online in areas which are under the jurisdiction of South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

### About MyParkings App

- This app was launched with the aim of tackling the issue of congestion of vehicle parking.
- App will inform about total capacity of vehicles which can be parked, used spaces as well as space available for parking in each of the parking site.

### Who developed the app?

- App has been developed by Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL).
- BECIL is the implementing agency of the app-based smart parking system under the jurisdiction of SDMC.
- BECIL will bear the entire cost of development and maintenance of the app. It will also bear capital cost of the server as well as its allied hardware and software.

### Significance of the app

- Introduction of the 'MyParking App' will ease the process of booking parking slots because through this app citizen will be able to know the availability of slots remotely. Thus, this mobile app will provide a new parking experience for citizens of Delhi. This Smart Parking app is having cashless and paperless transaction mode, which in turn will save tonnes of paper on a daily basis.

### Integration with other apps

- Newly launched App will also be integrated with FASTag, Vahan App, E-Challan and more such initiatives. BECIL will also run a dedicated call centre as a customer care unit for the citizens in order to address their queries and issues related to the app.

### Parking sited under SDMC Jurisdiction

- SDMC operates 145 surface parking sites across all its four zones. It also operates six multi-level parking sites as well as two automated parking sites.

## 1.20 INDIA TO PILOT 1000 MWH BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS)

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Central Government has given its approval to invite the expression of interest for installation of pilot 1000 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project.

### About:

- This pilot project is the joint effort of "Ministry of New & Renewable energy" and Ministry of Power.
- Both the ministries have been working on this in order to provide a road map for installation of energy storage system in India.

### Why BESS project is being undertaken?

- The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be set in a bid to support the ambitious goal of achieving 450 GW renewable energy target by the Ministry of New & renewable energy by 2030.

### Who will procure BESS?

- Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), a CPSU working under the Ministry of New & Renewable energy, called for expression of interest to procure 1000 MWh BESS. It will be published with RFS bid document and draft comprehensive guideline for procurement and utilization of BESS.

### Final RFS document

- On the basis of suggestions and feedback from various stakeholders, final RFS document will be floated in November 2021. Along with the RFS document, final comprehensive guidelines for

procurement and utilization of BESS will also be floated as a part of generation, transmission and distribution assets.

#### **Use of energy storage system**

- As per Ministry, India has planned to use energy storage system under Renewable energy. Energy storage system will be used as grid element in order to maximize the use of transmission system and strengthen grid stability. It will help in saving the investment in augmentation of transmission infrastructure.

### **1.21 CRISP-M TOOL FOR MGNREG SCHEME**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, the Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was launched.

#### **CRISP-M Tool:**

- It will help embed climate information in the Geographic Information System (GIS) based planning and implementation of MGNREGS.
- GIS is a computer system that analyzes and displays geographically referenced information.
- The implementation of CRISP-M will open up new possibilities for rural communities to deal with the issues of climate change.
- This tool will be used in seven states: Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rajasthan.

#### **MGNREG Scheme:**

- **About:** It is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.
- **Launch:**
- It was launched on 2nd February 2006.
- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed on 23rd August 2005.

#### **Objective:**

- To guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.

#### **Legal Right to Work:**

- Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
- At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.
- Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (now subsumed under Code on Wages, 2019).

#### **Demand-Driven Scheme:**

- The most important part of MGNREGA's design is its legally-backed guarantee for any rural adult to get work within 15 days of demanding it, failing which an 'unemployment allowance' must be given.
- This demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.

#### **Decentralised Planning:**

- There is an emphasis on strengthening the process of decentralisation by giving a significant role to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in planning and implementing these works.
- The act mandates Gram sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.

### **1.22 DR APJ ABDUL KALAM PRERNA STHAL**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerna Sthal was inaugurated on October 15, 2021 at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam.

**About:**

- Prerna Sthal was inaugurated to commemorate 90th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam as well as to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- On the occasion, a statue of Dr Kalam was also unveiled by director general (Naval Systems & Materials) of DRDO, Dr Samir V Kamat.
- NSTL products like Varunastra, Torpedo Advanced Light (TAL) and Maareech decoy are also being displayed on the occasion at NSTL.

**About NSTL**

- NSTL is the premier naval research laboratory working under the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). It is located in Visakhapatnam. The main function of NSTL is the research & development of underwater weapons & associated systems. It is organized under the Directorate of Naval R&D of DRDO. Current director of NSTL is Dr Y. Sreenivas Rao.

**Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen (APJ) Abdul Kalam**

- He was an Indian aerospace scientist and also served as 11th president of India from 2002 to 2007. He was born and brought up in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. He studied physics and aerospace engineering. He dedicated his four years as a scientist and science administrator, at the DRDO and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He was involved in the military missile development efforts and civilian space programme in India. This, he is known as Missile Man of India. He also played significant organisational, technical, and political role the Pokhran-II nuclear tests by India in 1998.

### 1.23 VARANASI TO BECOME FIRST INDIAN CITY TO USE ROPEWAY SERVICES FOR PUBLIC

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh will become the first city in India to use ropeway services in public transportation.
- Overall, Varanasi will be the third city in the world after Bolivia and Mexico City to use ropeway in public transportation. The total cost of the ropeway project is Rs 424 crore. The total distance of 4.2 km will be covered in just 15 minutes.
- The project will be executed on a public-private partnership model. The cost of the project will be divided between the Centre and the state government at 80:20. Four stations of the ropeway services pilot phase will be at the height of above 11 meters.

### 1.24 UIDAI TO HOST 'AADHAAR HACKATHON 2021'

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is set to host the 'Aadhaar Hackathon 2021' from October 28, 2021.

**About Aadhaar Hackathon**

- The Aadhaar Hackathon is set to identify young innovators in the area of information technology.
- The event will start from October 28 and end on October 31, 2021.
- Hackathon will be organised for young innovators who are still at various engineering institutes and seeks to step into the real world.
- It will be the first-ever event being conducted by Aadhaar team.

**Theme of the event**

- **Aadhaar Hackathon 2021 has been themed on two topics:**
- **Enrolment and Update:** This topic primarily covers some of the real-life challenges which are faced by the residents while they update their address.
- **Identity and Authentication:** Under this theme, the UIDAI is soliciting innovative solutions for proving the identity without sharing Aadhaar number or any demographic information. It is also

looking for innovative applications related to face authentication API, which is the newly launched authentication modality of the UIDAI. Its objective is to popularise existing as well as new APIs for solving the needs of residents.

- To solve these challenges, UIDAI is reaching out to all engineering colleges through innovative technological solutions.
- How to register
- One can register for the hackathon by visiting “hackathon.uidai.gov.in” website.
- Prize money and other benefits
- UIDAI will also reward winners under each theme through prize money and other lucrative benefits.
- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
- UIDAI is a statutory authority which was established under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016 on July 12, 2016. It was established under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). It was created to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), dubbed as “Aadhaar”, to all the residents of India.

## 1.25 GEN-NEXT DEMOCRATIC NETWORK’ INITIATIVE- KEY FACTS

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Under the new initiative called “Gen-Next Democratic Network” initiative, India is set to host young leaders aged fewer than 35.

### About:

- This event will be organised in November 2021.
- It has been planned by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- ICCR is an autonomous body working under the Ministry of External Affairs. It deals with the policies related to India’s external cultural relations.
- Young leaders would be invited from 75 different democracies.
- These young leaders will be invited from ruling party, opposition party and other key parties.
- 5-7 leaders will be invited in different groups, to attend the event.

### Inaugural Batch

- The inaugural batch will comprise of leaders from countries like Bangladesh, Bangladesh, Chile, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Japan and Zambia. Structure comprises of countries representing regions and continents such as South East Asia and Africa.

### Who will inaugurate the event?

- This event will be inaugurated by the speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla. The event will take place from November 25.

### Purpose of the meeting

- Through this event, organisers are approaching and trying to build relations with Gen-next of 75 democracies. These people will become future leader of their respective countries. This, through this event, they will get a comprehensive idea of rich democratic culture in India. They will also go to at least one state with ICCR.

### Background

- This initiative has been launched by in the light that, India has been taking a lead role in the area of geo politics of democracies.

## 1.26 NITI AAYOG JOINS HAND WITH ISRO TO LAUNCH GEOSPATIAL ENERGY MAP

### WHY IN NEWS?

- NITI Aayog has launched the Geospatial Energy Map of India which will provide a holistic picture of all energy resources of the country.
- The map has been developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Energy Ministries of the Government of India.
- The map will help to identify and locate all primary and secondary sources of energy and their transportation/transmission networks to provide a comprehensive view of energy production and distribution in a country, which would further help in planning and making investment decisions.

## 1.27 KUSHINAGAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh is the latest entrant in India's list of international Airports. The airport is expected to provide seamless connectivity to people from South east and East Asian countries for Buddhist Pilgrimage Tourism.
- Kushinagar is the centre of the Buddhist circuit, which consists of pilgrimage sites at Lumbini, Sarnath, Gaya and others.
- **Key Points**
- **Kushinagar Airport and Cultural Diplomacy:**
- The inauguration of Kushinagar International airport is set to be a landmark in the India-Sri Lanka relations.
- On the occasion of Airport's inauguration, Sri Lanka will present to India photographs of two mural paintings:
- One Mural Painting shows Aradat Bhikkhu' Mahinda, son of Emperor Ashoka delivering the message of the Buddha to King Devanampiyatissa of Sri Lanka.
- The other shows the arrival of 'Theri Bhikkhuni' Sanghamitta, the daughter of the Emperor, in Sri Lanka, bearing a sapling of the 'sacred Bodhi tree' under which Siddhārtha Gautama is believed to have attained enlightenment.
- The Buddhist circuit reflects the use of soft power in India's foreign policy.
- The emphasis on Buddhist diplomacy, will help counter increasing Chinese influence in Sri Lanka and improve people to people relations (especially in the context of the aftermath of Sri-lankan Civil War).
- Further, the Buddhist faith, due to its emphasis on peaceful co-existence and its wide pan-Asian presence, lends itself well to soft-power diplomacy.

### Spread of Buddhism in Sri Lanka

- Buddhism was first brought to Sri Lanka by a mission sent out from eastern India during the reign of the Mauryan emperor Ashoka (c. 273–232 BCE).
- The leader of the mission to Sri Lanka, Mahendra (Mahinda), is described as Ashoka's son.

### About Buddhist Circuit:

- In 2014-15, the Ministry of Tourism launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme with a vision to develop theme-based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value.
- The Ministry has identified Buddhist Circuit as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development under the scheme.
- The Buddhist circuit is a route that follows in the footsteps of the Buddha from Lumbini in Nepal to Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh in India, where he died.
- Buddhist pilgrims consider Kushinagar a sacred site where, they believe, Gautama Buddha delivered his last sermon and attained 'Mahaparinirvana' or salvation.
- Investing in the Buddhist Circuit is the result of first-time collaboration between the Government of India's Ministry of Tourism, the State Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the private sector, Buddhist monasteries and sects, and the World Bank Group.

## 1.28 BHASKARABDA: A LUNI-SOLAR CALENDAR

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Assam Government has announced that Bhaskarabda, a Luni-Solar Calendar will be used as an official calendar.
- Presently, the official calendar of Assam government makes use of the Saka calendar and the Gregorian calendar.
- However, the Bhaskarabda calendar will also be used from now onwards.

### About:

- Bhaskarabda, an era counted from the date of the ascension of a 7<sup>th</sup>-century local ruler Bhaskar Varman.
- It is based on both the phases of the moon and the solar year.
- It began when Bhaskaravarman was crowned ruler of the Kamrupa kingdom.
  - He was a contemporary and political ally of northern Indian ruler Harshavardhana.
- The gap between Bhaskarabda and Gregorian is 593 years.

### Type of Calendars:

- **Solar:**
  - Any dating system based on the seasonal year of approximately 365 1/4 days, the time it takes the Earth to revolve once around the Sun.
- **Lunar:**
  - Any dating system based on a year consisting of synodic months—i.e., complete cycles of phases of the Moon.
- **Luni-Solar:**
  - In the lunisolar calendar months are lunar but years are solar, it was used in the early civilizations of the whole Middle East and in Greece.

### Bhaskarvarman (600–650):

- He belonged to the Varman dynasty and was the ruler of Kamarupa Kingdom.
- Kamarupa was one of the most advanced kingdoms in India under Bhaskaravarman. Kamarupa was the first historical kingdom of Assam.
- His name has been immortalised in the accounts of the Chinese Buddhist pilgrim, Xuanzang, who visited Kamarupa during his reign.
- He is known for his alliance with Harshavardhana against Shashanka, the first major ruler of Bengal (Karnasuvarna).

## 1.29 INDIA SET TO TOUCH 100 CRORE COVID VACCINATION MARK

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India crossed another significant milestone in its fight against the covid-19 pandemic on October 21, 2021. It touched the mark of 100 crore Covid vaccinations including the first as well as second doses.

### About:

- On the other hand, India reported 18,454 new cases in last 24 hours.
- Currently, the active caseload stands at 1,78,831.
- Recovery rate stands at 98.15 per cent, accounting for highest since March 2020.
- With 160 Covid patients lost life to Covid-19 infection in last 24 hours, total death now stands around 4.52 lakh.

### Vaccination count

- Data on vaccine shows that, India's inoculation drive has been fairly equitable. More than 65 per cent of total vaccine doses are being administered across rural areas. 74 per cent of the estimated adult population have received first dose of the vaccine while 31 per cent are fully vaccinated.

### **India's vaccination drive**

- India started its COVID-19 vaccination drive on January 16, 2021. As of October 21, 2021, India has crossed 100 crores mark, including first and second doses. About half of the eligible population has got at least one shot, while 19 per cent have received both the doses. India initially approved Oxford–AstraZeneca vaccine and Covaxin. Later, these vaccines were joined by the Sputnik V, Johnson & Johnson vaccine, Moderna vaccines and ZyCoV-D.

### **First Phase of Vaccination**

- In the first phase of vaccination, about 30 million health workers who were directly dealing with Covid-19 patients as well as frontline workers received the vaccine. In subsequent phases, vaccination plan was rolled out for other people.

## **1.30 MOUNT MANIPUR AND ANGLO-MANIPUR WAR**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, the Union government has renamed Mount Harriet of Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands to Mount Manipur.

### **About:**

- Mount Harriet, the third-highest island peak in A&N Islands, where Manipur's Maharaja Kulchandra Singh and 22 other freedom fighters were imprisoned during the Anglo-Manipuri war (1891).
- It has been renamed in a tribute to those freedom fighters of Manipur.
- Manipur celebrates Khongjom Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> April in commemoration of the freedom fighters of Anglo-Manipuri War.

### **Anglo-Manipuri War:**

#### **Background:**

- In 1886, when Surchandra inherited the throne from his father Chandrakirti Singh, the kingdom of Manipur was not under British rule but had links with the crown through different treaties.
- However, Surchandra's ascension to the throne was controversial and his younger brothers - Kulachandra, Tikendrajit - revolted against him.
- The 1890 coup by the rebel faction removed Surchandra, and proclaimed Kulachandra, the next oldest brother, the king. Surchandra fled to Calcutta seeking British help to reinstate him.

#### **British Imposition:**

- The British dispatched James Quinton, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, with an army to Manipur. His mission was to recognise Kulachandra as the king under the condition that they be allowed to arrest the coup leader Crown Prince Tikendrajit and deport him from Manipur.
- This aggressive imposition of British law in a sovereign state was rejected by the king, precipitating the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891.

#### **Culmination:**

- In the first phase of the war, the British surrendered and their officers - including Quinton - were executed in public.
- In the second phase, the British attacked Manipur from three sides, and finally captured the Kangla Fort in Imphal.
- Prince Tikendrajit and four others were hanged by the British, while Kulachandra, along with 22 others, were deported to the Andaman Islands.
- Despite their victory, it had led to the death of five important officers.
- In India, it was viewed as being part of the general uprising against British rule in the country, soon after the Revolt of 1857.
- The war led to Manipur officially becoming a princely state under the indirect rule of the British crown.

## **1.31 MoRD: 152 SAKSHAM CENTRES LAUNCHED UNDER DAY-NRLM**



### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Ministry of Rural Development launched 152 SAKSHAM centres under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). These centres were launched as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

### **About:**

- About 152 Centre for Financial Literacy & Service Delivery (or SAKSHAM Centres) were launched across 77 districts in 13 states, during October 4 to 8, 2021.
- These centres would act as one stop solution or single window system for the basic financial needs of Self-Help Group (SHG) households across the rural areas.

### **Objectives of the centre**

- These centres were launched with the objective of providing financial literacy and facilitating the delivery of financial services like credit, savings, pensions, insurance, etc. These facilities will be provided to SHG members and rural poor.

### **Who will manage these centres?**

- These centres will be managed by SHG network, at the level of “Cluster Level Federations (CLFs)”. Trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs) will also help in maintaining the centres.

### **Trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs)**

- Trained CRPs are given six days residential training at the Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), which are established by the Lead Bank of the district.

### **SAKSHAM App**

- This mobile & web-based application has been launched by Ministry of Rural Development. The community resource person of the Centre will use this application for knowing the penetration of several financial services for each SHG & village, identifying major gaps as well as for providing training & delivering the required financial services. Application will also measure the impact of the programme for mid-course correction in the strategy on regular interval.

## **1.32 OCTOBER 23: KARNATAKA CELEBRATES KITTUR RANI CHENNAMMA JAYANTHI**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Indian state of Karnataka is celebrating “Kittur Rani Chennamma Jayanthi” on October 23, 2021.

### **About:**

- On the occasion, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai garlanded the statue of Queen in Hubballi in Dharwad district.
- A sum of 50 crore rupees will be sanctioned in the year 2021 for the Kittur Development Authority.

### **Kittur Chennamma**

- Kittur Chennamma was born on October 23, 1778. She belonged to the Lingayat community. She married Raja Mallasarja from the Desai family when she was 15. She was Indian Queen of Kittur which was a princely state in Karnataka. She led an armed rebellion in the year 1824, against the British East India Company (BEIC). She rebelled in confrontation of the doctrine of lapse in a bid to maintain Indian control over the region. In the fight, she defeated the British. However, she was dead in the imprisonment of second rebellion by BEIC. She was one of the first female rulers who rebel against British rule. She became a folk hero in Karnataka. She also became a symbol of independence movement in India.

### **About Kittur**

- Kittur is a taluka in Belagavi district of Karnataka. It was the part of Bailhongal taluka. On October 23, 2012 it was declared as an independent taluka by the Chief Minister of Karnataka. It is 177th Taluk of the State

## **1.33 PM AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE MISSION**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission on October 25, 2021, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

### **About:**

- This scheme is of worth Rs 5000-crore and is India's largest scheme launched to scale-up health infrastructure.
- The mission was launched to improve the public health infrastructure in urban as well as rural areas.
- It will work in addition to the National Health Mission.
- About Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission
- The Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission was announced by PM. It is expected to extend support to 17,788 rural Health & Wellness Centres across 10 high focus states. Under the scheme, 11,024 urban Health & Wellness Centres will be established. The mission will be launched with the aim of strengthening the critical healthcare network in India.

### **Objective of Mission**

- This mission was launched with the objective of filling critical gaps in public health infrastructure. It will bridge the gap between critical care facilities and primary care across urban and rural areas.

### **Second aspect of mission**

- Second aspect of the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is related to "testing network for diagnosis of diseases". Necessary infrastructure will be developed under the mission for the diagnosis and monitoring of diseases. Under it, 730 districts in India will get Integrated to Public Health labs. Apart from that, 3 thousand blocks will be provided Block Public Health Units.

### **Significance of the scheme**

- Scheme will investigate the expansion of existing research institutions that are studying pandemics. It will also help in strengthening 80 Viral Diagnostic and research labs. It will also set up "WHO regional research platform for South Asia" in a bid to strengthen this network.

## **1.34 GOVT TO SET UP PANEL FOR NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT POLICY**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The central government has planned to set up a committee for National Employment Policy (NEP), which seeks to create a roadmap for improving job opportunities in India.

### **About:**

- The committee will comprise of representatives from Ministry of labour and other ministries.
- It will also include prominent people from industry.
- It will be a high-powered committee, of which views and recommendations will be taken.

### **National Employment Policy (NEP)**

- The NEP seeks to create a sector-wise strategy to improve the potential of job creation by pulling investments towards employment-intensive sectors, attracting new industries by creating an enabling environment and by policy interventions. It will be created based on data from five all-India labour surveys and E-Shram portal for facilitating evidence-based policymaking to generate employment. Following the consultations, it will be sent for cabinet approval.

### **AQEES survey**

- The first All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES) was launched in September 2021, for the April-June 2021 quarter. This survey is conducted by Labour Bureau, an office of Ministry of Labour & Employment. As per Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), unemployment rate had touched a record high of 23.52%, in April 2020. During April-June 2020-21 quarter, around 121 million jobs were lost, the highest ever monthly job loss on record since it started compiling employment data.

### **E-Shram Portal**

- Labour Ministry had launched the E-Shram portal on August 26, 2021. The platform registers an estimated 380 million informal & unorganised workers like construction workers, street vendors, domestic workers, gig & platform workers, agricultural & migrant workers, and other unorganised workers. This portal will facilitate the implementation of policies for unorganised sector. Portal will help in monitoring and supervising government policies as well as ensure that benefits reach the targeted group.

### 1.35 QUEEN HEO HWANG-OK

#### WHY IN NEWS?

Recently, on the banks of the Sarayu in Ayodhya, the Ram Katha Park has been renovated which will be renamed as Queen Heo Hwang-ok memorial park. The Korean queen is believed to have had Indian roots.

- In 2000, India and South Korea signed an agreement to develop Ayodhya and Gimhae as sister cities.
- Earlier, in March 2021 Indian Defence Minister and his South Korean counterpart inaugurated the India-Korea Friendship Park in a ceremony at the Delhi Cantonment.

#### About:

- She was a Korean queen who is believed to have been born Princess Suriratna of Ayodhya, daughter of King Padmasen and Indumati.
- Padmasen ruled the ancient kingdom of Kausala (Kosala), a region that extended from present-day UP to Odisha.
- The memorial park now comprises Queen and King Pavilions with their busts in place, and a pond to represent Princess Suriratna's journey.
- Her story is described in Samguk Yusa (Memorabilia of Three Kingdoms).
- It is a 13<sup>th</sup>-century collection of legends, folktales and history of Korea's three kingdoms — Goguryeo, Baekje and Silla — and some other regions.
- In 48 BC, the princess travelled to Korea from the ancient land of 'Ayuta' and married Kim Suro, founder and King of Geumgwan Gaya in south-eastern Korea.
- There is no consensus among historians on the location of 'Ayuta' as some historians believe that the princess could actually be from Thailand's Ayutthaya kingdom.
- While in the popular imagination, it is associated with Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, there is no Indian account of the legend.

#### Princess Journey From India to Korea:

- She travelled by boat along with an entourage, having been sent by her father, who is said to have had a dream about her marrying king Suro.
- A pagoda, believed to have been brought by the queen from India to calm the ocean gods, is placed next to the tomb.
- According to the legend, the princess had taken a golden egg to Korea, and the park includes an egg made of granite.

### 1.36 GOA BECAME THE 1ST STATE TO ACHIEVE ODF AND ELECTRICITY FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Goa has achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) and Electricity for every household. The original ODF protocol was issued in the year 2016. According to it, a city or ward is notified as ODF city or ward if not a single person is found defecating in the open, at any point of the day.
- Goa has also become the first state to provide tap water to every household under the "Har Ghar Jal Mission". Apart from that, Goa achieved a 100 per cent target to provide free ration to the poor and needy. It has also completed 100 per cent first dose of covid-19 vaccination.

## 1.37 VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK 2021: OCTOBER 26 TO NOVEMBER 01

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Vigilance Awareness Week 2021 has been organised by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) from 26 October to 01 November 2021.
- The annual event is celebrated during the week in which the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls, which is held on October 31. The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2021: 'Independent India @75: Self Reliance with Integrity'.
- The week-long celebration aims to promote integrity, transparency and accountability amongst public servants and create awareness about the existence, causes and gravity of corruption and the threat posed by it to society as a whole.

## 1.38 INDIA'S FIRST RADIO OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL SYSTEM INAUGURATED IN KOLKATA

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SPM) in Kolkata has become the first Major Indian Port to get a Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System. The ROIP was inaugurated by Vinit Kumar, Chairman of SPM, on October 25, 2021.
- SMP, Kolkata has been constantly maintaining its pivotal position in Indian Major Ports for the past 152 years. ROIP system is a long-range marine communication solution, to aid especially during storms and inclement weather.
- Using the ROIP mode of communication, the vessels at Sandheads can be directly communicated via Radio, from Kolkata. The solution shall cover the entire Hugli River Estuary from Kolkata to Sandheads, and will have base stations at 4 Locations: Kolkata, Hugli point, Haldia and Sagar Pilot Station.

## 1.39 PEGASUS CASE

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) has appointed an expert committee [to be overseen by a retired apex court judge (Justice Raveendran Committee)] in the Pegasus case.
- Under the case, the Union Government is alleged to have used spyware for surveillance on private citizens.

#### Supreme Court Judgment:

##### Judicial Principle Against Bias:

- The court rejected the government's plea to set up its own probe.
- The court asserted that the government appointment of probe would violate the settled judicial principle against bias, i.e., that 'justice must not only be done, but also be seen to be done',"

##### Formation of Expert Committee:

- On account of the government's inaction to file a detailed response to the allegations made by the petitioners, the Court has constituted a panel of experts under former SC judge Justice R V Raveendran.

##### Terms of Recommendation:

- The court has also asked the Raveendran committee to make recommendations on a legal and policy framework to protect citizens against surveillance and enhance cyber security of the country.
- The court has set seven terms of reference for the committee, which are essentially facts that need to be ascertained to decide the issue.

##### Issues Addressed by the SC:

##### Right to Privacy:

- The court reiterated that right to privacy is as sacrosanct as human existence and is inalienable to human dignity and autonomy.
- The Right to Privacy was held as a part of fundamental rights by the Supreme Court in K S Puttaswamy case, 2017.
- Any surveillance or snooping done on an individual by the state or any outside agency is an infringement of that person's right to privacy.

#### **Surveillance on Free Speech:**

- The Court has drawn a link between surveillance and self-censorship.
- The knowledge that one is under the threat of being spied on leads to self-censorship and potential chilling effect.
- The chilling effect surveillance can produce is an assault on the vital public-watchdog role of the press, which may undermine the ability of the press to provide accurate and reliable information (Free Speech).
- It further held that, an important and necessary corollary of such a right is to ensure the protection of sources of information.

#### **National Security as a Ground to Block Citizen's Rights:**

- The Court has ruled that the state does not get a "free pass every time the spectre of 'national security' is raised".
- This also means "no omnibus prohibition can be called for against judicial review" if the matter impinges on national security.
- Hence, any violation of that right by the state, even in national interest, has to follow procedures established by the law.
- Further, the order is a strong rebuttal of the government's specious and self-serving use of national security as a ground to criminalise the forms of dissent.

## **1.40 PUNE DIALOGUE ON NATIONAL SECURITY (PDNS) 2021**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- 6th Pune Dialogue on National Security (PDNS) 2021 was inaugurated on October 28, 2021 by the Pune International Centre (PIC).

### **About:**

- It is a two-day virtual conference, in which National Security Advisor Ajit Doval delivered the inaugural address.
- Conference will also witness a keynote address by Dr Soumya Swaminathan who happens to be the Chief Scientist of the World Health Organisation.

### **Theme of the conference**

- Pune Dialogue on National Security 2021 was organised under the theme- 'National Security Preparedness in the Age of Disasters and Pandemics'.

### **Agenda of the meeting**

- During the meeting, participants will discuss the impact of disasters and pandemics on the national security of India. They will also suggest strategies to deal with disasters.
- Conference will be addressed by Gen N C Vij (retd), NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of National Disaster Management Authority and former Chief of the Army Staff.
- They will hold discussions on disaster risk reduction as part of national security as well as on role of science & technology and imperatives.

### **About PDNS**

- PDNS is held by PIC in collaboration with the Policy Perspectives Foundation (PPF) of New Delhi, Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies (CASS) and The Tribune Trust of Chandigarh.

### **Highlights of NSA's address**

- National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval, highlighted that "deliberate weaponization of dangerous pathogens" is a matter of serious concern. He also called for the need of building comprehensive

national capabilities as well as bio-defence, bio-security & bio-safety. He also expressed the concerns over climate change issue.

## 1.41 ASSISTANCE TO DISABLED PERSONS SCHEME

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, a Samajik Adhikarita Shivar (social empowerment camp) for distribution of aids and assistive devices to Divyangjan under the ADIP (Assistance to Disabled Persons) Scheme was organised in Punjab.
- Divyangjan or Divyang: Earlier, in 2015 the Prime Minister decided that persons with disabilities should no longer be referred to as disabled persons or viklang (someone with non-functional body parts) instead they will be referred to as Divyangjan or Divyang (one with a divine body).

### About:

#### Ministry:

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the Nodal ministry
- It has been in operation since 1981.

#### Definition:

- The scheme follows the definitions of various types of disabilities as given in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PWD) Act 1995.
- The PWD Act was replaced by the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.

#### Objective:

- To assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhancing their economic potential.

#### Grants:

- Grants-in-aid are released to various implementing agencies (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres, District Disability Rehabilitation Centres, State Handicapped Development Corporations, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), etc.) for purchase and distribution of aids and assistive devices.

#### Assistance:

- Aids/appliances which do not cost more than Rs. 10,000 are covered under the Scheme for single disability.
- However, in some cases the limit would be raised to Rs.12,000. In the case of multiple disabilities, the limit will apply to individual items separately in case more than one aid/appliance is required.
- Full cost of aid/appliance is provided if the income is up to Rs. 15,000 per month and 50% of the cost of aid/appliance is provided if the income is between Rs. 15,001 to Rs. 20,000 per month.

## 1.42 INDIAN TELEGRAPH RIGHT OF WAY (AMENDMENT) RULES, 2021

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Central Government has notified the Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021.
- The rule aims to incorporate the provisions related to nominal one-time compensation and uniform procedure for establishment of Overground Telegraph Line in the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016.

### About:

- Compensation: The amount of one-time compensation for establishment of an overground telegraph line will be a maximum one thousand rupees per kilometre.

- Right of Way (RoW): These amendments will ease RoW related permission procedures for establishment and augmentation of digital communications infrastructure across the country.
- Earlier, the RoW Rules had covered only underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and mobile towers.
- Fees: There will be no fee other than Administrative fee and Restoration charges for establishing, maintaining, transferring or shifting the underground and overground telegraph infrastructure.

**Significance:**

- The digital divide between rural-urban and rich-poor will be bridged, in line with the Digital India mission and BharatNet project.
- E-governance and financial inclusion will be strengthened.
- Doing business will be easy.
- Information and communication needs of citizens and enterprises will be fulfilled (including 5G).
- The dream of India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society will be translated into reality.

**PRACTISE MCQS**

**QUESTION 1: "Bal Raksha Kit" which is an immunity boosting kit has been launched by-**

- A. Ministry of Ayush
- B. Ministry of Women and child development
- C. Ministry of Health and family welfare
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 2: "People's Plan Campaign 2021-Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas" has been launched by**

- A. Ministry of Panchayati Raj & Rural Development
- B. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 3: AMRUT mission aims for urban development in how many cities?**

- A. 100
- B. 200
- C. 400
- D. 500

**QUESTION 4: Digi Saksham Programme was launched recently by-**

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- C. Ministry of Labour and Employment
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 5: Kamdhenu Deepawali 2021 campaign, launched recently aims to promote lamps made of**

- A. Biodegradable plastic
- B. Cow dung
- C. Recycled paper waste
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 6: Pandora papers are associated with-**

- A. Copyrights issue
- B. Parking money in tax havens
- C. Terrorist financing
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 7: Dare to Dream contest has been recently launched by-**

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation
- B. Defence Research and Development Organisation
- C. Ministry of Education
- D. none of the above

**QUESTION 8: A cash reward of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ will be provided to good Samaritans who help the accident victim in golden hour.**

- A. 500
- B. 5000
- C. 10000
- D. 20000

**QUESTION 9: Ministry of Tourism is organising a “Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour and Conference” at**

- A. Bodh Gaya
- B. Varanasi
- C. Delhi
- D. Both A and B

**QUESTION 10: The Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre has been inaugurated in-**

- A. Guwahati
- B. Tawang
- C. Dispur
- D. Imphal

**QUESTION 11: The 10% EWS quota was introduced under the \_\_\_\_\_ Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019.**

- A. 101<sup>st</sup>
- B. 102<sup>nd</sup>
- C. 103<sup>rd</sup>
- D. 104<sup>th</sup>

**QUESTION 12: The term ‘Bottom Trawling’ is associated with-**

- A. Sewage management
- B. Cricket
- C. Fishing
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 13: I-Sprint-21 term is associated with-**

- A. Fintech
- B. Covid research
- C. Athletics
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 14: The Drone Mela was recently held in-**

- A. Dehradun
- B. Bangalore
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Kanyakumari

**QUESTION 15: Bathukamma festival is celebrated in which state?**

- A. Kerala

- B. Manipur
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Telangana

**QUESTION 16: Trishul and Garuda, seen recently in news, are-**

- A. Indigenous drones of drdo
- B. Long haul freight trains
- C. Anti-tank missiles
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 17: Consider the following statements-**

- 1 National Human Rights Commission is a constitutional body.
- 2 Its members are appointed by President.
- 3 Only a retired Chief Justice of India can be its chairman.

**Which of the above statements are incorrect?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

**QUESTION 18: Under the new rules of Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021, the gestational limit for termination of pregnancy has been increased to \_\_\_\_\_ weeks for exceptional categories of women in India.**

- A. 20
- B. 22
- C. 24
- D. 26

**QUESTION 19: ‘MyParkings’ is a recently launched application in which people can book parking slots online in areas of-**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Delhi
- C. Kolkata
- D. Indore

**QUESTION 20: Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is a CPSU working under the ambit of-**



- A. Ministry of Power
- B. Ministry of New & Renewable energy
- C. Ministry of Commerce and Industries
- D. Ministry of Heavy Industries

**QUESTION 21: CRISPR-M tool is associated with-**

- A. Genetic engineering
- B. Robotics
- C. Mgnrega
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 22: Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerna Sthal was inaugurated recently at-**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Mysore
- D. Kodaikanal

**QUESTION 23: Which city will become first Indian city to use ropeway services for public?**

- A. Ahmedabad
- B. Mumbai
- C. Varanasi
- D. Lucknow

**QUESTION 24: Consider the following statements:**

1. 'Aadhaar Hackathon 2021' was recently conducted by UIDAI.
2. Unique Identification Authority of India was established under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 25: Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is an autonomous body working under the-**

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Culture
- C. Ministry of External Affairs
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

**QUESTION 26: The Geospatial Energy Map of India has been recently launched jointly by ISRO and-**

- A. Geological Survey of India
- B. Ministry of Mines
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 27: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 The Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh is the latest entrant in India's list of international Airports.
- 2 Kushinagar is known as Buddha's birth place.
- 3 It is a part of Buddha Circuit under Swadesh Darshan scheme.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1,2 and 3

**QUESTION 28: Which state has declared that Bhaskarabda, a Luni-Solar Calendar will be used as an official calendar?**

- A. Assam
- B. Bihar
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Telangana

**QUESTION 29: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 India recently crossed 100 crore covid vaccination milestone including both first and second dosage.
- 2 More than 65 per cent of total vaccine doses are being administered across rural areas.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 30: Mt. Harriet which has been recently renamed as Mt. Manipur is situated in-**

- A. Manipur
- B. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- C. Kerala
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 31: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is under Ministry of Rural Development.
- 2 Recently 152 Saksham Centres have been launched by the ministry to assist SHGs and rural poor.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 32: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 Kittur Chennamma, a Lingayat queen, belonged to Karnataka.
- 2 She participated in the Quit India Movement.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 33: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is of worth Rs 5 lakh-crore and is India's largest scheme launched to scale-up health infrastructure.
- 2 The mission was launched to improve the public health infrastructure in urban as well as rural areas.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 34: All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES) is conducted by-**

- A. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- B. Ministry of Labour
- C. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 35: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 India and South Korea have signed an agreement to develop Ayodhya and Gimhae as sister cities.
- 2 Recently it has been decided to rename Ram Katha Park in Ayodhya as Queen Heo Hwang-ok memorial park.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 36: Which state has become the 1<sup>st</sup> state to achieve ODF and electricity for each household?**

- A. Sikkim
- B. Kerala
- C. Goa
- D. Uttarakhand

**QUESTION 37: The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2021 is:**

- A. 'Independent India @75: Self Reliance with Integrity'.
- B. 'Independent India @75: Yes We Can'.
- C. 'Independent India @75: More Conviction'.
- D. none of the above

**QUESTION 38: The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port is located in-**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Vizag
- C. Kolkata
- D. Mangalore

**QUESTION 39: The Supreme Court (SC) has appointed an expert committee in the Pegasus case. It will be headed by-**

- A. Justice Rohini
- B. Justice Raveendran
- C. Justice Amitav Roy
- D. Justice J S Khehar

**QUESTION 40: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 The 6<sup>th</sup> Pune Dialogue on National Security (PDNS) 2021 was inaugurated by the Pune International Centre (PIC).
- 2 It was organised under the theme- 'National Security Preparedness in the Age of Disasters and Pandemics'.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 41: The ADIP (Assistance to Disabled Persons) Scheme comes under the ambit of-**

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 42: As per Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2021, the amount of one-time compensation for establishment of an over ground telegraph line will be a maximum \_\_\_\_\_ rupees per kilometre.**

- A. 100
- B. 1000
- C. 10000
- D. None of the above

## Answers

ANSWER 1: A  
ANSWER 2: A  
ANSWER 3: D  
ANSWER 4: C  
ANSWER 5: B  
ANSWER 6: B  
ANSWER 7: B  
ANSWER 8: B  
ANSWER 9: D  
ANSWER 10: A  
ANSWER 11: C  
ANSWER 12: C  
ANSWER 13: A  
ANSWER 14: A  
ANSWER 15: D  
ANSWER 16: B  
ANSWER 17: B  
ANSWER 18: C  
ANSWER 19: B

ANSWER 20: B  
ANSWER 21: C  
ANSWER 22: B  
ANSWER 23: C  
ANSWER 24: A  
ANSWER 25: C  
ANSWER 26: C  
ANSWER 27: B  
ANSWER 28: A  
ANSWER 29: C  
ANSWER 30: B  
ANSWER 31: C  
ANSWER 32: A  
ANSWER 33: B  
ANSWER 34: B  
ANSWER 35: C  
ANSWER 36: C  
ANSWER 37: A  
ANSWER 38: C  
ANSWER 39: B  
ANSWER 40: C  
ANSWER 41: B  
ANSWER 42: B

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 1.43 SEPTEMBER 30: INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- International Translation Day was observed on September 30, honouring the work of Language specialists who contributes significantly on developing the international understanding.

#### About:

- The day is observed to mark the death of St. Jerome on September 30. He was a Bible translator, who is regarded as “patron saint of linguists”
- It is observed with the aim of raising awareness regarding the translation industry and languages which play a significant role in the growth of society.
- It also seeks to honour the efforts of language specialists.
- According to United Nations, this day provides chance to honour the work of language specialists, who significantly contributes towards developing international understanding, improving communication & cooperation among countries.

#### Theme of the day

- The International Translation Day 2021 was observed under the theme “United in translation.”

#### Background

- This day was started being observed in 1953. Since then, it is being organised by “International Federation of Translators (FIT)”. First formal celebration of the day was observed in 1991. In mat 2017, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) enacted the Resolution 71/288 regarding the importance of language experts in linking countries and encouraging peace, understanding, & advancement. UNGA designated September 30 as International Translation Day with the resolution 71/288.

#### Who was St. Jerome?

- St. Jerome was an Italian priest, living in north-eastern region of the country. He is most renowned for his efforts of translating New Testament from its Greek manuscripts into Latin. He died on September 30, near Bethlehem

### 1.44 INDIA'S PAVILION LAUNCHED AT DUBAI EXPO 2020

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated India's Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020.

#### About:

- At the expo, India has deployed the largest number of participants.
- It has a state-of-the-art 8,750 square metre pavilion with the message that “India is out to grab once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in order to explore solutions to challenges that hampers its growth.

#### Showcasing Ancient and Future India

- India Pavilion at Dubai Expo has been conceived as a hi-tech structure. It is a civilisational confluence of ancient India as well as future India. It is a massive four-floor structure that has been designed to attract anyone who walks in with the popular exports in India including yoga, literature, Ayurveda, heritage, arts, cuisine and space technology. Exterior of the pavilion is real showstopper.

#### Theme of Pavilion

- Innovative facade comprises of 600 individual kinetic blocks. Each of the facade can turn on its own axis in order to construct a picture on the basis of multiple themes. Pavilion has been installed under the overarching theme of ‘India on the move’ and ‘India the diverse’. Facade on both the sides of the

pavilion comprise of face of Mahatma Gandhi while metamorphosing front will showcase “constant change” and “timeless endurance” to mark the 75-year-old journey of India.

#### **Primary Themes of the pavilion**

- Zones in the pavilion are identified on the basis of 11 primary themes namely, Climate & Biodiversity; Urban & Rural Development; Space; Tolerance & Inclusivity; Knowledge & Learning; Golden Jubilee; Travel & Connectivity; Health & Wellness; Global Goals; Food Agriculture & Livelihoods and Water.

#### **Significance of India Pavilion**

- India pavilion is being viewed as long-term strategic investment. About 490 crore rupees has been invested on it. Pavilion design is so flexible that it can be used for offices and a space for trade or cultural event.

### **1.45 WORLD SPACE WEEK: 04-10 OCTOBER**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The World Space Week (WSW) is observed every year from October 4 to 10, to celebrate science and technology, and their contribution towards the betterment of the human condition.
- WSW was declared by the United Nations General Assembly on December 6, 1999. The 2021 theme is “Women in Space”!

### **1.46 IEA INVITES INDIA TO BECOME FULL-TIME MEMBER**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India to become its full-time member.

#### **About:**

- This membership invitation was given in the light that, India is world’s third-largest energy consumer.
- If this proposal is accepted, it will require India to increase its strategic oil reserved to 90 days requirement.
- Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri held discussions with IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol. During the discussion, IEA executive director invited India to deepen its cooperation with IEA by becoming its full member.

#### **India as associate member**

- India became an associate member of the IEA in March 2017. IEA is a Paris-based body that advises industrialised nations regarding the energy policies. In January 2021, IEA members & India agreed to enter into a strategic partnership in order to strengthen their collaboration with respect to energy security and clean energy transition.

#### **IEA report**

- According to IEA report, India is becoming increasingly influential in global energy sector.
- India’s demand for energy is set to increase rapidly in the coming decades, particularly the electricity use.
- India’s reliance on fuel imports will make the improving energy security a key priority for Indian economy.

#### **IEA members**

- IEA comprises of 30 member countries and eight associate nations. Four countries are seeking for a full membership namely, Colombia, Chile, Israel and Lithuania.

#### **Conditions for IEA members**

- As per IEA, a member country must maintain “crude oil and/or product reserves equal to 90 days of net imports in previous year. For this purpose, government has immediate access and it can be used to address disruptions in global oil supply. The current strategic oil reserves are equal to 9.5 days of

its requirement, in India. Furthermore, the IEA members has to show “a demand restraint programme for reducing national oil consumption by up to 10%.

#### **About IEA**

- IEA was founded in 1974 by industrialised countries under the framework of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

### **1.47 GERMANY LAUNCHES WORLD’S FIRST SELF-DRIVING TRAIN**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- German rail operator, Deutsche Bahn and industrial group, Siemens launched the first automated & driverless train of the world on October 11, 2021.

#### **About:**

- The self-driving train was launched in the city of Hamburg.
- This train is more punctual and energy efficient as compared to traditional trains.
- Country has planned to add four such trains to the S-Bahn rapid urban rail network of northern city.
- These trains will start carrying passengers from December on the existing rail infrastructure.
- Other cities such as Paris have driverless metros on the other hand, airports often have automated monorail trains plying terminals. However, these trains run on exclusive single tracks while the Hamburg train will share tracks with other regular trains.

#### **World’s first self-driving train**

- This project is being developed by ‘Siemens and Deutsche Bahn’. It is being dubbed as “world first”. The project is part of a 60-million-euro modernisation of rapid urban rail system of Hamburg. These automated trains will offer a reliable service without laying a single kilometre of new track. These trains can transport “up to 30 percent more passengers”. Besides improving the punctuality, these trains will save more than 30 percent of energy.

#### **Who will run the trains?**

- Though the train is controlled by digital technology and is fully automated. But a driver will sit on the train to supervise journeys of the passengers on board.

#### **Deutsche Bahn**

- It is a German railway company, having its headquarter in Berlin. It is a private joint-stock company. The Federal Republic of Germany is the only shareholder in the company. It is the second-largest transport company in the world. In the year 2015, Deutsche Bahn was the largest railway company of the world by revenue

### **1.48 PM MODI TO ATTEND G20 EXTRAORDINARY LEADERS’ SUMMIT ON AFGHANISTAN**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to attend the G20 Extraordinary Leaders’ Summit on October 12, 2021.

#### **About:**

- G20 Extraordinary Leaders’ Summit will be organised to discuss the situation in Afghanistan.
- This event will be convened by the G20 Italian Presidency in virtual mode.

#### **Agenda of the meeting**

- During the meeting, top world leaders will discuss the response to humanitarian needs as well as access to basic services & livelihood in Afghanistan. Leaders will also discuss the issues of counter terrorism, security and human rights.

#### **SCO-CSTO outreach summit**

- PM Modi had also participated in “SCO-CSTO outreach Summit” on Afghanistan. On the occasion, he had highlighted the challenges associated with peace and security in the region. He had warned the

countries that, recent developments in Afghanistan could result into an uncontrolled flow of drugs, illegal weapons as well as human trafficking.

### **Role of G20 in Afghanistan**

- The G20 grouping consists of 20 world's major economies. This platform helps in building international consensus as well as facilitate a coordinated approach between the multilateral organisations, including the United Nations (UN) and its agencies. It also facilitates coordination among global and regional actors in order to address the worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

### **About Group of Twenty (G20)**

- G20 is an intergovernmental forum consisting of 19 countries and European Union (EU). The group addresses major issues related to global economy like climate change mitigation, international financial stability and sustainable development. This grouping was founded in 1999 in the backdrop of several world economic crises. Since 2008, the group meets at least once a year. The G20 summits involves head of government or state, foreign minister, finance minister, and other high-ranking officials. EU is represented by European Commission and European Central Bank

## **1.49 OCTOBER 13: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed globally on October 13, every year.

#### **About:**

#### **Aim of the day**

- The day is observed with the aim of promoting a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction. It celebrates how people and communities across the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness regarding the importance of reining in risks that they are facing.

#### **2021 Edition**

- International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction provides an opportunity to acknowledge the progress made toward reducing the disaster risk and losses in lives, health and livelihoods. 2021 edition of the day will focus on international cooperation of developing countries in order to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses.

#### **Background**

- The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was first observed in the year 1989, after United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) called for a day to promote global culture of disaster reduction and risk-awareness. At the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, which was held in Sendai, Japan, international community was reminded that disasters hit hardest at local level, causes loss of life and social & economic upheaval.

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) works with thinkers, experts, practitioners, and innovators, every two years, to investigate the state of risk worldwide. It highlights what's new, spots the emerging trends, examines behaviour, reveals disturbing patterns and presents progress in reducing risk.

## **1.50 CICA 6TH FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, the External Affairs Minister addressed the 6th Ministerial (2021) meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures (CICA) in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- Last year, Kazakhstan assumed the chairmanship of CICA.
- The 5th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CICA was held in Beijing in the year 2016.



**About:****On Vaccine Maitri:**

- India's internationalism (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam) drives its Vaccine Maitri.
- In January 2021, India launched the Vaccine Maitri (Vaccine Friendship) initiative – a major diplomatic effort to gift and supply made-in-India vaccines to low-income and developing countries globally.

**On Cross Border Terrorism:**

- Advised the forum to strengthen collective resolve to tackle terrorism, arms trafficking, narcotics trade, and other forms of trans-national crimes.

**On Multilateralism:**

- Asia especially, but also Africa and Latin America, are inadequately represented in United Nations' (UN) decision-making.
- The limitations of the multilateral response to the Covid pandemic were starkly evident. This only makes a case for reformed multilateralism more urgent with each passing day.

**On Afghanistan:**

- India underscored the importance of the Taliban regime meeting the expectations of the international community as elaborated in the UN Security Council Resolution 2593.
- The UNSC resolution 2593 unequivocally demands that Afghan territory not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing terrorist acts; and specifically refers to terrorist individuals proscribed by the UN Security Council, including Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

**On Connectivity:**

- Connectivity must respect the most basic principle of international relations-respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- An apparent reference to India's objection to China's ambitious infrastructure development plans in Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- India has protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through PoK.

**About CICA**

- The CICA is an intergovernmental forum aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and ensuring peace, security, and stability in Asia.
- The idea of creating the organization was first voiced by Kazakhstan's First President Nursultan Nazarbayev in 1992 at the 47th session of the United Nations General Assembly, while the first CICA summit was held in June of 2002.
- The highest decision making organ of CICA is the Meeting of the CICA Heads of State and Government (Summit). The CICA Summit is convened every four years in order to conduct consultations, review the progress of, and set priorities for CICA activities.
- The Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs is required to be held every two years.
- CICA members include 27 Asian countries, including Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Russia, South Korea, and Turkey, nine observer states, and five international organizations.
- India co-chairs two CICA CBMs (Confidence Building Measures) on 'Development of Secure and Effective Systems of Transportation Corridors,' and 'Energy Security'.
- The CICA Secretariat has been located in Almaty (Kazakhstan) since June 2006.

## 1.51 WHAT IS NORTHERN IRELAND PROTOCOL?

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Northern Ireland protocol was designed to prevent checks across the border between Northern Ireland (US) and the Republic of Ireland (EU), following Brexit.

**About:**

- The Protocol came into force in the beginning of 2021.

- It has resulted into disagreements between the UK and EU as it disrupted trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- The UK government has been calling to rewrite the deal.

#### **What was the need of Northern Ireland Protocol?**

- During Brexit negotiations, all the parties agreed that protecting the 1998 Northern Ireland peace deal is an absolute priority.
- This protocol means that, keeping the land border open and avoiding setting up new infrastructure like cameras and border posts.
- This was easy to do when Ireland and Northern Ireland were part of the EU. Both the parties automatically shared the same EU rules on trade. No checks were required on goods travelling between them.
- However, in the backdrop of Brexit, new arrangement was required because EU requires goods like milk and eggs to be checked when they arrive from non-EU countries. While products like chilled meats are not allowed to enter EU at all.

#### **Northern Ireland Protocol**

- Under this protocol it was agreed that Northern Ireland will continue to follow EU rules on product standards in order to prevent checks across the border.
- Goods entering Northern Ireland from Scotland, England or Wales would be inspected.

#### **What changes is the UK government calling for?**

- Boris Johnson had signed an agreement in 2019 and promised that it would not create any inspection on goods moving between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. Now, the government is of the view that this protocol represented a huge compromise by the UK and accused the EU for applying it too rigidly. Thus, the Brexit Minister, Lord Frost, proposed some changes in the protocol. He has proposed a new mechanism under which goods would be able to circulate freely in Northern Ireland if they comply with either EU or UK regulations.

## **1.52 OCTOBER 14: WORLD SIGHT DAY**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- World Sight Day is observed on the second Thursday in months of October. In the year 2021, the day was observed on October 14.

### **About:**

- This day is a global event which seeks to draw attention on blindness and vision impairment.
- It was originally started in the year 2000 by the Sight First Campaign of Lions Club International Foundation.
- It is considered as most important advocacy and communication day in the eye health calendar.
- It is observed with the aim of bringing global attention to impairment and blindness.

### **Theme of the day**

- The theme of World Sight Day 2021 is 'Love Your Eyes'.

### **Background of the day**

- The first World Sight Day was observed by the Lions Clubs International partnered with blindness presentation organizations in the year 1998. The event was later integrated into VISION 2020, which is a global initiative, coordinated by IAPB (International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness) Observance of the day is a joint program between WHO and the IAPB. It comprises of professional association, non-government organizations and eye-care institutions & corporations.

### **Significance of the day**

- This day is significant because, there are more than billion people across the globe who cannot see properly as they do not have access to glasses. Out of them, one billion people are suffering with preventable vision impairment.
- Poor or lost eyesight leave long-lasting effects on every aspect of life, such as on daily personal activities, school & work, daily routine and interacting with the community.

## 1.53 INDIA, US, UAE, AND ISRAEL FORM A NEW QUAD

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India, Israel, United States and United Arab Emirates (UAE) are ready to build on momentum created by “Abraham Accords” by holding the first meeting of their foreign ministers on October 18, 2021.

### About:

- The meeting is being described in some quarters as a “new Quad”.
- It was joined by:
  - External affairs minister S Jaishankar,
  - US secretary of state Antony Blinken from Washington
  - Israeli foreign minister Yair Lapid from Jerusalem
  - UAE foreign minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan from Abu Dhabi.
- This meeting is the first to bring four countries together on a single platform.
- Meeting will also be linked with India’s efforts of building new plurilateral and multilateral partnerships which focuses on cooperation in areas including security, connectivity and energy.

### Trilateral Cooperation

- India, Israel and the UAE have also stepped-up a trilateral cooperation, especially in trade and investment, after US negotiated for Abraham Accords in August 2020 between two West Asian countries. Under this partnership, an Israel-based company will produce a robotic solar cleaning technology in India which will be used for a project in the UAE.

### Abraham Accords

- Abraham Accords are a joint statement between Israel, the US and the UAE. It was signed on August 13, 2020. The term was also used to refer to normalisation agreements between Israel & UAE and Israel & Bahrain collectively. It is the first public normalization of relations between any Arab country and Israel since 1994. The accords have been named after Abraham, emphasizing the shared belief between Judaism and Islam. Both of them are Abrahamic religions which strictly support monotheistic worship of the God of Abraham.

## 1.54 INDIA RE-ELECTED TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India has been re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for a sixth term on October 14, 2021, with an overwhelming majority.
- The new three-year term of India will be effective from January 2022 to December 2024. India received 184 votes of the 193 votes cast in the election.
- The elections were held for a total of 18 seats and countries needed a minimum of 97 votes to get elected to the 47 UN member council. The headquarters of the UNHRC is in Geneva, Switzerland.

## 1.55 INDIA HANDS OVER JAYNAGAR-KURTHA RAIL LINK TO NEPAL

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India has handed over 34.9 km long cross-border rail link to Nepal government that connects Jaynagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal.

### About:

- The ceremony took place on October 22, 2021 in the presence of Indian ambassador to Nepal Vinay M. Kwatra and Nepal minister for physical Infrastructure & transport Renu Kumari Yadav.

### About Jaynagar-Kurtha Section of rail link

- The Jaynagar – Kurtha section of rail link is the part of 68.7 km Jaynagar – Bijalpura- Bardidas rail link. It was built under the grant assistance programme of Indian government. Under the grant assistance of India, gauge conversion of 34.9 km narrow gauge has been completed. The project has

completed at a cost of Rs 619 crore. It has five stations in the section namely, Jayanagar, Khajuri, Inarwa, Baidehi and Kurtha near Janakpur in Nepal. The highest fare will likely be Rs 70 for general class and Rs 300 for AC for the entire journey. The train will run at 115 km per hour and the distance will be covered in 23 minutes.

#### **Significance of the rail link**

- This operationalised cross-border rail link is likely to enhance trade and commerce activities. It will also enhance people to people linkage between both the countries.

#### **Jainagar or Jaynagar**

- It is a town and a notified area in the Madhubani district of Bihar. As per 2011 census, Jainagar had a population of 1,77,556. Males account for 53% of the population while females account for 47%. The town has an average literacy rate of 58%.

## **1.56 BARBADOS ELECTS ITS FIRST-EVER PRESIDENT, REMOVING UK'S QUEEN ELIZABETH**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Barbados has elected its first-ever president as it prepares to become a republic, removing Queen Elizabeth as head of state.
- Dame Sandra Mason, 72, is set to be sworn in on 30 November, which will mark the country's 55th anniversary of independence from Britain.
- The first woman to serve on the Barbados Court of Appeals, Dame Sandra has been governor-general since 2018. The historic election came after a joint session of the House of Assembly and the Senate. described the vote as a "seminal moment" for the nation.

## **1.57 OCTOBER 24: UNITED NATIONS DAY**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The United Nations Day is observed on October 24, every year since 1948.

### **Why is this day celebrated?**

- The day marks the anniversary of the entry of the UN Charter into force in 1945.

### **What is UN Charter?**

- The UN Charter is the founding document of the United Nations, which has been working towards global equality and peace.
- With the ratification of this founding document by majority of its signatories, including five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations was officially established in the year 1945.
- Since 1948, October 24 has been celebrated as United Nations Day 1971.
- On the recommendations of United Nations General Assembly, the day is observed as a public holiday by the Member States.

### **History of United Nations**

- The United Nations was officially established on October 24, 1945, after the UN Charter was ratified by China, the Soviet Union, France, the United States and the United Kingdom as well as other signatories. President of United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt had coined the name "United Nations". He was also the first to use this name in Declaration by United Nations during Second World War, on January 1, 1942. Currently, there are 193 Member States and each of them are a member of the UN General Assembly as well.

### **When was UN Charter signed?**

- The UN Charter was signed on June 26, 1945, by the representatives of the 50 countries. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed the charter at later stage and became one among the original 51 Member States.

## 1.58 OCTOBER 27: WORLD DAY FOR AUDIOVISUAL HERITAGE 2021

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on October 27, every year.

### World day for Audiovisual Heritage

- Audio-visual Heritage Day is observed with the aim of raising general awareness among people related to the need of taking urgent measures.
- The day also acknowledges the significance of audio-visual documents.
- It also brings the priceless heritage of these documents to notice, telling the stories of lives & cultures from across the world.
- The day also sensitizes people across the world for conserving and safeguarding valuable audio-visual resources for future generations.

### Why this day is significant?

- The world, particularly the younger generation, is going digital in every significant aspect of life. Thus, this is significant as it reminds that even though we are moving forward, it is important to carry heritage so that it does not get lost. It encourages the preservation of work of professionals against the range of political, technical, social, financial, and other factors that threatens the safeguards of audio-visual heritage.

### Theme of the day

- The Audio-visual Heritage Day 2021 was observed under the theme “Your Window to the World”. The theme highlights that, audio-visual sources provide a window in the form of documentary heritage objects, to the world.

### History of the day

- This day was adopted by the 21st General Conference of the recommendations, in the year 1980, in a bid to safeguard and preserve the moving images. The day was declared by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural organization) on October 27, 2005.

## 1.59 US' CAATSA AND RUSSIA'S S-400

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The US lawmakers continue to voice their support for a sanctions waiver from Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for India.
- In October 2018, India signed a 5.43 billion USD deal with Russia for the S-400 Triumf missile system despite objections from the US and the threat of sanctions under CAATSA. India is likely to begin taking delivery of the S-400 missile defence system from Russia in November 2021.

### About the US' CAATSA:

- US Law: It is a US federal law enacted in 2017. The Act empowers the US President to impose at least five of the 12 listed sanctions on persons engaged in a “significant transaction” with Russian defence and intelligence sectors.
- Its “ultimate goal”, “is to prevent revenue from flowing to the Russian Government.
- Besides Russia, CAATSA is aimed at enforcing sanctions against Iran and North Korea.
- Types of Sanctions: The CAATSA contains 12 types of sanctions. There are only two sanctions that may impact either India-Russia relations or India-US relations.
- Prohibition of Banking transactions: The first of these, which is likely to have an impact on India-Russia relations, is the “Prohibition of Banking transactions”.
- This would mean difficulties for India in making payments in US Dollars to Russia for the purchase of the S-400 systems.
- Export Sanction: The second sanction will have greater consequences for India-US relations.
- This is the “export sanction” which has the potential to completely derail the India-US Strategic and Defence partnership, as it will deny the license for, and export of, any items controlled by the US.

- Waiver Criteria: The US President was given the authority in 2018 to waive CAATSA sanctions on a case-by-case basis.

### **Russia's S-400 Triumph Missile System:**

#### **About:**

- It is a mobile, Surface-to-Air Missile system (SAM) designed by Russia.
- It is the most dangerous operationally deployed Modern Long-Range SAM (MLR SAM) in the world, considered much ahead of the US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD).
- It integrates multifunction radar, autonomous detection and targeting systems, anti-aircraft missile systems, launchers, and command and control centre.
- It is capable of firing three types of missiles to create a layered defence.
- The system can engage all types of aerial targets including aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and ballistic and cruise missiles within the range of 400km, at an altitude of up to 30km.
- The system can track 100 airborne targets and engage six of them simultaneously.

#### **Significance for India:**

- From India's point of view, China is also buying the system. In 2015, China signed an agreement with Russia to purchase six battalions of the system. Its delivery began in January 2018.
- China's acquisition of the S-400 system has been viewed as a "game changer" in the region. However, its effectiveness against India is limited.
- India's acquisition is crucial to counter attacks in a two-front war, including even high-end F-35 US fighter aircraft.

## **1.60 PM MODI PARTICIPATES 18TH ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT VIRTUALLY**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has attended the 18th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit virtually. This was the 9th ASEAN-India Summit attended by PM Modi. The Summit was held under the chairmanship of the Sultan of Brunei.
- The Heads of State/Government of the ASEAN Countries participated in the Summit to review the status of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership and progress made in key areas of Covid-19 & Health, Trade & Commerce, Connectivity, and Education & Culture.
- The year 2022 will mark 30 years of ASEAN-India relations partnership, and will be celebrated as 'ASEAN-India Friendship Year'.

### **PRACTISE MCQS**

**QUESTION 1: International Translation Day is observed on-**

- September 28
- September 29
- September 30
- October 1

**QUESTION 2: India's Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020 has been setup under the themes-**

- India on the move
- India the diverse
- Both
- None

**QUESTION 3: The theme of The World Space Week (WSW) 2021 is-**

- Women in Space
- Collaborate for space
- From earth to the stars
- None of the above

**QUESTION 4: International Energy Agency is headquartered at-**

- London
- Paris

- C. Vienna
- D. New York

**QUESTION 5: World's First Self-Driving Train has been launched by-**

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

**QUESTION 6: The G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on Afghanistan was virtually convened under chairmanship of-**

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

**QUESTION 7: The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed globally on-**

- A. October 10
- B. October 11
- C. October 12
- D. October 13

**QUESTION 8: Consider the following statements regarding Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures (CICA)-**

- 1 The CICA is an intergovernmental forum aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and ensuring peace, security, and stability in Africa.
- 2 The CICA Secretariat is located in Almaty.
- 3 India is a member of CICA.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

**QUESTION 9: Which part of the United Kingdom still follows EU rules on product standards?**

- A. Scotland
- B. England
- C. Wales

- D. Northern Ireland

**QUESTION 10: World Sight Day was observed on October 14 this year. Its theme was-**

- A. Six By Six Sights
- B. Love Your Eyes
- C. The World We See
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 11: Abraham Accords are related to peace and stability in-**

- A. Israel and Arab countries
- B. North Korea and South Korea
- C. Sudan and South Sudan
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 12: India has been re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for a \_\_\_\_\_ term.**

- A. Second
- B. Fourth
- C. Sixth
- D. Eighth

**QUESTION 13: India has recently completed work on Jaynagar-Kurtha cross border rail link with-**

- A. Myanmar
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Nepal
- D. Bhutan

**QUESTION 14: Which country has recently elected its first ever President?**

- A. Sudan
- B. Barbados
- C. Malaysia
- D. Japan

**QUESTION 15: The United Nations Day is celebrated every year on-**

- A. October 21
- B. October 22
- C. October 23
- D. October 24

**QUESTION 16: World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on-**

- A. October 25
- B. October 26
- C. October 27
- D. October 28

**QUESTION 17: India plans to buy S-400 Triumf Missile System from-**

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

**QUESTION 18: The 18th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit was held under the chairmanship of-**

- A. Singapore
- B. Indonesia
- C. Malaysia
- D. Brunei

**Answers:**

- ANSWER 1: C
- ANSWER 2: C
- ANSWER 3: A
- ANSWER 4: B
- ANSWER 5: A
- ANSWER 6: D
- ANSWER 7: D
- ANSWER 8: D
- ANSWER 9: D
- ANSWER 10: B
- ANSWER 11: A
- ANSWER 12: C
- ANSWER 13: C
- ANSWER 14: B
- ANSWER 15: D
- ANSWER 16: C
- ANSWER 17: D
- ANSWER 18: D



### 1.61 NASA'S LUCY MISSION

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- American Space Agency, NASA, is set to send its first spacecraft to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.

#### About:

- Spacecraft will be launched from "Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida" on October 16, 2021.
- This spacecraft would obtain new insights into the formation of solar system 4.5 billion years ago.
- The spacecraft has been named as Lucy. It was named after an ancient fossil which provided insights into the evolution of human species.

#### Objective of the mission

- Mission Lucy will be launched with the objective of investigating the group of rocky bodies that are circling the Sun in two swarms- one preceding Jupiter and the other trailing behind it.

#### About the mission

- Mission Lucy will go for a 12-year journey after receiving boosts from Earth's gravity. 12-year journey will be completed across eight different asteroids including one in Main Belt between Mars & Jupiter and seven Trojans. Spacecraft will fly by its target objects within 400 kilometres of their surfaces. It will use onboard instruments and large antenna to investigate the geology of target objects. It will be the first solar-powered spacecraft at a distance of 400 kms. Total cost of the mission is \$981 million.

#### What are Trojans?

- Trojans are small celestial body or asteroids, sharing the orbit of larger one. They remain in a stable orbit, nearly 60° ahead or behind the main body. They can share the orbits of planets or large moons. Trojans are a type of co-orbital object. In Trojans, a star and a planet orbit around a common barycentre. Barycentre is close to the centre of the star as it is much more massive as compared to the orbiting planet. Most of the known trojans in solar system share the orbit of Jupiter. They are in a very small region of space but are physically different from one another. As of now, about 7000 trojans are known.

### 1.62 WHAT IS SOLAR CONJUNCTION?

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- American Space Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently decided to stop sending active commands to its missions on the MARS for next few weeks till the time "Mars solar conjunction" remains in effect.

#### What is Solar Conjunction?

- As per NASA, during the Mars solar conjunction period, Earth and the MARS will be on opposite sides of the Sun.
- This position of both the planets will affect any communication attempt made by NASA for connecting with its Mars missions because Sun radiates hot & ionized gas from its corona.

#### How Solar Conjunction affects the missions on MARS?

- These gases can interfere with radio signals if the agency try to communicate with spacecraft at Mars.
- These radiations will stand in the middle of both the planets and corrupt commands. It could also result in unexpected behaviour from NASA's deep space explorers.
- Thus, NASA has decided to stop sending signals.

### **Will it completely halt the work?**

- No, this period would not halt the work on the red Planet completely because, engineers have already sent the list of simple commands to spacecrafts to carry works few weeks.

### **NASA's mission on MARS**

- Presently, NASA has its Perseverance rover, Curiosity Rover, Ingenuity helicopter, stationary InSight lander stationed on the MARS apart from three orbiters. During the Mars solar conjunction period, these missions will work on different commands, sent to them beforehand. Perseverance rover will take weather measurements with the help of its Mars Environmental Dynamics Analyzer (MEDA) sensors. Rover will look for dust devils with its cameras and capture new sounds with the help of microphones.

## **1.63 ASTRO ROBOT**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, Amazon has unveiled its 'Astro' home robot, which is designed to help customers with a range of tasks like home monitoring and keeping in touch with family.
- However, civil society has highlighted the concerns of privacy issues of 24x7 surveillance

#### **About:**

- **About Astro Robot:**
- Astro is primed to be a home security device. It is designed to move around the home and keep a check on pets, and detect something unusual in the absence of the owner.
- It comes with a "periscope" camera that pops up from its head and can be used to keep an eye on the home.
- It is basically a combination of the Echo Show (smart speaker) and sophisticated Ring security camera integrated into one single device.
- The device captures live videos, recognises faces, plays music or videos, and delivers a beer across the home.
- It can recognise the faces of people and analyse them until it figures out if it's a family member or an outsider.

#### **Issues Related to Privacy:**

- Civil society is worried that the amount of data Amazon gets to fetch with the Astro, giving the company easy access to the household,
- This is going one step beyond Alexa which had access to vocals and sound until now.
- Amazon has asserted that Astro stores face data locally rather than in the cloud, but it is still a privacy concern as with any internet-connected device.
- There are concerns of stealing or hacking of the device. Due to this, the perpetrator can get access to the digital map that the robot creates of someone's home.
- The prime concern, in the long-run, could contribute to greater public acceptance of Artificial Intelligence-powered surveillance.
- In the past, hackers have managed to access Ring cameras, used in the devices of Amazon technologies.

#### **Other Recent Experiments:**

- Softbank earlier this year "suspended" the production of Pepper, one of the first humanoid robots able to "read" emotions.
- Jibo has started an Indiegogo project, which aims to build a world's first social robot for the home.

## **1.64 'MADE IN INDIA' DRONE USED TO TRANSPORT COVID-19 VACCINE**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched an initiative on October 4, 2021 to facilitate COVID-19 vaccine delivery using “made in India drones” in the tough & hard-to-reach terrains of Northeast.

**About:**

- For the purpose, ICMR has designed a delivery model called “Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone)”.
- This delivery model has been designed to ensure that life-saving COVID-19 vaccines reach everyone.
- This initiative was launched in line with government’s commitment to “Antyodaya in health” that makes healthcare accessible to every citizens in India.
- Significance of the initiative
- This was the first time that a “Make in India’ drone has been used in South Asia for transporting COVID-19 vaccine for an aerial distance of 15 km. This distance was covered in 12-15 mins from Bishnupur district hospital to Loktak lake, Karang island in Manipur. Road distance between both the locations is 26 kms.

**Use of drones**

- Drones can be used to deliver important life-saving medicines as well as for collecting blood samples.
- It can also be used in critical situations in difficult terrains.
- It will address the challenges in health care delivery, especially for delivery of health supplies in difficult areas.

**Which states are running similar projects?**

- Currently, drone-based delivery projects are being run in Manipur & Nagaland as well as Andaman & Nicobar Islands to overcome the challenges by deploying Unmanned Aerial vehicles (UAV) or drones in remote areas.

**Which institution transferred the drone technology?**

- ICMR conducted the initial study in association with “Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur” for testing the capacity of drones to transfer and carry vaccines safely. ICMR conducted the study in Manipur, Nagaland and Andaman & Nicobar.

## 1.65 PM MODI TO LAUNCH “INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION”

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is set to digitally launch the ‘Indian Space Association’ (ISpA).
- **About:**  
Indian Space Association (ISpA) is the premier industry association of space and satellite companies.
- ISpA is represented by leading home grown and global corporations having advanced capabilities in space & satellite technologies.
- Founding members of ISpA include Nelco (Tata group), Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro, Mapmyindia, OneWeb, Walchandnagar Industries and Ananth Technology Limited.
- Core members include BEL, Godrej, Hughes India, Centum Electronics, Azista-BST Aerospace Private Limited and Maxar India.

**Function of ISpA**

- In line with the Prime Minister’s vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, ISpA aspires become the collective voice of Indian Space industry. It will undertake Policy Advocacy as well as engage with all the stakeholders in Indian Space sector. It will also engage with the Government and its Agencies for making India self-reliant, technologically advanced and a leading player in space sector.

## 1.66 FIRST MALARIA VACCINE APPROVED BY W.H.O.

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- World Health Organization (WHO) is recommending widespread use of the RTS,S/AS01 (RTS,S) malaria vaccine among children in sub-Saharan Africa and in other regions with moderate to high *P. falciparum* malaria transmission.
- The recommendation is based on results from an ongoing pilot programme in Ghana, Kenya & Malawi that has reached more than 800 000 children since 2019.
- The vaccine is developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). Many vaccines exist against viruses and bacteria but this was the first time that the WHO recommended broad use of a vaccine against a human parasite.
- The vaccine acts against *Plasmodium falciparum*, one of five parasite species and the most deadly. The symptoms of malaria are fever, headaches, and muscle pain, then cycles of chills, fever, and sweating.

## 1.67 CHINA LAUNCHES ASTRONAUT CREW ON 6-MONTH MISSION

### WHY IN NEWS?

- China launched a three-person crew for a mission of six-month on board the Shenzhou-13 spaceship to its space station on October 16, 2021.

### About:

- The crew is planned to set up new record for the time spent in space by Chinese astronauts as China moves for completing the orbiting structure.
- Shenzhou-13 spaceship is carrying three astronauts.
- It was launched by a Long March-2F rocket.
- The spacecraft is expected to complete docking with “Tianhe module” within six hours.
- The mission will continue the work of first three-person crew that already spent 90 days on board.
- First three-person crew conducted two spacewalks and deployed 10-metre (33-foot) mechanical arm before they returned to Earth in mid-September, 2021.

### About new three-member crew

- New three-member crew comprise of two veterans of space travel namely, pilot Zhai Zhigang aged 55, the only woman on mission- Wang Yaping aged 41 and Ye Guangfu aged 41, who is making his first trip to space.

### Activities of crew

- The scheduled activities of the crew include:
- Up to three spacewalks in order to install equipment for expanding station
- To assessing living conditions in the module and
- To conduct experiments in space medicine & other fields.

### Military Run Space Programme

- The military-run space programme of China plans to send multiple crews on the station in next two years in order to make it fully functional. Shenzhou-13 is the fifth mission to the structure, including the missions without crews to deliver supplies. After addition of two more modules named Mengtian and Wentian, Chinese space station will weigh around 66 tonnes.

### Future modules

- China is due to launch two additional modules before the end of 2020 during the stay of the Shenzhou-14 crew.

## 1.68 US SUCCESSFULLY TESTS HYPERSONIC MISSILE TECHNOLOGY

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The United States has successfully tested the hypersonic missile technology on October 20, 2021.

### About:

- Hypersonic Missile Technology is a new weapons system which is already being deployed by Russia and China.
- The test was conducted at a NASA facility in Wallops, Virginia.
- It is a significant step in development of a Navy-designed common hypersonic missile.
- This test by US demonstrated advanced hypersonic technologies, prototype systems and capabilities in a realistic operating environment.
- Hypersonic missiles such as traditional ballistic missiles can fly at five times the speed of sound that is, Mach 5.
- These missiles are more manoeuvrable as compared to their ballistic counterparts.

#### **Purpose of the Missile**

- Missile will be used to trace a low trajectory in atmosphere by making them harder to defend.

#### **China's Hypersonic Missile**

- China had conducted a test of Hypersonic Missile with nuclear capacity in August 2021. China's hypersonic missile completed a circuit of Earth before landing. However, it missed its target. According to China, it was a routine test for a spacecraft rather than a missile. China launched hypersonic medium-range missile called "DF-17" in the year 2019. This hypersonic missile can travel about 2000 kilometres and can carry nuclear warheads.

#### **Russia's Hypersonic Missile**

- Russia also launched a hypersonic missile called the Zircon, recently. It was launched from a submarine. It also has Avangard Missiles in service since late 2019. The Avangard can travel at a speed up to Mach 27.

## **1.69 NURI: SOUTH KOREA'S FIRST HOMEGROWN SPACE ROCKET**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- South Korea has launched its first ever space rocket on October 21, 2021. This is the first rocket completely developed and built in South Korea. However, it failed to successfully deploy a test satellite into orbit.
- **About:**  
The rocket is called as "Nuri".
- It is a 47-meter rocket that was lifted off, with bright yellow fire shooting from the engines.
- The rocket was launched from Naro Space Center, South Korea. This space centre is located on a small island on the southern coast of South Korea.

### **About Nuri Spacecraft**

- Nuri is the South Korea's first space launch vehicle that was developed and built completely using the South Korean technology. It is a three-stage rocket and is powered by five rocket engines for completing its first and second stages. Another engine is used in the final stage of the rocket. Rocket is designed to carry a payload of around 1.5 tons to an orbit between 600 to 800 kilometres above Earth.

### **Why this mission failed?**

- This mission failed because the third-stage engine stopped burning some 50 seconds earlier than it was expected. This in turn prevented the payload from reaching its right speed for reaching into the orbit. Second attempt of the Nuri spacecraft have been planned for May.

### **Significance of the launch**

- South Korea was earlier dependent on other countries for launching its satellites since early 1990s. Now it is trying to become the 10th country to send satellite into space using its own technology.

## 1.70 NEW GENE EDITING TECHNIQUE

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The proposal for Indian regulators to consider a new gene editing technique has been pending with the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee for almost two years.

### About:

- The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has now moved to newer technologies such as SiteDirected Nuclease (SDN) 1 and 2.
- New technique aims to bring precision and efficiency into the breeding process using gene editing tools such as CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats), whose developers won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2020.
- SDN genome editing involves the use of different DNA-cutting enzymes (nucleases) that are directed to cut the DNA at a predetermined location by a range of different DNA binding systems.
- After the cut is made, the cell's own DNA repair mechanism recognizes the break and repairs the damage, using one of two pathways that are naturally present in cells.
- It involves the use of gene editing tools to directly tweak (improve\change) the plant's own genes instead.
- It would allow plants to be genetically modified without the need for conventional transgenic technology.

### Current Application:

- A research coalition under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), which includes the IARI, is using these techniques to develop rice varieties which are drought-tolerant, salinity-tolerant and high-yielding. They could potentially be ready for commercial cultivation within three years.
- The IARI has previously worked on golden rice, a traditional GM variety which inserted genes from other organisms into the rice plant, but ended trials over five years ago due to agronomic issues.

### Significance of New Techniques:

#### Safe:

- In this case, you are just tweaking a gene that is already there in the plant, without bringing in any gene from outside.
- When a protein comes from an outside organism, then you need to test for safety. But in this case, this protein is right there in the plant, and is being changed a little bit, just as nature does through mutation.

#### Fast:

- It is much faster and far more precise than natural mutation or conventional breeding methods which involve trial and error and multiple breeding cycles. It is potentially a new Green Revolution.
- Status of New Techniques Globally:
- The U.S, Canada, Australia and Japan are among the countries which have already approved the SDN 1 and 2 technologies as not akin to GM, so such varieties of rice can be exported without any problem.
- The European Food Safety Authority has also submitted its opinion that these technologies do not need the same level of safety assessment as conventional gene mutation, though the European Union is yet to accept the recommendation.

### Related Laws in India:

- In India, several rules, guidelines, and policies backed by the "Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989" notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, regulate genetically modified organisms.
- Apart from it, the National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research involving human participants, 2017, by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and the Biomedical and Health Research Regulation Bill implies regulation of the gene-editing process.

- This is especially so in the usage of its language “modification, deletion or removal of parts of heritable material”.
- However, there is no explicit mention of the term gene editing.

## 1.71 INDIA’S FIRST BANNI BUFFALO IVF CALF BORN

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India’s first IVF (in-vitro fertilisation) calf of Banni breed of buffaloes was born at a farmer’s house in Gir Somnath district of Gujarat.

### About:

- Banni breed of buffalo is found primarily in the Kutch region of Gujarat.
- IVC process was carried out in a bid to enhance the number of genetically superior buffaloes for increasing the milk production.
- Banni buffalo, belonging to a dairy farmer, from Dhanej village gave birth to IVF male calf.

### How was this process completed?

- Embryos of Banni donors were implanted in 18 recipient buffaloes using the IVF technology.
- Banni breed had achieved six pregnancies, out of which one calf was born, at the farmer’s farm. More will be born in few days.
- This process was carried out by JKBovagenix of NGO JK Trust which is a social initiative of Raymond Group.

### About Banni buffalo

- Banni buffalo are also known as “Kutchi” or “Kundi”. This breed of buffalo is found primarily in Kutch district of Gujarat.
- The word ‘Banni’ is specific to not only the buffaloes but pasture grass species as well, that are native to this region.
- This breed of buffaloes is preserved by a local community of Kutch called the ‘Maldharis’.

### Characteristics of Banni buffalo

- An average Banni buffalo yields about 12 to 18 litres of milk every day. Thus, they are known for their higher milk producing capacity as well as resilience in an arid environment. They have a different genetic makeup as compared to more common breeds, allowing for longer lactation periods & high milk production potentials.

## PRACTICE MCQS

### QUESTION 1: NASA’s Lucy mission will be sent to study-

- Mars
- Neptune
- Jupiter asteroids
- Venus

### QUESTION 2: As per NASA, during the Mars solar conjunction period, Earth and the Mars will be-

- On opposite sides of the sun.
- On same side of the sun.
- At right angle to each other
- None of the above

### QUESTION 3: What is the name of robot launched by Amazon to assist in tasks like home monitoring?

- Vostro
- Astro
- Maestro
- Amazon pro

### QUESTION 4: i-Drone used to deliver Covid vaccine in northeast is developed by-

- Indian Space Research Organisation

- B. Defence Research and Development Organisation
- C. Indian Council for Medical Research
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 5: Which of the following are founding members of Indian Space Association?**

- A. Nelco
- B. Bharti Airtel
- C. Larsen & Toubro
- D. All of the above

**QUESTION 6: World Health Organization (WHO) is recommending widespread use of the RTS,S/AS01 (RTS,S) vaccine for prevention of-**

- A. Malaria
- B. Dengue
- C. Zika
- D. Ebola

**QUESTION 7: China has launched a three-person crew for a mission of six-month in space. The launch vehicle used was?**

- A. Long March
- B. Falcon
- C. New Glynn
- D. Unity

**QUESTION 8: Which country/countries have successfully tested the hypersonic missile technology?**

- A. USA
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. All of the above

**QUESTION 9: "Nuri" an indigenous space rocket has been developed by which country?**

- A. Iran
- B. South Korea
- C. Japan
- D. Indonesia

**QUESTION 10: Which of the following are gene editing tools?**

- A. CRISPR
- B. SDN1 and SDN2
- C. TALENs
- D. All of the above

**QUESTION 11: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 Banni buffalo is found primarily in Kutch district of Gujarat.
- 2 This breed of buffaloes is preserved by a local community of Kutch called the 'Maldharis'.
- 3 An average Banni buffalo yields about 12 to 18 litres of milk every day.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 1 and 3
- C. 2 and 3
- D. 1, 2 and 3

### **Answers**

- ANSWER 1: C
- ANSWER 2: A
- ANSWER 3: B
- ANSWER 4: C
- ANSWER 5: D
- ANSWER 6: A
- ANSWER 7: A
- ANSWER 8: D
- ANSWER 9: B
- ANSWER 10: D
- ANSWER 11: D



## PERSON IN NEWS

### 1.72 NSDL APPOINTED PADMAJA CHUNDURU AS MD & CEO

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Padmaja Chunduru has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of National Securities Depositories (NSDL). She has replaced GV Nageswara Rao as the MD & CEO of NSDL.
- In India, there are two depositories namely National Securities Depositories Ltd (NSDL) and Central Securities Depositories Ltd (CDSL). Both the depositories hold our financial securities. Padmaja Chunduru is a Post Graduate in Commerce from Andhra University. She has around 37 years of experience in the banking domain.

### 1.73 SHYAMJI KRISHNA VARMA

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Prime Minister paid tributes to revolutionary freedom fighter Shyamji Krishna Varma on his birth anniversary (4th October).

#### About:

- Shyamji Krishna Varma was born on 4th October, 1857 in Mandvi town of Kachchh district of Gujarat.
- He was an expert in Sanskrit and other languages.
- His deep knowledge of the Sanskrit language caught the attention of Monier Williams, a professor of the subject in Oxford University.
- He was inspired by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Swami Dayanand Saraswati and Herbert Spencer.
- He founded the Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist in London.
- Indian Home Rule Society and the India House worked towards inspiring youngsters in Britain to take up revolutionary activities against their own representatives in India.
- The monthly Indian Sociologist became an outlet for nationalist ideas and through the Indian Home Rule Society, he criticised the British rule in India.
- Varma became the first President of Bombay Arya Samaj. He inspired Veer Savarkar who was a member of India House in London. Verma also served as the Divan of a number of states in India.
- Swami Dayanand Saraswati was the founder of the Hindu reform organisation Arya Samaj.
- He was a barrister in London, when in 1905, he was barred from practising law by the Inner Temple following charges of sedition for writing against the colonial government.
- The move was significant as the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple is one of the four professional associations for barristers and judges in London.
- He was posthumously reinstated by the Inner Temple in 2015 after the Inn's governing council noted that Varma "did not receive an entirely fair hearing".
- In the face of criticism by the British, Varma shifted his base from England to Paris and continued his movement.
- After the outbreak of the Second World War (1939-45), however, he moved to Geneva in Switzerland and spent the rest of his life there. He died on 30th March, 1930

### 1.74 AMISH MEHTA APPOINTED AS NEW MD & CEO OF CRISIL

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Amish Mehta has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of rating agency Crisil. He has replaced Ashu Suyash. Crisil is owned by S&P.
- Mehta has more than two decades of leadership experience across industries and joined Crisil in October 2014 as President and Chief Financial Officer.
- In July 2017, he was elevated as the President and Chief Operating Officer, responsible for the global analytical centre, India research and SME, the global innovation and excellence hub and corporate strategy.

### 1.75 PL HARANADH TAKES CHARGE AS CHAIRMAN OF PARADIP PORT TRUST

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- P L Haranadh, an Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer of the 1994 batch, has been appointed as the new Chairman of Paradip Port Trust (PPT).
- Haranadh has worked in various capacities, during his 27 years of service, which includes 22 years in the Indian Railways and 5 years in the Ministry of Shipping. Paradip Port Trust (PPT) is the lone major port in Odisha.

### 1.76 E. R. SHEIKH BECOMES FIRST DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE DIRECTORATE

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- E.R. Sheikh has assumed charge as first Director-General of the Ordnance Directorate (Co-ordination and Services). It is the successor organization of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
- He has contributed to the establishment of the modern production line system for the manufacture of small arms ammunition at the Ordnance Factory Varangaon. He led the successful development of the Bi-Modular Charge System for artillery ammunition

### 1.77 RAJNISH KUMAR JOINS BHARATPE AS CHAIRMAN

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Former chief of State Bank of India, Rajnish Kumar, has joined the Board of BharatPe as chairman.

#### About:

- Rajnish Kumar will get involved in defining the short-term and long-term strategies of companies.
- He will also work closely with other Board Members and chief experience officer (CXOs) on key regulatory and business initiatives.
- BharatPe-Centrum Capital received an in-principal approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up a small finance bank which will take over the Punjab Maharashtra Bank.

#### Function as chairman of BharatPe

- As the chairman of BharatPe, Rajnish Kumar will advise and counsel the management of BharatPe regarding the matters on business performance as well as corporate governance.

#### Term as Chairman

- Rajnish Kumar completed his term as chairman of India's largest lender SBI in October 2020. Currently, he is working as advisor (resource raising) to the Andhra Pradesh government. He also serves as an independent non-executive director at HSBC Bank, L&T infotech and Asia.

#### Term as Managing director

- Rajnish Kumar has also served as the managing director of National Banking Group, and managing director (Compliance & Risk) of State Bank of India. The senior bank official had also headed the Capital Markets Ltd as managing director and chief executive officer of State Bank of India.

#### About Rajnish Kumar

- He is an Indian banker, holding the position of Chairman of SBI. He became chairman of SBI on October 7, 2017. His three-year term ended on October 6, 2020. He is the Probationary officer of 1980 batch.

### **1.78 K V SUBRAMANIAN RESIGNED AS CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) KV Subramanian has decided to return to academia after the completion of his three-year term in the Finance Ministry of India.
- KV Subramanian had taken over the charge of Chief Economic Adviser on December 7, 2018. The appointment was made nearly five months after his predecessor Arvind Subramanian had stepped down.

### **1.79 RITESH CHAUHAN NAMED AS CEO OF PM FASAL BIMA YOJANA**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Senior bureaucrat Ritesh Chauhan has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Joint Secretary, Agriculture under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- Chauhan will have a combined tenure of seven years up to September 22, 2023. He is a 2005-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre. He will succeed Ashish Kumar Bhutani, who was appointed in 2018.

### **1.80 UCO BANK CHIEF A K GOEL ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF IBA**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- A K Goel, managing director and chief executive (MD & CEO) of UCO Bank has been elected as the chairman of Indian Bank's Association (IBA) for 2021-22.
- He has replaced Rajkiran Rai G, MD & CEO, Union Bank of India. IBA is a representative body of management of banking in India operating in India and is headquartered in Mumbai.

### **1.81 NAVRANG SAINI GETS ADDITIONAL CHARGE AS CHAIRPERSON OF IBBI**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Navrang Saini has been given the additional charge as the Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- The post fell vacant after M.S. Sahoo retired after a five-year tenure on September 30. Saini is a Whole Time Member of IBBI.
- The government has assigned additional charge of Chairperson to Mr Saini in addition to his existing duties.
- This will be for three months or till the joining of a new incumbent to the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier, it said in a release on October 13.

### **1.82 SAI APPOINTS COMMODORE PK GARG AS NEW CEO OF TOPS**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) appointed Commodore PK Garg as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) at the Mission Olympic Cell meeting. He joined

the Indian Navy in 1984 and was in charge of many important and prestigious assignments over 34 years of service.

- Commodore Garg, who was the High-Performance Director with Sports Authority of India till June 2021, is also an Arjuna Awardee recipient (1990) in Sailing and has also won the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardee in 1993-94.

## 1.83 INDIAN-ORIGIN LEADER BECOMES CANADA'S NEW DEFENCE MINISTER

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau reshuffled his cabinet. He has appointed Indian-origin Canadian politician Anita Anand as new Defence Minister of Canada.

### Key Points

- Prime Minister reshuffled his cabinet after his Liberal Party returned to power in snap polls,
- Furthermore, there were calls for major military reforms. Public and political leaders are putting pressure on Canadian military to change its culture and create a system for preventing and managing sexual misconduct allegations.
- Anita Anand (54-year-old) will replace Indian-origin Harjit Sajjan.
- Harjit Sajjan is a long-term defence minister who was criticized for handling the military sexual misconduct crisis. Though, there are some reports that, Sajjan has been given charge as Minister of International Development Agency.

### Why Anita Anand has been appointed?

- As per Defence industry experts, Anita Anand is a strong contender for this position. This move will send a strong signal to the survivors and victims of military sexual misconduct. On this issue, government is serious about imposing critical reforms. She also holds a strong background as a corporate lawyer. She has served extensively on corporate governance in line with the rules and laws of managing operations of businesses.

### Vote share

- Anita Anand was declared winner in Oakville, with 46 per cent vote share. She was first elected as a rookie Member of Parliament in 2019, to represent Oakville in Ontario province. She also worked as procurement minister during the Covid-19 pandemic. Later, she was given charge of securing Covid-19 vaccines for Canada. and was often on the campaign trail with Trudeau. She played a very public

## 1.84 K V KAMATH NAMED AS CHAIRPERSON OF NABFID

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The government of India has appointed K V Kamath as chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID). He is a well-known banker in India and is the first head of the New Development Bank (NDB).
- NaBFID is a newly set up development financial institution (DFIs) in India. It has been set up for infrastructure financing as per the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Act 2021. The authorized share capital of the NaBFID is Rs one lakh crore. The initial paid-up capital of NaBFID is Rs 20,000 crore.

## PRACTISE MCQS

**QUESTION 1: Who has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of National Securities Depositories (NSDL)?**

- A. Sujata Malik
- B. Padmaja Chundururu
- C. Prerna Bhardwaj
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 2: Who founded the Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist in London?**

- A. Shyamji Krishna Varma
- B. Jyotiba Phule
- C. Mahatama Gandhi
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 3: Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of rating agency Crisil?**

- A. Ketaki Bapat
- B. Shirish Panda
- C. Amish Mehta
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 4: Who has recently took over as Chairman of Paradip Port Trust?**

- A. E R Sheikh
- B. P L Haranadh
- C. Eric Brazanga
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 5: Who has assumed charge as first Director-General of the Ordnance Directorate (Co-ordination and Services)?**

- A. E R Sheikh
- B. P L Haranadh
- C. Eric Brazanga
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 6: Who has joined as Chairman of BharatPe?**

- A. Rajnish Kumar

- B. K V Subramaniam
- C. Eric Brazanga
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 7: Who has stepped down as Chief Economic Adviser recently?**

- A. K V Subramanian
- B. Shaktikanta Das
- C. Arvind Subramaniam
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 8: Who has been named as CEO of PM Fasal Bima Yojana?**

- A. Ritesh Chauhan
- B. Pradeep Kumar Panja
- C. Navrang Saini
- D. A K Goel

**QUESTION 9: Who has been elected as Chairman of Indian Bank's Association (IBA) for 2021-22?**

- A. Ritesh Chauhan
- B. Pradeep Kumar Panja
- C. Navrang Saini
- D. A K Goel

**QUESTION 10: Who has been given the additional charge as the Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)?**

- A. M S Sahoo
- B. Amit Rastogi
- C. Sahdev Yadav
- D. Navrang Saini

**QUESTION 11: Who has been appointed as new CEO of Target Olympic Podium Scheme?**

- A. PK Garg
- B. Ramnath Krishnan
- C. Alok Mishra
- D. A Balasubramanian

**QUESTION 12: Which Indian-origin Canadian politician has been appointed as new Defence Minister of Canada?**

- A. Anita Anand
- B. Harjit Sajjan
- C. Bardish Chagger
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 13: Who has been appointed as chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)?**

- A. K V Kamath
- B. Arvind Subramaniam
- C. Jagdish Bhagwati
- D. Arvind Panagariya

## **ANSWERS**

- ANSWER 1: B
- ANSWER 2: A
- ANSWER 3: C
- ANSWER 4: B
- ANSWER 5: A
- ANSWER 6: A
- ANSWER 7: A
- ANSWER 8: A
- ANSWER 9: D
- ANSWER 10: D
- ANSWER 11: A
- ANSWER 12: A
- ANSWER 13: A

### 1.85 ODISHA'S INITIATIVES TO PREVENT ELEPHANT ELECTROCUTION

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Odisha government has allocated Rs 445.75 crore to the distribution companies in order to increase ground clearance of electrical networks with the objective of preventing Elephant electrocution.

#### About:

- With the help of allocated funds, distribution companies would also replace bare conductors across elephant corridors and movement areas.
- This initiative is aimed at preventing elephant deaths because of electrocution.
- As per Energy department, 79000 interposing poles have been erected and about 2,300 circuit bare conductors have been replaced by covered ones.
- In the recent development, companies and Forest Department have been asked to interact on regular basis in a bid to achieve zero casualties of elephants.
- Officials have also been directed to involve with the local community in elephant protection and bring in scheme for rewarding the villagers, who would provide information regarding illegal hooking for poaching wild animals.

#### Elephant conservation in state

- As per the Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO), an environment pressure group working on elephant conservation, about 862 elephants have lost their lives in between April 2010 August 2021. Out of this, about 16 % accounting for 135 elephants died due to electrocution.

#### Concerns associated with elephant conservation

- Elephant conservation in the state of Odisha is a challenging task because of inadequate patrolling and breakdown of supervision & monitoring by officers. This has made it easy for poachers to wipe out elephants from the state.

#### Electrocution cases

- Lack of action against electricity distribution companies has resulted into multiple electrocution cases because of overhead sagging naked wires, wild boar poaching wires and electrified fences. These elephants would have been saved if companies had installed safety devices. Most recent case "killing of seven elephants in Dhenkanal district" in the year 2018 at Kamalanga because of a low height 11 KV wire.

### 1.86 INDIAN SCIENTISTS DEVELOPS NEW BIODEGRADABLE POLYMER

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- A team of Indian scientists have developed a non-toxic, environmentally friendly, biodegradable polymer using guar gum and chitosan.

#### About:

- Guar gum and Chitosan are polysaccharides that are extracted from guar beans and shells of crab & shrimps.
- Fabricated guar gum-chitosan film with high water stability, high mechanical strength, and excellent resistance against harsh environmental conditions can be used in packaging applications.

#### Polysaccharide

- Polysaccharide is one of the biopolymers having high potential for use in synthesis of packaging material. But due to some drawbacks of polysaccharides, like low mechanical properties, low barrier properties and high water-solubility, they are not preferred for packaging materials.

#### Guar gum-chitosan composite film

- To overcome the challenges associated with polysaccharide, the team of scientists fabricated a guar gum-chitosan composite film. It is a cross-linked polysaccharide that do not use any plasticizer with the help “solution casting method”.

#### **Properties of the film**

- The Fabricated biopolymer composite film had high water stability, high mechanical strength as well as excellent resistance towards harsh environmental conditions. The fabricated cross-linked film is not easily soluble in water. As per scientists, it did not dissolve even after 240 hours. Furthermore, the mechanical strength is higher compared to general biopolymer. It is highly water repellent or hydrophobic because of its high contact angle of 92.8°. Water vapor permeability is low as compared to the film made only from chitosan.

## **1.87 CHANGES PROPOSED IN FOREST CONSERVATION ACT**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has proposed an amendment to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in a bid to liberalise the forest laws.

### **Status of the amendments**

- Ministry has sent the proposed amendments to all the state governments, asking for their objections and suggestions within 15 days. The draft proposal will be drawn and placed before Parliament after taking suggestions from states into consideration.

### **Key facts**

- The amendment puts forward stringent norms for the conservation of forest, by hiking the penal provisions for offenses.
- Amendment also provides for maintaining “pristine forests”. Non-forestry activity will not be allowed within the pristine forests, under any circumstances.
- Under the amendment; deemed forests, that have been listed by state governments up to 1996, will continue to be considered as forest land.
- Land acquired by the Railways and the road ministries before 1980, on which forests came up, will not be considered as forests.
- Amendment would also reduce the flow from foreign exchange for importing wood & wood derivatives of approximately Rs 45,000 crore by means of encouraging plantations and afforestation.

### **Forest (Conservation) Act (FCA)**

- FCA was promulgated in the year 1980. Before a “1996 Supreme Court judgement” in TN Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India & Others case, forest land was defined by “1927 Forest Act”. But in the 1996 case, Supreme court included all areas under the definition of forest that are recorded as ‘forest’ under any government record.

### **Why this amendment was put forward?**

- The definition of forest under the forest act was problematic in case of railways and roads. There is land that both the ministries own, but they cannot use it without getting permission from the MoEFCC. These permissions are granted in about 2-4 years, causing delays in several projects.

## **1.88 GOI LAUNCHES ‘WASTE TO WEALTH’ WEB PORTAL**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The government of India has launched a web portal called “Waste to Wealth” to enhance cooperation for sustainable development through economy and community participation.
- The web portal will bring together technology providers, government stakeholders and urban local bodies to find solutions to India’s waste problems, mainly plastic waste.
- The portal has been launched by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and inaugurated by the Principal Scientific Advisor **K. Vijay Raghavan**



## 1.89 GILOY OR GUDUCHI

### WHY IN NEWS?

- According to the Ministry of AYUSH, Giloy or Guduchi, a popularly known herb is safe to use.
- However, similar looking plants in circulation such as *Tinospora crispa* can be harmful. *Tinospora crispa* is a medicinal plant belonging to the botanical family Menispermaceae and is widely distributed in Southeast Asia and the northeastern region of India.

### About:

- Giloy (*Tinospora cordifolia*) is a climbing shrub that grows on other trees, from the botanical family Menispermaceae.
- It is an essential herb in Ayurvedic medicine and all its parts are thought to have health benefits.
- People have long used it to treat a wide range of issues, including fever, infections, diarrhoea and diabetes.
- Guduchi's hepato-protective properties are well established and is known for its immense therapeutic applications and the practices are regulated in accordance with various applicable provisions.
- Hepatoprotection or anti-hepatotoxicity is the ability of a chemical substance to prevent damage to the liver.
- The plant is native to India but also found in China and tropical areas of Australia and Africa.
- The Ministry of AYUSH has a well-established system of Pharmacovigilance (for reporting of suspected adverse drug reactions from AYUSH medication), with its network spreading across all over India.

## 1.90 JAVAN GIBBON

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Indonesia is taking steps to protect the habitat of Javan Gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*), which is endangered by climate change and human encroachment.
- The species is also hunted for both meat and pet trade.

### About:

- The silvery gibbon, also known as the Javan gibbon, is a primate. They are found in groups only, usually in a pair of two.
- It is endemic to the Indonesian island of Java, where it inhabits undisturbed rainforests up to an altitude of 2,450 m.
- It helps in regenerating forest vegetation by dispersing seeds.
- There are around 4,000 Javan gibbons left.
- It was declared Critically Endangered in 2004 but since has recovered to status of Endangered as per IUCN criterion. However, the latest IUCN estimate shows that their population is decreasing.

## 1.91 KUNMING DECLARATION ON BIODIVERSITY

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Kunming Declaration was adopted by over 100 countries at the ongoing 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in China.
- The adoption of the declaration will create momentum for a new global biodiversity pact.

- In a previous agreement, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, signed in Aichi, Japan, in 2010, governments agreed on 20 targets to try to slow biodiversity loss and protect habitats by 2020.

#### **About**

- It calls for urgent and integrated action to reflect biodiversity considerations in all sectors of the global economy but crucial issues - like funding conservation in poorer countries and committing to biodiversity-friendly supply chains have been left to discuss later.
- It is not a binding international agreement.
- It calls upon the parties to mainstream biodiversity protection in decision-making and recognise the importance of conservation in protecting human health.
- The theme of the declaration is Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth.
- By adopting this, the nations have committed themselves to support the development, adoption and implementation of an effective post-2020 implementation plan, a capacity building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety.
- The Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.
- As per the declaration the signatory nations will ensure that the post-pandemic recovery policies, programmes and plans contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, promoting sustainable and inclusive development.

#### **30 by 30 Target**

- The declaration made a reference to the '30 by 30' target which is a key proposal being debated at the COP15, that would afford 30% of the Earth's land and oceans protected status by 2030.
- Apart from this, the goal to halve the use of chemicals in agriculture and stop creating plastic waste is also being debated.

#### **Kunming Biodiversity Fund**

- China has also pledged to inject USD 233 million into a new fund to protect biodiversity in developing countries. The fund is being referred to by China as Kunming Biodiversity Fund.
- It is the right step in this direction. However, some countries have reservations regarding this fund.
- Some countries have called this fund as "a drop in the bucket" given that China is the world's biggest polluter.
- Further, some rich country donors say a new fund for conservation is unnecessary because the United Nations' Global Environment Facility already helps developing nations finance green projects.

## **1.92 GLOBAL CLIMATE RISK INDEX 2021**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The international environmental think tank 'Germanwatch' released the Global Climate Risk Index 2021.
- This is the 16th Edition of the Index. It is published annually.
- Germanwatch, based in Bonn and Berlin (Germany), is an independent development and environmental organisation which works for sustainable global development.

#### **About the Index**

- The Index analyses the extent to which countries and regions have been affected by the impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heat waves etc.).
- The impact is calculated in terms of fatalities and economic losses, both.
- The most recent data available for 2019 and from 2000 to 2019 were taken into account.
- The 2021 Index does not include data from United States of America.
- The Climate Risk Index clearly signals that repercussions of escalating climate change can no longer be ignored, on any continent or in any region.

- Impacts from extreme-weather events hit the poorest countries hardest as these are particularly vulnerable to the damaging effects of a hazard, have a lower coping capacity and may need more time to rebuild and recover.
- High-income countries are also getting severely impacted by climate change.

#### **About 2021 Findings**

- Mozambique, Zimbabwe as well as the Bahamas were the most affected countries in 2019.
- For the period from 2000 to 2019, Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti rank highest.
- Storms and their direct implications- precipitation, floods and landslides, were one major cause of losses and damages in 2019.
- Of the ten most affected countries in 2019, six were hit by tropical cyclones. Recent science suggests that the number of severe tropical cyclones will increase with every tenth of a degree in global average temperature rise.
- Eight out of the ten countries most affected by the quantified impacts of extreme weather events in 2019 belong to the low- to lower-middle income category. Half of them are Least Developed Countries.

#### **India's Position:**

- India has improved its rankings from last year. It is ranked 7th in the 2021 Index as compared to 5th in 2020 Index.
- The Indian monsoon lasted a month longer than usual in the year 2019, with surplus rains causing major hardship. The rain was 110% of normal, which is the most since 1994.
- The floods caused by heavy rains were responsible for 1800 deaths and led to displacement of 1.8 million people.
- Overall, 11.8 million people were affected by the intense monsoon season and the economic damage caused was estimated to be US\$ 10 billion.
- India was hit by a total of 8 tropical cyclones. Of which, Cyclone Fani (May, 2019) caused the maximum damage.
- The Himalayan glaciers, the coastlines, and the deserts in India have been severely affected by global warming.
- The Report also points to an increase in the number of heat waves, increased intensity and frequency of cyclones and an increased rate of melting of glaciers in India.

## **1.93 WHAT ARE GREEN CRACKERS?**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Amid the Covid-19 pandemic related situation and concerns regarding increasing pollution due to firecrackers during festive season, many states have imposed certain rules on fireworks in the year 2021.

### **About:**

- States have imposed either a complete or partial ban on firecracker sales.
- In these states, government has permitted the sale of 'green crackers' instead.

### **What are green crackers?**

'Green crackers' are low-emission fireworks that Supreme Court in 2017 had permitted for celebrations to a moderate level during festivals & relaxed the 'complete ban' on fireworks. Green crackers were researched and developed by CSIR-NEERI (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute). These crackers are produced with less harmful raw materials and they suppress the dust when they are burnt, reducing the emissions.

### **Do they contain harmful chemicals?**

- Green Crackers do not comprise of harmful chemicals like arsenic, lithium, barium, and lead. They release water vapour which does not allow the dust to rise. These crackers are believed to cause 30 per cent less particulate matter pollution as compared to traditional crackers.

### **Scenario in different states**

- Rajasthan government banned the sale and use of crackers in the state. Only green crackers would be allowed and there will be restricted timing for bursting crackers during festive season.
- Delhi Pollution Control Committee has completely banned the sale and bursting of firecrackers in Delhi till January 1, 2022.
- Tamil Nadu urged the governments in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Odisha to seriously consider the sale of green crackers in their territories.

## 1.94 ALLIUM NEGIANUM: A NEW SPECIES OF ONION

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, a newly discovered plant *Allium negianum*, in Uttarakhand has been confirmed to belong to the genus that includes many staple foods such as onion and garlic.
- A staple food makes up the dominant part of a population's diet. They are eaten regularly—even daily—and supply a major proportion of a person's energy and nutritional needs.

### About:

- *Allium* is one of the largest genera in Amaryllidaceae.
- Amaryllidaceae is a family of herbaceous (connected with plants that have soft stems), mainly perennial and bulbous flowering plants.
- The genus *Allium* contains about 1,100 species worldwide, including many staple foods like onion, garlic, scallion, shallot and chives.
- The genus naturally occurs in dry seasons in the northern hemisphere and South Africa but the newly-identified species is restricted to the region of the western Himalaya.
- The scientific name *Allium negianum* honours the late Dr. Kuldeep Singh Negi, an eminent explorer and *Allium* collector from India.
- They are useful for various medicinal purposes.

### Distribution in India:

- The Indian *Allium* is distributed in different eco-geographical areas of the temperate and alpine regions of Himalayas.
- The Indian Himalayan region has two distinct centers of *Allium* diversity, the Western Himalaya (over 85% of total diversity) and the Eastern Himalaya (6%), covering the alpine-sub temperate region.

### Condition of Growth:

- It grows at 3,000 to 4,800 m above sea level and can be found along open grassy meadows, sandy soils along rivers, and streams forming in snow pasture lands along alpine meadows.

### Threat:

- Indiscriminate harvesting of its leaves and bulbs for seasoning may pose a threat to its wild populations.

## 1.95 COP26 CLIMATE CONFERENCE

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The COP 26 United Nations Climate Change Conference will be hosted by the UK from 31st October to 12th November.
- Earlier, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its assessment report on Earth's climate, highlighting heat waves, droughts, extreme rainfall and sea-level rise in the coming decades.
- **COP 26 Goals:** According to the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC), COP26 will work towards four goals:

### Net Zero by 2050:

- To secure Global Net-Zero by Mid-Century and keep 1.5 Degrees within reach.

- Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century.
- To deliver on these stretching targets, countries will need to:
  - Accelerate the phase-out of coal
  - Curtail deforestation
  - Speed up the switch to electric vehicles
  - Encourage investment in renewables.
- Adapt to Protect Communities and Natural Habitats:
  - Countries will work together to ‘protect and restore ecosystems and build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.’

#### **Mobilise Finance:**

- Developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least USD100bn in climate finance per year.

#### **Work Together to Deliver:**

- Another important task at the COP26 is to ‘finalise the Paris Rulebook’.
- Leaders will work together to frame a list of detailed rules that will help fulfil the Paris Agreement.

#### **Suggestions for India:**

- Update its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- (NDCs detail the various efforts taken by each country to reduce the national emissions)
- Sector by sector plans are needed to bring about development.
- Decarbonisation of the electricity, transport sector and starting to look at carbon per passenger mile is needed.
- Aggressively figure out how to transition the coal sector.

#### **Conference of Parties (COP)**

##### **About:**

- The Conference of Parties comes under the UNFCCC which was formed in 1994. The UNFCCC was established to work towards “stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.
- COP is the apex decision-making authority of UNFCCC.
- It laid out a list of responsibilities for the member states which included:
  - Formulating measures to mitigate climate change.
  - Cooperating in preparing for adaptation to the impact of climate change.
  - Promoting education, training and public awareness related to climate change.

##### **Meetings:**

- COP members have been meeting every year since 1995. The UNFCCC has 198 parties including India, China and the USA.
- Generally it meets in Bonn, the seat of the secretariat, unless a Party offers to host the session.

##### **Presidency:**

- The office of the COP President normally rotates among the five United Nations regional groups which are - Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe and Others.
- The President is usually the environment minister of his or her home country. S/he is elected by acclamation immediately after the opening of a COP session.

## **1.96 PARAMBIKULAM TIGER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION WINS EARTH GUARDIAN AWARD**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation (PaTCoF) has won the “Earth Guardian Award” which was instituted by the NatWest Group.

### **About:**

- PaTCoF is a non-profit organisation under forest department which seeks to facilitate conservation of tiger and biodiversity in the Parambikulam tiger reserve.
- Eight winners of the award were felicitated by secretary general of “UN Convention on International Trade in the Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora”, Ivonne Higuero in a virtual ceremony on October 20, 2021.

#### **About Earth Guardian Award**

- These awards were instituted by NatWest Group India. They are part of an initiative which recognises the efforts of individuals and institutions that are working to subvert the climate change by conserving & preserving biodiversity in India.

#### **Parambikulam Tiger Reserve**

- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve also includes erstwhile Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, which is spread across 391 square kilometres. It is a protected area in Palakkad district of Kerala. It was established in 1973. The sanctuary lies in the Sungam range of hills in between Anaimalai Hills and Nelliampathy Hills. Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a part of Parambikulam Tiger Reserve in 2010. Tiger reserve implements the Participatory Forest Management Scheme (PFMS).

#### **Is it a UNESCO World Heritage Site?**

- The Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary is currently under consideration for selection as World Heritage Site, by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

#### **Indigenous Peoples**

- The sanctuary is home to four different tribes of indigenous peoples namely, Malasar, Kadar, Mala Malarsar and Muduvar. These people are settled in six colonies. People of these tribal colonies are working as guides for treks and safaris. They are provided employment through several eco-tourism initiatives.

## **1.97 JAPAN: MOUNT ASO VOLCANO ERUPTS AT KYUSHU ISLAND**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Mount Aso volcano in Japan, erupted on October 20, 2021 and emitted a giant column of ash to about thousands of metres into the sky.

#### **About:**

- No injuries were reported immediately and People were warned not to go towards volcano as it ejected hot gas and ash.
- The volcano ejected gas and ash up to the height of 3,500 metres.
- Pale grey torrents of ash rushed down the slopes of the 1,592-metre mountain.

#### **Background**

- Mount Aso last erupted in the year 2016. The Japan Meteorological Agency had then raised its warning for Mount Aso to the level that was reported on October 20.

#### **About Mount Aso**

- Mount Aso is the largest active volcano in Japan and one among the largest across the world. The volcano stands on the island of Kyushu, in Aso Kujū National Park in Kumamoto Prefecture. Its peak is 1,592 meters above sea level. It has a fairly large caldera, having a circumference of about 120 km. The caldera dominates the island Kyushu, where it is a popular tourist draw.

#### **Volcano in Japan**

- Japan is among the world’s most volcanically active countries. It is located on the Pacific “Ring of Fire” where a large proportion earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are recorded. Japan suffered its deadliest eruption in the month of September 2014, when Mount Ontake burst unexpectedly. It killed 63 people

#### **Kyushu Island**

- It is the third largest island out of five main islands. It is mountainous and house to Japan’s active volcano called Mount Aso.

## 1.98 DOUBLE-DIP LA NIÑA

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, an American scientific agency) has declared that La Niña has re-developed. Consecutive La Niña is called Double-Dip.

### About:

- La Nina is one part of the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle, which is characterized by opposing warm and cool phases of oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the tropical Pacific Ocean.
- Consecutive La Ninas following a transition through ENSO neutral conditions are not uncommon and can be referred to as a “Double-Dip.”
- In 2020, La Nina developed during the month of August and then dissipated in April 2021 as ENSO-neutral conditions returned.
- For the upcoming winter season, which extends from December 2021 through February 2022, there is an 87% chance of La Nina.
- Previous La Ninas occurred during the winter of 2020-2021 and 2017-2018, and an El Nino developed in 2018-2019. When neither climate pattern is present, ENSO is neutral and does not influence global climate patterns.

### ENSO:

- It is a periodic fluctuation in sea surface temperature (El Niño) and the air pressure of the overlying atmosphere (Southern Oscillation) across the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
- El Nino and La Nina are complex weather patterns resulting from variations in ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific Region. They are opposite phases of what is known as the ENSO cycle.
- El Nino and La Nina episodes typically last nine to 12 months, but some prolonged events may last for years.

## 1.99 US LIST OF ‘COUNTRIES OF CONCERN’ ON CLIMATE

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The United States categorised India as a ‘country of concern’ on climate in the assessment of the American Intelligence Community in its report called “National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on climate”.

### About:

- India was put in this category along with 10 other countries namely, Afghanistan, Haiti, Colombia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Iraq, North Korea, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.
- These countries will bear the brunt of global warming such as intensifying & more frequent heat waves & droughts and water & power scarcity.
- As per report, intelligence community has assessed that these countries will face “warming temperatures, extreme weather, as well as disruption to ocean patterns which will also threaten their food, water energy, and health security”.
- Frequent heat waves and droughts will create water supply volatility and might strain their electric utility operations, while growing population & economies will increase the electricity demands to handle rising temperatures.
- As per report, frequent and intense cyclones will contaminate water sources and increase vector populations & diseases they transmit in some of the 11 countries.
- Report suggests that, instances of dengue will probably increase in countries like India, Haiti, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Iraq, Honduras, and Pakistan.

### National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) report

- This was the first ever “National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on climate”. It was put together by US Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The IC (Intelligence Community) had identified 11 countries as well as two regions of concern with respect to threat from climate change.

## 1.100 INDIAN RAILWAY TO BE NET ZERO EMITTER BY 2030

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, Indian Railways (IR) has announced that it is likely to become world’s first ‘net-zero’ carbon emitter by 2030.
- IR is taking a multi-pronged approach to go green and decarbonise - from increasing its sourcing of Renewable Energy (RE) to electrifying its traction network and reducing its energy consumption.

### About:

- Indian Railways: IR is the world’s fourth largest railway network in terms of size. It is one of the largest electricity consumers in the country.
- Passenger Services: Transports 24 million passengers every day across the subcontinent on 13,000 trains covering approximately 67,956 km.
- Freight Services: 3.3 million tonnes of freight per day, and thus the fuel requirements are massive.
- Contribution in Total Emissions: India’s transport sector contributes to 12% of the country’s greenhouse gas emissions with the railways accounting for about 4% of these emissions.
- Potential of Emissions Reduction: The Indian Railways can raise the official target of 50% freight share by 2030, up from its current share of 33%.
- By shifting freight to rail and optimising truck use, India can reduce logistics costs from 14-10% of Gross Domestic Product and carbon dioxide emissions by 70% by 2050 compared to a business-as-usual scenario.

### Initiatives taken by Indian Railways:

- Increased the Amount of Freight: Indian Railways to increase the amount of freight moved by it from about 35% in 2015 to 45% by 2030 to reduce overall emissions from transportation.
- Complete Electrification: Complete electrification of Indian Railways is targeted by financial year 2024. It will be the world’s largest 100% electrified rail transportation system by then.
- Use of Solar Power: Plans to install 20 GigaWatts (GW) of solar for both traction loads and non-traction loads.
- Built a 1.7-MW solar power plant in Bina, Madhya Pradesh, in July 2020. It is the first solar energy plant in the world to directly power railway overhead lines, from which locomotives draw traction power.
- A 2.5-MW solar project in Diwana, Haryana.
- Work on a third pilot with a capacity of 50 MW has begun in Bhilai (Chhattisgarh).
- A 16-kW solar power plant has been installed as platform shelter at the Sahibabad Railway Station.
- The railways ministry has installed solar panels at over 960 stations and is using solar power to meet railway station energy needs.
- Participation of Private Sector: The ministry has included provisions for a Letter of Credit (LC) in the event of railway payment default, as well as a penalty for late payment in the model bidding document for solar power developers.
- This is to encourage the private sector to participate in the project.

### Challenges:

- No-objection certificate for open access: The No objection Certificate (NoC) for open access to electricity flow for railways in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana has not been operationalised due to regulatory challenges that the railways are vigorously pursuing.
- If approval for procuring power through open access is granted in these states, solar deployment may increase.



- Wheeling and banking provision: Full deployment of solar potential will become more feasible if states provide wheeling and banking arrangements.
- Merger of solar purchase obligation and non-solar purchase obligation: The consolidation of solar and non-solar obligations will allow the railways to meet their Renewable Purchase Obligations.
- Unrestricted net metering regulations: Unrestricted net metering for rooftop solar projects would hasten the deployment of railway solar plants.

### 1.101 FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA)

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Fourth general assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held virtually between October 18 to October 21, 2021.

#### About:

- Assembly was presided by Union Minister of power, new & renewable energy, R.K. Singh and President of ISA Assembly.
- 108 countries participated in the ISA Assembly, including 34 observer & prospective countries and 74 Member Countries.
- It was also participated by 23 Partner Organizations and 33 Special Invitee Organisations.
- During the meeting countries discussed that how MSME clusters can replace diesel gensets with hydrogen.
- Discussion was focused on how ISA's waste management programme will be significant for the growing volume of waste & toxic materials, high cost of waste treatment and lack of waste specific legislation.
- They also discussed an update on One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative. This concept of a single global grid for solar was proposed at First Assembly of the ISA in 2018.

#### Two New programme

- During the assembly, countries launched two new programmes namely- Management of Solar PV panels & battery usage waste and Solar Hydrogen programme.
- **Solar Hydrogen Programme:** Solar Hydrogen Programme was launched with the aim of enabling the use of solar electricity in order produce hydrogen at more affordable rate as compared to what is available currently that is USD 5 per KG. This aim will be achieved by reducing it to USD 2 per KG.
- **Partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies**
- The ISA also announced a partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies in order to mobilize \$1 trillion in global investments for solar energy among the member countries of ISA. The two organizations will work with World Resources Institute (WRI) in a bid to develop a "Solar Investment Action Agenda" as well as a "Solar Investment Roadmap". Both will be launched at COP26.

### 1.102 LAKE TAHOE: US

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Drought fueled by climate change has dropped Lake Tahoe in the US below its natural rim and halted flows into the Truckee River.
- It is a historically cyclical event that's occurring sooner and more often than it used to.

#### About:

- Lake Tahoe is the largest alpine lake in North America, and the second deepest lake in the US, with Crater Lake in Oregon being the deepest in the US.
- Alpine lakes are lakes or reservoirs at high altitudes, usually over above sea level or above the tree line.

- Note: Great Lakes, chain of deep freshwater lakes in east-central North America comprising Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. Except for Lake Michigan, the lakes provide a natural border between Canada and the United States.

#### **Impact of Climate Change on Lakes:**

- Less Ice Cover: Lakes are experiencing less ice cover, with more than 1,00,000 lakes at risk of having ice-free winters if air temperatures increase by 4 °C.
- Increasing LSWT: Lake Surface Water Temperatures have increased worldwide, which is similar to or in excess of air temperature trends.
- Increase in Evaporation rate: Global annual mean lake evaporation rates are forecast to increase 16% by 2100, with regional variations dependent on factors such as ice cover, stratification, wind speed and solar radiation.
- Lake stratification is the tendency of lakes to form separate and distinct thermal layers during warm weather.
- Affecting Lake Water Storage: Global lake water storage is sensitive to climate change, but with substantial regional variability, and the magnitude of future changes in lake water storage remains uncertain.

### **1.103 TRIGONOPTERUS CORONA**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, scientists have discovered a new species of beetle named *Trigonopterus corona* on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.
- It is not the only insect species to be named after the pandemic. In April 2021, a new species of caddisfly (a moth-like insect) was collected near a stream in Kosovo, and named *Potamophylax coronavirus*.

#### **About:**

- It has been named on pandemic which reflects the large impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on this project.
- The researcher had been studying this genus (*Trigonopterus*) for the past 15 years and was delayed because Covid-19 pandemic hit.
- *Trigonopterus* is a hyperdiverse genus of flightless hidden-snout weevils (*Cryptorhynchinae*) ranging over the Indo-Australian-Melanesian archipelago.
- Weevils are often called flour bugs because that is where they are frequently found, they are a type of beetle with an elongated snout.
- The genus *Trigonopterus* originated in Northern Australia and rapidly diversified in New Guinea before colonizing Sulawesi and dispersing further west to Sundaland (a bio-geographical area of south-eastern Asia).

### **1.104 MAHARASHTRA BECAME 1ST STATE TO PASS ITS OWN WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN 2021-30**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- During the 17th meeting of the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL), the government of Maharashtra approved its own Wildlife Action Plan (2021-2030), which will be implemented over the next 10 years.
- Maharashtra became India's first state to pass its own Wildlife Action Plan. The board has also approved the extension of the boundary of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, in the Chandrapur district of the Vidarbha region, by around 79 sq km.
- The plan has suggested integrating climate change adaptation in wildlife conservation. "To develop a Climate Action Plan for the Coastal Region of the state in sync with the 'State Climate Change Action

Plan' with special emphasis on 'Climate Change Adaptation' (CCA) and 'Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR)'," the plan states.

## PRACTISE MCQS

**QUESTION 1: Which state has recently allotted funds to discoms to prevent Elephant electrocution?**

- A. Kerala
- B. Odisha
- C. Karnataka
- D. Assam

**QUESTION 2: Indian scientists have developed a non-toxic, environmentally friendly, biodegradable polymer using-**

- A. Guar gum and chitosan
- B. Molasses
- C. Cow dung
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 3: Forest (Conservation) Act (FCA) was promulgated in-**

- A. 1927
- B. 1980
- C. 2006
- D. 2015

**QUESTION 4: Who is the Principal Scientific Advisor to government of India?**

- A. Rajagopal Chidambaram
- B. Preeti Banzal
- C. K. Vijay Raghavan
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 5: The scientific name *Tinospora cordifolia* belongs to-**

- A. Giloy
- B. Mahseer fish
- C. Owl
- D. A cumin variety

**QUESTION 6: What is the IUCN status of Javan Gibbon?**

- A. Least concern
- B. Vulnerable
- C. Endangered
- D. Critically endangered

**QUESTION 7: The 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in-**

- A. Kunming
- B. Beijing
- C. Kuala Lumpur
- D. New York

**QUESTION 8: Global Climate Risk Index 2021 is published by-**

- A. United Nations Environment Program
- B. World Meteorological Organisation
- C. Germanwatch
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 9: Green crackers are preferred over traditional crackers. This is because traditional crackers contain-**

- A. Arsenic
- B. Lithium
- C. Barium
- D. All of the above

**QUESTION 10: Allium Negianum, seen in news recently, is a newly discovered species of-**

- A. Frog
- B. Onion
- C. Spider
- D. Banana

**QUESTION 11: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 The Conference of Parties (COP) 26 United Nations Climate Change Conference is held in Scotland.
- 2 The Conference of Parties comes under the UNFCCC which was formed in 1994.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 12: Parambikulam Tiger reserve is situated in-**

- A. Kerala
- B. Karnataka
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Odisha

**QUESTION 13: Mount Aso volcano, which erupted recently, is situated in-**

- A. Indonesia
- B. Japan
- C. Phillipnes
- D. Hawaii

**QUESTION 14: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle, is characterized by opposing warm and cool phases of oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the tropical Atlantic Ocean.
- 2 Recently a consecutive La Niña is declared recently called Double-Dip.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 15: A report called "National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on climate" has been launched by-**

- A. Interpol
- B. UN office on Drugs and Crime
- C. US Office of the Director of National Intelligence
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 16: Indian Railways (IR) has announced that it is likely to become world's first 'net-zero' carbon emitter by-**

- A. 2025
- B. 2027
- C. 2030
- D. 2035

**QUESTION 17: 'Solar Hydrogen Programme' has been launched recently by-**

- A. The Energy and Research Institute
- B. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- C. International Solar Alliance
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 18: Lake Tahoe, which was recently in news, is located in**

- A. USA
- B. Malaysia
- C. Japan
- D. Philippines

**QUESTION 19: Trigonopterus corona, discovered recently is a species of-**

- A. Spider
- B. Beetle
- C. Frog
- D. Lizard

**QUESTION 20: Which state has become India's first to pass its own Wildlife Action Plan?**

- A. Mizoram
- B. Kerala
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**ANSWERS:**

ANSWER 1: B  
ANSWER 2: A  
ANSWER 3: B  
ANSWER 4: C  
ANSWER 5: A  
ANSWER 6: C  
ANSWER 7: A  
ANSWER 8: C  
ANSWER 9: D

ANSWER 10: B  
ANSWER 11: C  
ANSWER 12: A  
ANSWER 13: B  
ANSWER 14: B  
ANSWER 15: C  
ANSWER 16: C  
ANSWER 17: C  
ANSWER 18: A  
ANSWER 19: B  
ANSWER 20: C

## ECONOMY

### 1.105 IFSCA CONSTITUTES AN EXPERT PANEL ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has constituted an Expert Committee to recommend an approach towards the development of the Sustainable Finance Hub at IFSC. The expert committee will be chaired by C.K. Mishra, Former Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- The committee consists of a total of 10 members including the chairperson and the member secretary. The committee shall study the current regulatory practices in Sustainable Finance across major International financial jurisdictions and recommend a robust framework to develop a world-class sustainable finance hub at IFSC, along with a road map for the same.

### 1.106 AMAZON INDIA LAUNCHED ITS GLOBAL COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- E-commerce major Amazon India has announced the launch of Amazon Future Engineer, its global computer science education programme in India.
- The programme will enable access to quality computer science education and career opportunities for students from underrepresented and underserved communities.
- In the first year of its launch, Amazon aims to enable and deliver learning opportunities to more than 1 lakh students from 900 government and aided schools across seven states in India.
- Amazon Future Engineer programme in India will focus on the students of 6-12 class and it will also provide training to teachers for teaching computer science in a more engaging way.
- Amazon is running this kind of programme in the US, the UK, Canada, and France.

### 1.107 TAX INSPECTORS WITHOUT BORDERS PROGRAMME

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), have launched the Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) Programme in Seychelles.
- India has been chosen as the Partner Administration and has provided Tax Expert for this programme.

#### About

- It is expected to be of 12 months duration where India aims to aid Seychelles in strengthening its tax administration by transferring technical know-how and skills to its tax auditors through sharing of best audit practices.
- It focuses on Transfer Pricing cases of tourism and financial services sectors.
- Transfer Price, also known as transfer cost, is the price at which related parties transact with each other, such as during the trade of supplies or labor between departments. Multinational companies can manipulate transfer prices in order to shift profits to low tax regions.
- It is the sixth TIWB programme which India has supported by providing Tax Expert.
- Fifth TIWB programme with India was launched in Bhutan in June 2021.

#### Tax Inspectors Without Borders Programme:

- TIWB is a capacity-building programme.

- It is a joint OECD/UNDP initiative launched in July 2015 to strengthen developing countries' auditing capacity and multinationals' compliance worldwide.
- It deploys qualified experts in developing countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean to help build tax capacity in the areas of audit, criminal tax investigations and the effective use of automatically exchanged information.
- TIWB assistance has led to increased domestic resource mobilisation in some of the least developed countries in the world.

## 1.108 COMPREHENSIVE HANDICRAFTS CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Ministry of Textiles has approved the continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS).

### About:

- CHCDS scheme was approved with a total outlay of Rs 160 crore.
- Scheme will continue up to March 2026 now.
- Under the scheme, infrastructural support, design & technology upgradation, market access etc will be provided to handicrafts artisans.

### Aim of the scheme

- CHCDS schemes was launched to create world-class infrastructure which will caters to the business needs of local artisans & SMEs in order to boost production and export. These clusters have been set with the objective of assisting the artisans & entrepreneurs in setting up world-class units with modern infrastructure, adequate training, latest technology, and human resource development inputs. It is also coupled with market linkages and production diversification.

### Provisions under CHCDS

- Under CHCDS, interventions such as Baseline Survey & Activity Mapping, Skill Training, Marketing events, Improved Tool Kits, Publicity, Seminars, capacity building, Design workshops, etc will be provided. Scheme will also provide for Emporiums, Common Facility Centres, Raw Material Banks, Trade Common Production Centres, Facilitation Centres, Design & Resource Centres.

### Who will undertake the projects?

- Integrated projects will be taken up for development with the help of Central or State Handicrafts Corporations, Autonomous body Council Institute, Registered Co- operatives, Registered SPV, Producer company of artisans, that are having good experience in handicrafts sector.

### Focus of the projects

- These products will focus on integration of scattered artisans, building grass root level enterprises for them and linking them to SMEs in the handicrafts sector in order to ensure economies of scale. Mega handicraft clusters comprising of 10,000 artisans will be selected for overall development under the scheme

## 1.109 HIMACHAL PRADESH BECOMES 1ST STATE TO BEGIN ORGANISED CULTIVATION OF DALCHINI

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The CSIR's Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) has introduced cinnamon cultivation in Himachal Pradesh on a pilot basis.
- True cinnamon or Cinnamomum verum is grown mainly in Sri Lanka, while minor producing countries include Seychelles, Madagascar, and India.
- India imports 45,318 tonnes of cinnamon annually from China, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia and Nepal. With the cultivation of Cinnamomum Verum, HP has become the first state of India to have organized cultivation of cinnamon.

### **1.110 INDIA JOINS SEYCHELLES' TAX INSPECTORS WITHOUT BORDERS PROGRAMME**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) has launched its programme in Seychelles. India has been chosen as the Partner Administration for this programme. The country will be providing its Tax Expert in support of the initiative.
- The focus of the 12-month programme will be on Transfer Pricing cases of tourism and financial services sectors.
- TIWB is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), since its launch in 2015.
- The aim of the initiative is to aid countries in strengthening their tax administration by transferring technical know-how and skills to the tax auditors through sharing of best audit practices

### **1.111 ALIBAUG WHITE ONION GETS GI TAG FOR HEALTH BENEFITS**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The famed white onion of Alibag in Maharashtra's Raigad district was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag bringing worldwide recognition to its unique sweet taste, no-tears factor, as well as its medicinal properties.
- The soil of Alibaug taluka has low sulphur content. The NABL-approved lab test report mentions low pungency, sweet taste, 'no tear' factor, low pyruvic acid, high protein, fat & fibre, etc.
- The agriculture department here and Konkan Agriculture University had jointly submitted the GI application on January 15, 2019. On September 29 this year, the proposal was scrutinised in the Mumbai office of the Registrar of Patents and it was decided to confer GI tag on Alibag's white onion.

### **1.112 GI TAGGED SWEET DISH MIHIDANA HAS BEEN EXPORTED TO BAHARAIN**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The first consignment of Geographical Indication (GI) tagged sweet dish Mihidana, from Bardhaman, West Bengal has been exported to the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- This initiative is part of the effort to promote indigenous & Geographical Identification (GI) tagged products of India globally. The product was exported by APEDA registered M/S DM Enterprises, Kolkata.
- West Bengal's Bardhaman got the GI tag for the Mihidana sweetmeats in 2017. A GI tag is a sign denoting a specific geographical origin and possesses qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

### **1.113 AIR INDIA DISINVESTMENT**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, the government approved the highest price bid of Talace Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd for sale (Disinvesting) of 100% equity shareholding of Government of India in Air India (AI).
- The Tatas will own 100% stake in AI, as also 100% in its international low-cost arm Air India Express and 50% in the ground handling joint venture, AI SATS.

#### **Reasons for Disinvestment:**



- It is hoped that with AI passing into the private sector, its operations and costs will get streamlined, services on board will improve and basic services like wi-fi will also be made available.
- A strong international carrier in India will give a boost to the large airports built in Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bengaluru which along with AI will be able to win back some of the tourist dollars from Indians travelling abroad who are currently travelling on foreign carriers.
- A successful turnaround of Air India could also help the Indian economy as it is a well-established fact that aviation has a multiplier effect on the economy.
- There is a pressure on the government to raise resources to support the economic recovery and meet expectations of higher outlays for healthcare.

**Significance:**

- It will save taxpayers money from paying for daily losses of AI.
- It will help push other tough decisions the government is keen on taking.
- It will possibly give the option of flying one more low-cost carrier domestically.

## 1.114 SOVEREIGN CREDIT RATINGS

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Ratings agency Moody's has changed India's sovereign rating outlook to "Stable" from "Negative" and affirmed the country's rating at "Baa3".
- "Baa3" rating is the lowest investment grade, just a notch above junk status (Speculative).

**About:**

**Sovereign Credit Rating (SCR):**

- SCR is an independent assessment of the creditworthiness of a country or sovereign entity.
- It can give investors insights into the level of risk associated with investing in the debt of a particular country, including any political risk.
- In addition to issuing bonds in external debt markets, another common motivation for countries to obtain a sovereign credit rating is to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- At the request of the country, a credit rating agency will evaluate its economic and political environment to assign it a rating.
- Moody's considers a Baa3 or higher rating to be of investment grade, and a rating of Ba1 and below is speculative.
- S&P gives a BBB- or higher rating to countries it considers investment grade, and grades of BB+ or lower are deemed to be speculative or "junk" grade.

**Economic Survey's Stance on SCRs:**

- India has consistently been rated below expectation as compared to its performance on various parameters during the period 2000-20.
- India remained a clear outlier on several parameters such as GDP growth rate, inflation, general government debt, political stability, rule of law, control of corruption, investor protection, ease of doing business, sovereign default history, etc.
- India's ability to pay can be gauged not only by the extremely low foreign currency-denominated debt of the sovereign but also by the comfortable size of its foreign exchange reserves that can pay for the short term debt of the private sector as well as the entire stock of India's sovereign and non-sovereign external debt.
- India's fiscal policy should be guided by considerations of growth and development rather than be restrained by "biased and subjective" sovereign credit ratings.
- It recommended that developing economies must come together to address this bias and subjectivity inherent in sovereign credit ratings methodology to prevent exacerbation of crises in future.

### 1.115 CENTRE APPROVES SETTING UP 7 PM MITRA PARKS IN 5 YEARS

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Centre has approved the setting up of seven new mega textile parks, or PM MITRA parks across the country in an effort to help furthering the growth of the textile sector in the economy and position India strongly on the Global textiles map.
- The Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks (PM MITRA) will be based on the 5F vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The '5F' Formula consists of Farm to fibre; fibre to factory; factory to fashion; fashion to foreign.
- These parks will be set up at Greenfield and Brownfield sites in different States by a Special Purpose Vehicle which will be owned by the State Government and Government of India in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Mode. The total outlay for the project has been set at Rs 4,445 crore for five years

### 1.116 INDIA'S FIRST E-FISH MARKET APP FISHWAALE LAUNCHED IN ASSAM

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Assam Minister for Fisheries, Environment and Forest and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya launched an App Fishwaale, India's first e-fish market. Table size fish such as bhangon, mrigal and rohu and freshwater and seawater frozen fish (icebox) will be available coupled with dry fish packets, dry fish raw, fish pickles and processed fish products.
- Developed by Aqua Blue Global Aquaculture Solutions Pvt. Ltd. in collaboration with the fisheries department at a function held at Sri Madhabdev Bhawan auditorium, the minister called the app "a one-stop solution for aquaculture" that will help both the buyers and sellers.
- This platform will help the fish farming community get a reasonable price for their produce and lead to the elimination of middlemen.

### 1.117 PALGHAR'S FAMED WADA KOLAM RICE GETS GI TAG

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- A variety of rice widely grown in Wada in the Palghar district of Maharashtra has been given a 'Geographical Indication' tag, which will give it a unique identity as well as wider markets.
- Wada Kolam, also known as Zini or Jhini rice, is a traditional variety grown in the Wada tehsil of Palghar, with the grain being off white in colour.
- Wada Kolam rice commands a price of Rs 60-70 per kg in domestic markets and has a sizeable demand overseas as well. Wada Kolam has been grown in Palghar for years. It is known for its small grain, aroma, taste and for being light for digestion. It is gluten-free. However, it is a low yielding crop

### 1.118 GI TAG FOR KARUPPUR KALAMKARI PAINTINGS, KALLAKURUCHI WOOD CARVINGS

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The traditional dye-painted figurative called Karuppur Kalamkari Paintings, and Kallakuruchi wood carvings have received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

#### About:

- Kallakuruchi wood carvings is done using pens, palm stem, date trees, brushes made of bamboo stick and coconut tree stems.
- This certificate was issued the Geographical Indications Registry on the basis of an application filed by Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar).

#### About Kalamkari

- The Karuppur Kalamkari Paintings are done in Thanjavur region. These are traditional dye-painted figurative and patterned clothes. They are made for temples like ceiling cloth, cylindrical hangings, umbrella covers and chariot covers. Thanjavur tradition of Kalamkari had canopies, umbrella covers, thombai (cylindrical hangings), and 'thoranams' (door hangings) comprising of motifs of yazhi, peacock, swan, flowers, and images of deities. They are used in temples and mutts.

#### **Background of Kalamkari**

- Artisans from Sikkalnaikkanpettai near Kumbakonam have been practicing this traditional art form for many generations. Artisans enjoyed royal patronage in times of yore. Presently, this traditional art form is practised at Karuppur in Udayarpalayam taluk of Ariyalur district as well as in villages around Sikkalnaikkaipettai and Tiruppanandal in Thanjavur district.

#### **Kallakurichi Wood Carvings**

- These carvings are done for designs and ornaments. These are indigenous to Madurai region.

#### **Geographical Indication**

- GI is a tag used to identify products originating from a definite geographical territory and have some special characteristics. The tag is governed by Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 in India. The Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai issues these tags. The tag is valid for a period of 10 years. It is also a part of the "Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)" by World Bank.

### **1.119 TAMIL NADU'S 'KANNIYAKUMARI CLOVE' GETS GI TAG**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The unique clove spice grown in the hills of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu has been awarded a geographical indication (GI) as 'Kanyakumari clove'.
- In India, the total production of cloves is 1,100 metric tons and of this, 1,000 metric tons is produced in Tamil Nadu every year while 750 metric tons of cloves are produced in the Kanyakumari district alone.
- Apart from this, the traditional dye-painted figurative and patterned cloth called Karuppur kalamkari paintings and the wood carvings of Kallakurichi from Tamil Nadu have also received GI tags

### **1.120 PM GATI SHAKTI SCHEME**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, the government of India has launched the ambitious Gati Shakti scheme or National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity plan, with the aim of coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects to bring down logistics costs.

#### **About the Scheme**

- **Aim:** To ensure integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the next four years, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs.
- The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline that was launched in 2019.
- Besides cutting logistics costs, the scheme is also aimed at increasing cargo handling capacity and reducing the turnaround time at ports to boost trade.
- It also aims to have 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors - one in Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh. Extending 4G connectivity to all villages is another aim. Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network is being planned.
- It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes.
- **Integrated Approach:** It intends to bring together 16 infrastructure related Ministries.

- This will help in removing long-standing issues such as disjointed planning, lack of standardisation, problems with clearances, and timely creation and utilisation of infrastructure capacities.
- Gati Shakti Digital Platform: It involves the creation of a common umbrella platform through which infrastructure projects can be planned and implemented in an efficacious manner by way of coordination between various ministries/departments on a real-time basis.

#### **Expected Outcomes**

- The scheme will help mapping the existing and proposed connectivity projects.
- Also, there will be immense clarity on how different regions and industrial hubs in the country are linked, particularly for last mile connectivity.
- A holistic and integrated transport connectivity strategy will greatly support Make in India and integrate different modes of transport.
- It will help India become the business capital of the world.

#### **Need for Integrated Infrastructure Development:**

- There exists a wide gap between macro planning and micro implementation due to the lack of coordination and advanced information sharing as departments think and work in silos.
- According to a study, the logistical cost in India is about 13% of GDP, which is higher than developed countries.
- Due to this high logistical cost, the competitiveness of India's exports is greatly reduced.
- It is globally accepted that the creation of quality infrastructure for Sustainable Development is a proven way, which gives rise to many economic activities and creates employment on a large scale.
- The scheme is in synergy with the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).
- The NMP has been announced to provide a clear framework for monetisation and give potential investors a ready list of assets to generate investment interest.

#### **Associated Concerns**

- Low Credit Off-take: Although the government had taken up 'strong' banking sector reforms and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code had yielded about Rs. 2.4 lakh crore of recoveries on bad loans, there are concerns about declining credit offtake trends.
- Banks give credit off-takes to help businesses acquire financing for future projects through the promise of future income and proof of an existing market.
- Lack of Demand: In the post-Covid-19 scenario, there is a lack of private demand and investment demand.
- Structural Problems: Due to land acquisition delays and litigation issues, the rate of implementation of projects is very slow on global standards.
- Getting approvals is very difficult in terms of land access, environmental clearances; also impending litigation in court delays the infrastructure projects.

### **1.121 PLI SCHEME FOR TELECOM PRODUCTS LAUNCHED**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Minister of State of Ministry of Communication, Devusinh Chauhan, launched a Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI Scheme) for Telecom & Networking Products on October 14, 2021.

#### **Why this scheme was launched in telecom sector?**

- PLI Scheme in telecom sector was launched for realizing the Prime Minister's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat. This scheme would help in reducing dependence of India on other countries for importing telecom and networking products.

#### **Who launched the scheme?**

- The PLI Scheme in telecom sector is being launched by DoT with the objective of boosting domestic manufacturing of telecom and networking products. Manufacturing will be boosted by incentivising incremental investments and turnover. This scheme was launched with the total outlay of Rs 12,195 crore.

#### **When it will come into effect?**

- The scheme is effective from April 1, 2021. Investment made by successful applicants in India in between April 1, 2021 to FY 2024-25 will be eligible. Eligibility is subject to qualifying incremental annual thresholds. Support under the Scheme will be provided for a period of five years (from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26).

#### **Which companies are eligible?**

- According to Scheme and Scheme Guidelines, about 31 companies, comprising of 16 MSMEs & 15 Non-MSMEs, have been found eligible are being given approval under the PLI Scheme. Some of the eligible MSME companies are: Coral Telecom Limited, Frog Cellsat Limited, Ehoome IoT Private Limited, GDN Enterprises Private Limited etc. These 31 applicants are expected to invest Rs 3345 crore over a period of 4 years and generate incremental employment to about 40000 people.

### **1.122 RBI FINES PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK AND WESTERN UNION**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalty on two payment system operators viz., Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PBBL) as well as Western Union Financial Services Inc.
- **About:**  
RBI levied a penalty of Rs 1 crore on PBBL. Penalty was imposed because of an offence related to Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act).
- It levied a penalty of Rs 27.78 lakh on Western Union Financial Services, which is a cross-border in-bound service operator. Fine was imposed for non-compliance with certain directions that were issued by the central bank.

#### **Offense by PBBL**

- In the application for issue of final Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of PBBL, RBI observed that PBBL had submitted information which did not reflect the factual position. This was an offence of the nature in accordance with Section 26 (2) of the PSS Act.

#### **Offense by Western Union**

- Western Union reported the case of breach in ceiling of 30 remittances per beneficiary during 2019 and 2020. It filed an application for compounding of the violation.

#### **Western Union Company**

- It is an American multinational financial services company. It is headquartered in Denver, Colorado. The company was founded in the year 1851 as “New York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company”. In the year 1856, company changed its name to the Western Union Telegraph Company.

#### **Paytm Payments Bank (PBB)**

- The Indian payments bank called PBB was founded in 2015. It is headquartered in Noida. PBB received the license to run a payments bank from RBI in 2015. It was finally launched in November 2017.

### **1.123 NITI AAYOG AIM’S DIGI-BOOK- INNOVATIONS FOR YOU**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) launched a new digi-book-called “Innovations for You” in a bid to showcase the success stories of start-ups set up under the Atal Innovation Mission in different domains.

#### **First Edition of the Book**

- First edition of the book is focused on innovations in Health Care.
- It showcases 45 start-ups which have worked to create new, innovative & disruptive products, services & solutions.
- These services and solutions will pave a path for sustainable future in health care sector.
- The Digi-book series would soon include other sectors as well.

### **NITI Aayog's Digi Book**

- NITI aayog has launched the DIGI book, as India is celebrating the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Digi-book is a compilation of 45 health tech start-ups. These start-ups have been incubated at the Atal Incubation Centres across the country.
- These start-ups have been leveraging technologies such as AI, IoT, ICT and others for providing socially relevant solutions to health issues like neonatal & child care, mental health, dental care, anaemia and monitoring human vitals.

### **Aim of the book**

- The Digi-book was launched with the aim of serving as an encouragement for upcoming entrepreneurs in order to work on the path of creativity and imagination for addressing some of the pressing challenges in India. It also aims to showcase best innovations and entrepreneurs to bring them the forefront.

### **Significance**

- This book will showcase how young India is slowly and steadily progressing towards becoming a world-class leader.

### **Atal Innovation Mission**

- It is a flagship initiative by NITI Aayog launched with the aim of promoting innovation and entrepreneurship culture in India. This mission was launched with the objective of creating an umbrella structure for revolutionising innovation ecosystem of India.

## **1.124 6TH ANNUAL MEET: AIIB**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, the Union Minister of Finance participated in the 6th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

### **India's Stand:**

#### **Help in Covid:**

- Appreciated AIIB's prompt actions in providing financial support to Member Countries, including India, in their efforts to contain and combat Covid-19.

#### **Multilateral Banking:**

- Emphasised the importance of multilateral banks in supplementing countries' efforts to cope with the Covid-19 crisis and the looming climate crisis.

#### **Expectations from the Bank:**

- Need to explore investment opportunities in the creation and development of assets in social infrastructure sectors.
- To further intensify private sector capital mobilisation for inclusive and green development.
- To set up a Resident Board and Regional Offices to ensure accountability, transparency and quality of operations and investments.

#### **AIIB's Stand:**

#### **Suggestion for India:**

- It should strike a balance between ramping up physical infrastructure and the social infrastructure such as healthcare systems.

#### **Future Endeavours in India:**

- It would look to fund both social as well as climate-resilient infrastructure in India in the coming years.
- It will align its operations with the goals of the Paris Agreement to cope with climate change.
- India and AIIB
- India was among the AIIB's 57 founding members in 2016.
- It is also its second-largest shareholder (with 7.62% voting shares) after China (26.06%).
- It has received USD 4.35 billion from the Bank. This is the highest of any country, with the bank so far approving loans of USD 19.6 billion to support 87 projects in 24 countries.

- Turkey is second with USD 1.95 billion.
- AIIB has approved financing projects in India in a host of sectors like energy, transport and water including the Bangalore metro rail project (USD 335 million), Gujarat rural roads project (USD 329 million) and Phase 3 of the Mumbai urban transport project (USD 500 million).
- India needed to develop modern infrastructure and when the Bank screened proposals, it worked with the government to ensure that priority was given to infrastructure projects which could deal with climate change.
- In a recent virtual meeting, India said that it expects AIIB to introduce new financing instruments, provide financing for social infrastructure and to integrate development of climate resilient and sustainable energy access infrastructure into AIIB's recovery response to the Covid-19 crisis.
- This implies that India is unlikely to alter its engagement with the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), despite a host of offensive measures announced recently to reduce its trade and investment links with China.

## 1.125 KRISHI UDAN 2.0

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Civil Aviation has released Krishi Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) 2.0 to facilitate movement of agricultural produce by air.
- It lays out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and optimization of agri-harvesting and air transportation and contributing to agri-value chain sustainability and resilience under different and dynamic conditions.
- Earlier, ahead of UDAN Day (21st October), the Ministry of Civil Aviation flagged off 6 routes, expanding the aerial connectivity of North-East India, under the UDAN Scheme.

### About:

- Krishi UDAN was launched in August 2020, on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products so that it improves their value realisation.
- Krishi UDAN 2.0 will focus on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, northeastern states and tribal areas.
- It will be implemented at 53 airports across the country mainly focusing on northeast and tribal regions and is likely to benefit farmers, freight forwarders and airlines.
- Opted airports not only provide access to regional domestic markets but also connect them to international gateways of the country.

### Main Features:

#### Waiver:

- Facilitate and incentivize movement of agri-produce by air transportation by giving a full waiver of landing, parking, Terminal Navigation and Landing Charges and Route Navigation Facilities Charges for domestic airlines.

#### Hub and Spoke Model:

- Strengthen Cargo related infrastructure at airports and off airports by facilitating the development of a hub and spoke model and a freight grid.
- The hub and spoke model refers to a distribution method in which a centralized "hub" exists.

#### Resource Pooling:

- Resources-Pooling through establishing a convergence mechanism i.e. collaboration with other government departments and regulatory bodies.
- It will provide freight forwarders, airlines and other stakeholders with Incentives and concessions to enhance air transportation of Agri-produce.

#### E-KUSHAL:

- An online platform named E-KUSHAL (Krishi Udaan for Sustainable Holistic Agri-Logistics) would also be developed to facilitate information dissemination to all stakeholders regarding the transportation of agricultural produce.
- The ministry has also proposed convergence of E-KUSHAL with the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).

**Expected Benefits:**

**New Avenues of Growth for Agriculture:**

- This scheme will open up new avenues of growth for the agriculture sector and help attain the goal of doubling farmers' income by removing barriers in supply chain, logistics and transportation of farm produce.

**Decrease Food Wastes:**

- It will help solve the problem of wastage of agricultural food wastes in the country.

## 1.126 MARK ZUCKERBERG CHANGES FACEBOOK'S NAME TO META

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Facebook is now called Meta, in a rebrand that focuses on building the “metaverse,” a shared virtual environment that it bets will be the successor to the mobile internet.
- The name change, the plan for which was first reported by the Verge, is a significant rebrand for Facebook, but not its first. In 2019 it launched a new logo to create a distinction between the company and its social app.
- The name change comes as the world's largest social media company battles criticisms from lawmakers and regulators over its market power, algorithmic decisions and the policing of abuses on its services.

## 1.127 R K SINGH LAUNCHES THE GREEN DAY AHEAD MARKET (GDAM)

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, R K Singh has launched a new market segment, “Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM)”. This makes India as the only large electricity market in the world to implement a GDAM exclusively for renewable energy.
- The launch of the green day-ahead market will deepen the green market and will provide competitive price signals, besides offering an opportunity to market participants to trade in green energy, in the most transparent, flexible, competitive, and efficient manner.
- The new initiative will open the renewable energy sector to enable anyone to set up the capacity and sell it to distribution companies and industries.
- Meanwhile, the electricity generation and distribution companies will be able to buy or sell renewable energy through open access.
- The market-based competitive prices will provide another option to renewable generators to sell power as well as accelerate the renewable capacity addition towards the government's vision of building India as a sustainable and efficient energy economy.



## PRACTISE MCQS

**QUESTION 1: IFSCA has constituted an Expert panel on Sustainable Finance. It will be headed by-**

- A. Ajai Puri
- B. JB Mohapatra
- C. C.K. Mishra
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 2: A global computer science education programme in India has been launched by which tech. giant?**

- A. Amazon
- B. Facebook
- C. Twitter
- D. Google

**QUESTION 3: Tax Inspectors Without Borders Programme, a joint OECD/UNDP initiative, was launched in-**

- A. 2009
- B. 2013
- C. 2015
- D. 2017

**QUESTION 4: Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme is under which ministry?**

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industries
- B. Ministry of Skill development and entrepreneurship
- C. Ministry of Textile
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

**QUESTION 5: Which state has become 1st state to begin organised cultivation of Cinnamon (dalchini)?**

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 6: Tax Inspectors Without Borders is an initiative of-**

- A. United Nations Development Programme
- B. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- C. World Trade Organisation
- D. Both A and B

**QUESTION 7: The famous white onion of Alibaug has got GI tag. It belongs to-**

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Haryana

**QUESTION 8: Mihidana is a Geographical Indication (GI) tagged sweet dish from-**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Bihar
- D. West Bengal

**QUESTION 9: Which conglomerate has won the bid to acquire Air India?**

- A. TATA sons
- B. Reliance industries
- C. Wardhman Group
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 10: Ratings agency Moody's has given \_\_\_\_\_ investment grade to India.**

- A. Baa3
- B. Baa2
- C. Ba1
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 11: PM MITRA Parks are associated with-**

- A. Electronics manufacturing
- B. Cooperative societies
- C. Textiles
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 12: What is the name of India's first e-fish market App?**

- A. Fishwaale
- B. Machi Market
- C. Blue Markets
- D. Machiwaale

**QUESTION 13: Wada Kolam rice which recently got GI tag, belongs to which state?**

- A. Kerala
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Karnataka

**QUESTION 14: Kallakurichi Wood Carvings which received GI Tag recently, belong to-**

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

**QUESTION 15: Which of the following have received GI tag from Tamil Nadu in 2021?**

- A. Kanniyakumari Clove
- B. Karuppur kalamkari
- C. Kallakurichi wood carvings
- D. All of the above

**QUESTION 16: Consider the following statements about Gati Shakti scheme-**

- 1 The basic aim is coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects to bring down logistics costs.
- 2 It also aims to have 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors.
- 3 The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**QUESTION 17: A Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI Scheme) for Telecom &**

**Networking Products launched recently will provide support till-**

- A. 2025-26
- B. 2022-23
- C. 2030-31
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 18: Which two firms have been recently fined by RBI?**

- A. Airtel Payment Banks and Western Union
- B. AU Finance Bank and Paytm Payments Bank
- C. Paytm Payments Bank and Western Union
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 19: A new digi-book-called "Innovations for You" showcasing the success stories of start-ups has been launched by-**

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Minister of Science and Technology
- C. Minister of Commerce and Industry
- D. Prime Minister Office

**QUESTION 20: Consider the following statements about Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank:**

- 1 India was among the AIIB's 57 founding members.
- 2 India is also second-largest shareholder in AIIB.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 21: An online platform named E-KUSHAL is associated with-**

- A. Skill development
- B. Agri logistics
- C. Electricity efficiency
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 22: Facebook has been rebranded with new name that is-**

- A. Meta
- B. Beta

- C. Alphabet
- D. Zeus

**QUESTION 23: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM) was launched in India in 2019.
- 2 India is the only large electricity market in the world to implement a GDAM exclusively for renewable energy.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWERS**

- ANSWER 1: C
- ANSWER 2: A
- ANSWER 3: C
- ANSWER 4: C
- ANSWER 5: B
- ANSWER 6: D
- ANSWER 7: B
- ANSWER 8: D
- ANSWER 9: A
- ANSWER 10: A
- ANSWER 11: C
- ANSWER 12: A
- ANSWER 13: B
- ANSWER 14: C
- ANSWER 15: D
- ANSWER 16: D
- ANSWER 17: A
- ANSWER 18: C
- ANSWER 19: A
- ANSWER 20: C
- ANSWER 21: B
- ANSWER 22: A
- ANSWER 23: B

### 1.128 AUSINDEX: 4TH INDIA-AUSTRALIA BIENNIAL MARITIME SERIES

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- India and Australia participated in the fourth iteration of the biennial maritime series called 'AUSINDEX' on September 30, 2021.

#### About:

- This exercise will allow the Royal Australian Navy and Indian Navy in strengthening their "inter-operability" by sharing the best practices.
- It will also help in developing a 'common understanding of procedures for maritime security operations'.
- AUSINDEX Maritime exercise are conducted in India and Australia alternatively.
- The 4th edition is being conducted in the Northern Australia Exercise Area.
- In the fourth edition, surface units of both countries will be included.
- Units will exercise with HMAS Rankin, F-18 aircraft, Royal Australian Air Force P-8A, integral helicopters of Australian & Indian Navy and Collins Class Australian Submarine.
- This exercise is aligned to the 2020 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between both the countries.

#### Significance of the exercise

- AUSINDEX maritime exercise provides an opportunity to showcase the ability of conducting 'high-end maritime warfare training' with India. It also showcases a range of Australian Navy maritime capabilities.

#### Background

- Indian and Australian Navy started conducting the bilateral maritime exercise called AUSINDEX in 2015. Over the years, the exercise 'AUSINDEX' has grown in complexity. Its third edition was conducted in the Bay of Bengal in 2015. The exercises held in the Bay of Bengal, for the first time, included anti-submarine drills.

#### India-Australia Maritime Cooperation

- India and Australia also conducted "Ex AUSTRALIA HIND" which is a bilateral Exercise between Armies of both the countries as well as "EX PITCH BLACK" which is a multilateral air combat training exercise of Australia.

### 1.129 INDIA- SRI LANKA TO TAKE PART IN 'MITRA SHAKTI 21' EXERCISE

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- 8th Edition of the "India Sri Lanka bilateral joint Exercise" called Mitra Shakti will be conducted from October 4 to October 15, 2021 at Combat Training School, Ampara in Sri Lanka.

#### About:

- In the joint exercise, all arms contingent of 120 personnel from the Indian Army will participate along with the battalion of the Sri Lankan Army.
- This exercise will be conducted with the aim of promoting close relations between Armies of India and Sri Lanka.
- It also seeks to enhance inter-operability and share best practices to counter insurgency and terrorism operations.
- It will involve tactical level operations at the sub unit level.
- Operations will be held in international Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorism environment.

- The exercise will act as the catalyst to bring synergy and cooperation at grass root level between the Indian army and Sri Lankan Army.

#### **Background**

- 7th Edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti was conducted in the year 2019 at Foreign Training Node (FTN), Pune, Maharashtra. It was conducted with the aim of building and promoting positive relations between armies of both the countries. It also incorporated the current dynamics of United Nations peacekeeping operations by means of practical & comprehensive discussions as well as tactical exercises.

#### **India-Sri Lanka relations**

- Bilateral relations between India and Sri-Lanka are historic. Only 4% of Sri Lankans are having a negative view regarding India. Both the countries are also close on economic terms. India is the largest trading partner of Sri Lanka. Both the countries share a maritime border. India is separated by Sri Lanka, by the Palk Strait. They are republics within the Commonwealth of Nations

### **1.130 5TH EDITION OF INDIA – JAPAN MARITIME BILATERAL EXERCISE**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Indian Navy and The Japan maritime Self-Defence Force is scheduled to start the Fifth edition of India – Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise called in the Arabian Sea.

#### **About:**

- Last edition of the JIMEX exercise was held in September 2020.
- During the three-day exercise, Indian navy will be represented by indigenously built Guided Missile Stealth Destroyer Kochi and Guided Missile Frigate Teg.
- Missiles will be commanded by Ajay Kochhar, who is the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet Rear Admiral.
- Japanese side will be represented by JMSDF ships Kaga, a Guided Missile Destroyer, an Izumo Class Helicopter Carrier and Murasame. It will be commanded by Commander Escort Flotilla – 3 Rear Admiral Ikeuchizuru.
- Apart from these ships, P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft, integral helicopters, Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and MiG 29K fighter aircraft will also take part in the exercise.

#### **Aim of the JIMEX-21**

- JIMEX-21 is being conducted with the aim of developing a common understanding of operational procedures and enhancing an inter-operability by conducting a multitude of advanced exercises, in the entire spectrum of maritime operations. These multi-faceted tactical exercises will consolidate the coordination developed by both the navies.

#### **About JIMEX Exercise**

- JIMEX series of exercises was started in January 2012. It mainly focuses on maritime security cooperation. These exercises are conducted between Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, biennially.

#### **Other Military Exercises between both the countries**

- Besides JIMEX, India and Japan conduct a joint land military exercise called 'Dharma Guardian', annually. They also conduct a Joint Air Force exercise called 'Shinyuu Maitri'. India and Japan are also involved in a Trilateral Maritime Exercise called Malabar with the USA.

### **1.131 DEFENCE MINISTER ADDRESSES 'SCO SEMINAR ON ROLE OF WOMEN IN ARMED FORCES'**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) seminar on 'Role of Women in Armed Forces' was organised on October 14, in virtual mode.

**About:**

- The webinar was addressed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- During the seminar, defence minister highlighted that government has taken several steps to strengthen the role of women in the security setup in general and armed forces in particular.
- He also noted that, women have been serving in Indian Military Nursing Service with pride for more than 100 years now.
- Indian Army started commissioning women officers from year 1992. Army has now moved to induct women officers in more branches of Army as well.
- Women are also being accepted for permanent commission and will be commanding army units & battalions in near future.
- Host of the seminar
- This seminar was hosted by India, highlighting the role of India's women military officers in UN peacekeeping missions at global level.

**Role of women in peacekeeping missions**

- India has been an active participant in the deliberations on several issues which focuses on women empowerment and gender mainstreaming at different UN bodies. Indian Army has also contributed women officers as Military Observers and Staff Officers apart from forming part of Medical Units which are deployed in UN Missions.

**Women Indian Armed Forces Medical Services**

- Women of Indian Armed Forces Medical Services headed the UN Peacekeeping mission in 1960 in Republic of Congo and assisted in setting a 400-bed hospital. India also created history in the year 2007 by deploying "all-female Formed Police Unit" for UN Peacekeeping in Liberia. In the year 2019, India deployed a Female Engagement Team under the UN Stabilization Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## 1.132 EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS 2021

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- India and the United States are set to start a 15-day mega military exercise in Alaska from October 15, 2021 in a bid to further deepen bilateral military cooperation between both the countries.

**About:**

- Year 2021 will mark the 17th edition of the exercise "Yudh Abhyas".
- Exercise will be conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson in Alaska.
- It will commence from October 15 and end on 29.

**Indian contingent**

- At the exercise, the Indian contingent will comprise of 350 personnel from an infantry battalion group of Indian Army.

**Background**

- The previous (16th) edition of the exercise took place in February 2021 in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner.

**Significance of the exercise**

- Exercise Yudh Abhyas is a step towards growing military cooperation between the both the countries. It is carried with the aim of enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between armies of India and USA. It will also focus on combined arms manoeuvres in cold climatic conditions. The primary aim of the exercise is to share tactical level drills and learn best practices from each other.

**Major Defence Partner**

- United States had designated India as a Major Defence Partner, in June 2016. Both the countries also signed key defence and security pacts in past few years such as 'Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)' in 2016.

- LEMOA allows the militaries from both the countries to use each other's bases for repair & replenishment of supplies and to provide a deeper cooperation.
- Countries also signed COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in the year 2018. COMCASA provides for interoperability between both the militaries as well as provides for sale of high-end technology from the US.
- They signed BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) agreement in October 2020 in order to further boost bilateral defence ties. It provides for sharing of high-end military technology, logistics & geospatial maps between both the countries.

### 1.133 EXERCISE MITRA SHAKTI

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The 8th Edition of joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army, Exercise MITRA SHAKTI was conducted in Sri Lanka.
- The 7th edition of the Mitra Shakti exercise was held in Pune, Maharashtra in 2019.

#### About:

- It is based on counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in semi urban terrain.
- It is the largest bilateral exercise being undertaken by the Sri Lankan Army and it forms a major part of India and Sri Lanka's growing defence partnership.
- The joint exercise is designed for incorporating the current dynamics of United Nations' peacekeeping operations through tactical exercises and practical discussions.

### 1.134 ABHYAS: HIGH-SPEED EXPENDABLE AERIAL TARGET

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested Abhyas High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, off the Bay of Bengal coast in Odisha.
- DRDO is the Research & Development wing of the Ministry of Defence, Govt of India, with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies.

#### Designed and developed by:

- Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), of DRDO.
- ADE is a key Aeronautical Systems Design Laboratory under DRDO.
- It is involved in the design and development of the state-of-the-art Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and Aeronautical Systems and technologies to meet the requirements of the Indian Armed forces.

#### Features

- It is powered by a gas turbine engine to sustain a long endurance flight at subsonic speed.
- It is equipped with a MEMS (Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems)-based Inertial Navigation System (INS) for navigation along with the Flight Control Computer (FCC) for guidance and control.
- The vehicle is programmed for fully autonomous flight and their check-out is done using a laptop-based Ground Control Station (GCS).

#### Utility:

- It will be used as a target for the evaluation of various missile systems.
- It offers a realistic threat scenario for practice of weapon systems.

#### Other Recent Developments:

- In September 2021, the DRDO tested a new version of the Akash Missile – 'Akash Prime' – from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- In July 2021, DRDO launched the Akash-NG (New Generation) and the Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

- In June 2021 a new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-P (Prime) was successfully test-fired by the DRDO.
- In February 2021 India also successfully test-fired indigenously-developed anti-tank guided missile systems 'Helina' and 'Dhruvastra'.
- In October 2020, the DRDO conducted a successful flight test of the Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

### 1.135 INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIP 'SARTHAK' INAUGURATED

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Director General of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), K Natarajan, commissioned the indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) "Sarthak" on October 28, 2021.

#### About:

- Commissioning of the ship is a significant boost for the maritime safety and security of India.
- ICGS Sarthak will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat.
- It will operate on the Western Seaboard of India, under the Operational and Administrative Control of the Commander of Coast Guard Region (Northwest).
- It is commanded by Deputy Inspector, General MM Syed while 11 Officers & 110 men will also complement him.

#### Who built ICGS Sarthak?

- ICGS Sarthak is the 4th ship among the series of five OPVs, which are being built for ICG by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- These OPVs are multi-mission platforms and are capable of undertaking concurrent operations.

#### About ICGS Sarthak

- ICGS is a 105-meter-long ship displacing 2,450 tons. It is propelled by two 9,100-kilowatt diesel engines. The ship has been designed to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots. Ship is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment, machinery, weapons and sensors that enables it to function as a command platform. The ship also undertakes the mandated Coast Guard charter of duties like search & rescue, preserving & protecting marine environment and combating maritime crimes. It is a significant example of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

#### Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

- ICG is a maritime law enforcement and search & rescue agency, operating under the Ministry of defence of India. Its jurisdiction is over the territorial waters of India, including the contiguous zone & exclusive economic zone. The agency was established on February 1, 1977 under the Coast Guard Act, 1978.

### 1.136 INDIAN NAVY'S STEALTH FRIGATE TUSHIL LAUNCHED IN RUSSIA

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The seventh frigate of P1135.6 class was launched on October 28, 2021 for the Indian Navy.

#### About:

- Frigate was launched at Yantar Shipyard in Russia's Kaliningrad.
- Indian Ambassador to Russia, D Bala Venkatesh Varma as well as senior dignitaries of the Russian Federation were present on the occasion.

#### Background

- Government of India and Russia had signed an agreement in October 2016 to construct four additional P1135.6 class ships, two in Russia while two in India.

#### About the ships



- Frigate ships feature “stealth technology” with respect to low radar and underwater noise signatures. Both the ships will be delivered from Russia by 2023. During the inaugural ceremony, this ship was named as “Tushil”. It means protector shield in Sanskrit.

#### **How ship was constructed?**

- The ship was constructed on the basis of specific requirements by Indian Navy to meet the entire spectrum of naval warfare across all the three dimensions of surface, sub-surface and air.

#### **Features of the ships**

- These ships are the example of potent combination of state-of-art Indian and Russian weapons and sensors. They are equipped to operate as a single unit as well as consort of naval task force in Littoral and Blue waters. They feature stealth technology with respect to low radar and underwater noise signatures. Ships are also being equipped with major Indian-supplied equipment like surface-to-surface missiles, surface surveillance radar, sonar system, communication suite and anti-submarine warfare system.

## **PRACTISE MCQS**

#### **QUESTION 1: India conducts Exercise PITCH BLACK with which country?**

- A. USA
- B. UK
- C. Bahrain
- D. Australia

#### **QUESTION 2: India conducts bilateral exercise Mitra Shakti with-**

- A. Myanmar
- B. Nepal
- C. Japan
- D. Sri Lanka

#### **QUESTION 3: 5th edition of India – Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise will be held in**

- A. Arabian Sea
- B. Bay of Bengal
- C. Sea of Japan
- D. Yellow Sea

#### **QUESTION 4: India created history in the year 2007 by deploying “all-female Formed Police Unit” for UN Peacekeeping in-**

- A. Sudan
- B. Iraq
- C. Liberia
- D. Afghanistan

#### **QUESTION 5: India conducts exercise Yudh Abhyaas with-**

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

#### **QUESTION 6: India conducts exercise Mitra Shakti with which country?**

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Malaysia
- C. Indonesia
- D. Maldives

#### **QUESTION 7: Abhyas, developed by DRDO, is a/an -**

- A. Template of joint military exercise
- B. Expendable aerial target
- C. Anti-tank missile
- D. None of the above

#### **QUESTION 8: Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) “Sarathak” commissioned recently, is built at-**

- A. Mazagaon Docks Ship Builders
- B. Garden Reach Ship Builders
- C. Goa Shipyard Limited
- D. none of the above

**QUESTION 9: INS Tushil, launched recently is a-**

- A. Offshore patrol vehicle
- B. Stealth frigate
- C. Corvette
- D. Aircraft carrier

**ANSWERS**

ANSWER 1: D

ANSWER 2: D

ANSWER 3: A

ANSWER 4: C

ANSWER 5: A

ANSWER 6: A

ANSWER 7: B

ANSWER 8: C

ANSWER 9: B

### 1.137 UNCTAD DIGITAL ECONOMY REPORT 2021

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) published its “UNCTAD Digital Economy Report 2021, recently.

#### About:

- In its report, UNCTAD noted the Philippines as one among six countries that allows free flow of data across borders. Free flow of data is required to boost the digital economy.
- Other five countries allowing free-flow of data across border include- Canada, Australia, Mexico, Singapore and the United States. These countries use “light-touch approach” for data flow.
- Light-touch approach
- Light-touch approach is mostly favoured by countries having strong regulatory environments and sufficient regulatory resources in order to monitor compliance of domestic laws. As per report, Philippines’s use of light-touch approach is towards its “dependence” on the outsourcing industry, which is the major economic growth drivers in the country.

#### Counties following restrictive or Guarded approach

- The “restrictive” or “guarded” approach for cross-border data flows is followed by countries like India, China, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Rwanda, Russian Federation, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.

#### UNCTAD recommendations

- UNCTAD recommends that the global community should enable free flow of digital data across the borders. It suggests to make an international framework in order to allow such activities. New approach should:
  - Facilitate “worldwide data sharing,
  - Develop global digital public goods,
  - Increase trust and
  - Reduce uncertainty in the digital economy.
- As per UNCTAD, no global framework would mean added burden in protecting the privacy for private sector as well as government use of data.
- Thus, a new regulatory framework is required that factors in both economic and non-economic dimensions.

### 1.138 IMF REPORT ON CRYPTO ECOSYSTEM

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The International Monetary Funds (IMF) has released its report called “Global Financial Stability Report”, highlighting how digital currency assets brings in financial stability challenges.

#### About:

- In its report, IMF notes that rapid growing crypto ecosystem presents new opportunities to the world. However, this digital currency assets also pose several financial stability challenges.
- According to report, Technological innovation is starting a new era of making payments and other financial services faster, cheaper, more accessible. Such transaction also allows to flow across borders swiftly.

#### Innovative services

- In its report, IMF highlights that, crypto asset technologies are a potential tool for faster and cheaper cross-border payments. Using these technologies, bank deposits can be transformed into a stable coin, allowing instant access to financial products from digital platforms. It also allows instant currency conversion. According to IMF, the decentralised finance can become a platform for more inclusive innovative and transparent financial services.

#### **Challenges with the cryptocurrencies**

- According to IMF, rapid growth and increasing adoption of crypto assets pose financial stability challenges.
- Such decentralised currencies could also lead to instability as they are extremely volatile. They are much more volatile than the equities or commodities or exchange rates.
- Its transaction costs are fairly expensive as compared to digital money.
- As per report, such transaction destabilizes the capital flows. It also poses several operational and financial integrity risks from the providers of crypto asset.

#### **What are cryptocurrencies?**

- Cryptocurrencies are digital or virtual currencies where encryption techniques are used for regulating the generation of units and verifying the transfer of funds. Such systems are operating independently of any central bank.

### **1.139 HEALTH MINISTER RELEASES ‘THE STATE OF THE WORLD’S CHILDREN 2021’**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Union Health Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, released a report titled “The State of the World’s Children 2021: On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children’s mental health” on October 5, 2021 in New Delhi. The state of World’s Children 2021 report is UNICEF’s global flagship publication.

#### **About:**

- The report highlights the significant impact of COVID-19 pandemic on mental health of the children.
- This report is significant because, mental health is an old issue & emerging issue. Furthermore, COVID-19 was a test of mental stress for entire world.
- As per UNICEF report, about 14 percent of 15 to 24-year-olds in India, accounting for 1 in 7, reported feeling depressed or they were having little interest in doing things.

#### **The State of the World’s Children 2021 report**

- This report examines the mental health of child, adolescent and caregiver. It focuses on risks and protective factors at critical moments if life course. It also digs into the social determinants which ultimately shape mental health and well-being. The report also calls for commitment, communication and action in order to promote good mental health for every child. It also seeks to protect vulnerable children and care for children facing the challenges.

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

- UNICEF’s state of the World’s Children Report 2021 has warned that children and young people might feel the impact of COVID-19 on their mental health and well-being for several years.
- The report highlights that, how children and young people carried the burden of mental health even before COVID-19.
- As per report, children with mental health disorders in India are mostly undiagnosed and hesitant in asking for help or treatment.
- 50 million children in India were affected by mental health issues, before the pandemic. Out of them, 80 – 90 per cent children have not asked for support.
- As per survey conducted across 21 countries, 14 per cent of respondents aged 15 to 24 years in India reported feeling depressed

## 1.140 INDIA SLIPS 6 RANKS ON HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2021

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India's rank has slipped by six places from last year to 90 on the Henley Passport Index 2021, which lists the world's most travel-friendly passports Japan and Singapore hold the first rank on the passport index.
- The index covers 227 destinations and 199 passports. The index comes at a time when countries are easing travel restrictions for international visitors after almost two years since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The rankings are based on the survey of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) data.

### Top 5 countries in the Index:

- Rank 1: Japan, Singapore
- Rank 2: Germany, South Korea
- Rank 3: Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain
- Rank 4: Austria, Denmark
- Rank 5: France, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden

### World's 5 least powerful passports:

- Afghanistan
- Iraq
- Syria
- Pakistan
- Yemen

## 1.141 UNDP RELEASES 2021 MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX REPORT

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The 2021 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report was jointly released by UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- The report provides estimates on multidimensional poverty across 109 developing countries (with data from surveys ranging 2009-2019/2020); These include 26 low-income countries, 80 middle-income countries and 3 high-income countries.
- The index measures each person's deprivations across 10 indicators divided into three equally weighted dimensions.

## 1.142 INDIA AT 3RD POSITION IN RE INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS INDEX

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Ernst & Young's (EY) Renewable Energy (RE) Country Attractiveness Index was recently published in which India has been ranked at 3rd position.

### About:

- RE Investment attractive index ranks the world's top 40 nations with respect to attractiveness of their deployment opportunities and renewable energy
- In the index, India retains its third position while US retains the top position.
- China has been ranked at second position.
- As per report, conditions are ripe for rapid growth across renewables generation. The major challenge will be inadequate grid investments.
- According to Index, corporate power purchase agreements were the key driver of clean energy growth in the light that, environment, social, and governance measures are becoming top agenda for companies and investors.

### India's Rank in PPA Index

- Among the top 30 power purchase agreement (PPA) markets, India has been ranked at sixth position. PPA Index focuses on attractiveness of renewable power procurement. It ranks the growth potential of country's corporate PPA market.

#### **India's renewable energy market**

- Renewable energy market conditions in India, including policy decisions, investment & technology improvements focus on self-reliant supply chains. It has taken India's clean energy transition to new heights. Report notes that the drive to integrate volumes of variable resources will put the grid infrastructure under significant strain. It also notes that, investment required to upgrade and expand energy transmission infrastructure will be a key challenge across the world.

#### **Which countries have transitioned towards clean energy?**

- France and the UK have switched to clean energy, while Germany has edged back ahead of Australia as its onshore wind market was fruitful in first half of 2021. Germany has added 971 MW, accounting for a rise of 62 per cent as compared to first half of 2020.

### **1.143 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX: INDIA AT 101ST RANK**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Global Hunger Index 2021, which is prepared jointly by Irish aid agency called 'Concern Worldwide' and German organisation called 'Welt Hunger Hilfe', was released on October 14, 2021. The Index termed the hunger level in India as alarming.

#### **About:**

#### **Where India has been placed?**

- In the index, India has been placed to 101st position out of 116 countries.
- In 2020, India's was positioned at 94th.
- In 2021 edition, India has been placed behind its neighbour countries Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- GHI score of India has also decreased. It was 38.8 in 2000 but now has been decreased to the range of 28.8 – 27.5 between 2012 and 2021.
- Share of wasting among children increased from 17.1 per cent during 1998-2002 to 17.3 per cent during 2016-2020.

#### **World scenario**

- In the index, eighteen countries such as China, Brazil and Kuwait, shared the top rank. They got the GHI score of less than five.

#### **How GHI Score is calculated?**

- GHI score is calculated on the basis of four indicators namely,
- Undernourishment
- Child wasting (share of children aged under five who are wasted i.e., those having low weight for their height.
- Child stunting (children aged under five who are having low height for their age.
- Child mortality (mortality rate of children aged under five).

#### **Improvement in India**

- India has improved with respect to indicators like under-5 mortality rate, prevalence of undernourishment and prevalence of stunting among children.

#### **Global Hunger Index (GHI)**

- GHI is a tool to measure and track hunger across the world, by region as well as by country. It is calculated annually and its results are published in a report issued in the month of October each year.

## 1.144 GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY INDEX 2021

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India is ranked at 71st position in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 of 113 countries.
- Earlier, India was ranked 101st position in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021.

### About the Index:

- **Developed by:**

- The GFS Index was designed and constructed by London-based Economist Impact and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience.
- The 2021 GFSI is the tenth edition of the index. It is published every year.

- **Calculation:**

- It measures the underlying drivers of food security based on the following factors:

- Affordability
- Availability
- Quality and Safety
- Natural Resources and Resilience

- It considers 58 unique food security indicators including income and economic inequality - calling attention to systemic gaps and actions needed to accelerate progress toward United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030.

- **Findings of the Report (India and World):**

- **Top Rankers:**

- Ireland, Australia, the UK, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, France and the US shared the top rank with the overall GFS score in the range of 77.8 and 80 points on the index.

- **India's Rank:**

- Overall Position: India held 71st position with an overall score of 57.2 points on the GFS Index 2021 of 113 countries
- In Comparison to Neighbouring Countries: It fared better than Pakistan (75th position), Sri Lanka (77th Position), Nepal (79th position) and Bangladesh (84th position). But the country was way behind China (34th position).
- However, over the past 10 years, India's incremental gains in overall food security score were lagging behind that of Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- India's score improved only by 2.7 points to 57.2 in 2021 from 54.5 in 2012 when compared with Pakistan by 9 points (to 54.7 in 2021 from 45.7 in 2012).
- Pakistan scored better than India in the food affordability category and Sri Lanka was even better. On the remaining 3 factors, India scored better than Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

- **Concerns:**

- Global food security has decreased for the second year in a row after seven years of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal of achieving zero hunger by 2030.
- While countries have made significant strides toward addressing food insecurity in the past ten years, food systems remain vulnerable to economic, climatic, and geopolitical shocks.

- **Suggestions:**

- Action is imperative at all levels—local, national, and global—to end hunger and malnourishment and ensure food security for all.
- To meet these present and emerging future challenges requires that investments in food security are sustained – from innovation in climate-resilient crop yields to investing in programs to assist the most vulnerable.

## 1.145 UNEP PRODUCTION GAP REPORT

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the 2021 Production Gap Report was released by the leading research institutes and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The Production Gap Report, first launched in 2019, tracks the discrepancy between governments' planned fossil fuel production and global production levels consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C or 2°C.
- UNEP's Major Reports: Emission Gap Report, Adaptation Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, Making Peace with Nature.

#### **Findings of the Report:**

##### **Increase in Production Gap:**

- The production gap to achieve the climate goal is the widest for coal: Production plans and projections by governments would lead to around 240% more coal, 57% more oil, and 71% more gas in 2030 than global levels consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C.
- The most worrying factor is that almost all major coal, oil and gas producers are planning to increase their production till at least 2030 or beyond.

##### **Effects of Covid-19:**

- The production gap has been fuelled by incremental capital flow towards fossil fuels in comparison to clean energy in the post novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) recovery phase.
- The Group of 20 countries (G20) has channelised USD300 billion to fossil fuels since the beginning of the pandemic, and the sector is still enjoying significant fiscal incentives.

##### **India's Position:**

- India's first NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution), issued in 2016, pledged a 33%-35% reduction in the "emissions intensity" of its economy by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.
- The report quotes a 2020 Government of India press release, to shine a light on India's plans to raise coal production.
- The government seeks to "unleash the power of coal" and become self-reliant by 2023-24; it also wants to bring about "a paradigm shift in approach from being oriented to maximum revenue from coal to maximum coal available in the market at the earliest."
- India plans to augment coal production from 730 million tonnes in 2019 to 1,149 million tonnes in 2024.
- India also aims to increase total oil and gas production by over 40% in the same period through measures such as accelerated exploration licensing, faster monetization of discoveries, and gas marketing reforms.

##### **Suggestions:**

- Early efforts from development finance institutions to cut international support for fossil fuel production are encouraging, but these changes need to be followed by concrete and ambitious fossil fuel exclusion policies to limit global warming to 1.5°C.
- Fossil-fuel-producing nations must recognize their role and responsibility in closing the production gap and steering the world towards a safe climate future.
- As countries increasingly commit to net-zero emissions by mid-century, they also need to recognize the rapid reduction in fossil fuel production that their climate targets will require.

## **1.146 GLOBAL THREAT ASSESSMENT REPORT 2021**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- We Protect Global Alliance recently released its Global Threat Assessment report 2021.

#### **About:**

- The report notes that, Child sexual abuse is a chronically underfunded issue.
- Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse online have increased.
- In the last two years, reporting of child sexual exploitation and online abuse cases has reached its highest level.



- According to “The Internet Watch Foundation”, there is an increase of 77% in child ‘self-generated’ sexual material in between 2019 to 2020. Such instances arose without any apparent external cause.
- As per report, currently, 37% children use tools to detect online grooming.

#### **Online Grooming**

- Online grooming is the situation, in which someone befriends a child online, and builds up their trust in order to exploit them and cause them harm.

#### **Recommendations made by report**

- Report suggests following measures to tackle the instances of sexual exploitation and abuse online:
- Prioritise prevention activities against abuse online
- Create safe online environments for children
- Stakeholders, who are having a key role in protecting the children, should work together to improve the response.

#### **We Protect Global Alliance**

- We Protect Global Alliance is a global movement of around 200 governments, private sector companies as well as civil society organisations who are working together to transform the global response to child sexual exploitation as well as abuse online.

## **1.147 GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY REPORT (GAP REPORT)**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- According to a new report, Global agricultural productivity is not growing as fast as the demand for food, amid the impact of climate change.
- The report was released in conjunction with the World Food Prize Foundation’s annual conference.

#### **Findings of the Report:**

##### **TFP Growth:**

- Total Factor Productivity (TFP) is growing at an annual rate of 1.36% (2020-2019).
- This is below the Global Agricultural Productivity Index that has set an annual target of 1.73% growth to sustainably meet the needs of consumers for food and bioenergy in 2050.

##### **Difference between TFP and Yield**

##### **Yield:**

- Yield measures output per unit of a single input, for example, the amount of crops harvested on a hectare of land. Yields can increase through productivity growth, but they can also increase by applying more inputs, called input intensification. Therefore, an increase in yield may or may not represent improvements in sustainability.

##### **TFP:**

- Total factor productivity captures the interaction between multiple agricultural inputs and outputs.
- TFP growth indicates that more farmers generate more crops, livestock, and aquaculture products with the same amount or less land, labor, fertilizer, feed, machinery, and livestock. As a result, TFP is a powerful metric for evaluating and monitoring the sustainability of agricultural systems.

##### **Factors Responsible for Low TFP Growth:**

- TFP growth is influenced by climate change, weather events, changes in fiscal policy, market conditions, investments in infrastructure and agricultural research and development.

##### **Situation in Different Regions:**

- Drier Regions (Africa and Latin America): Climate change has slowed productivity growth by as much as 34%.
- High-Income Countries (in North America and Europe): Modest TFP growth.
- Middle Income Countries (India, China, Brazil and erstwhile Soviet republics): Strong TFP growth rates.
- Low-Income Countries (Sub-Saharan Africa): TFP is contracting by an average of 0.31% per year.

##### **Significance of Productivity Growth:**

- Destruction of Forest Areas: 36% of the world's land is used for agriculture. Forests and biodiverse areas will be destroyed for planting or pasture.
- Diet-Related Diseases: USD 2T in economic losses and 4 million deaths are attributed to diet-related diseases each year.
- Soil Degradation: 90% of the earth's soils could be degraded by erosion by 2050.
- Methane Emissions: 37% of methane emissions from humans influenced activity come from cattle and other ruminants.
- Loss of Irrigation Water: 40% of irrigation water is lost due to inefficient irrigation.
- Water sources will be depleted, making prime agricultural land unusable.

#### **Suggestions:**

- Invest in agricultural research and development
- Embrace science-and-information-based technologies
- Improve infrastructure for transportation, information and finance
- Cultivate partnerships for sustainable agriculture, economic growth and improved nutrition
- Expand and improve local, regional and global trade
- Reduce post-harvest loss and food waste

#### **Indian Scenario**

##### **About:**

- **Strong TFP Growth:**
- India has seen strong TFP and output growth this century.
- The most recent data shows an average annual TFP growth rate of 2.81% and output growth of 3.17% (2010–2019.)
- **Impact of Climate Change:**
- By the end of the century, the mean summer temperature in India could increase by five degrees Celsius.
- This rapidly rising temperature, combined with changes in rainfall patterns, could cut yields for India's major food crops by 10% by 2035.
- **Other Challenges:**
- In addition to the challenges for environmental sustainability, India's small-scale farmers face significant obstacles to economic and social sustainability.
- Of the 147 million landholdings in India, 100 million are less than two hectares in size. Nearly 90% of farmers farming less than two hectares participate in a government food ration program.

## **1.148 REPORT ON HEAT-TRAPPING GASES IN THE ATMOSPHERE: WMO**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, the abundance of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere once again reached a new record last year (2020), with the annual rate of increase above the 2011-2020 average.
- This is despite the approximately 5.6% drop in fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2020 due to restrictions related to the pandemic.
- Earlier, the WMO released a report named United in Science 2021. WMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- The WMO Global Atmosphere Watch Programme coordinates systematic observations and analysis of greenhouse gases and other atmospheric constituents.

#### **Data Analysis:**

- Concentration of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the most important greenhouse gas, reached 413.2 parts per million in 2020 and is 149% of the pre-industrial level.
- Many countries are now setting carbon neutral targets and it is hoped that COP26 (Climate Conference) will see a dramatic increase in commitments.

- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is 262% and Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is 123% of the levels in 1750 when human activities started disrupting Earth's natural equilibrium.
- The economic slowdown from Covid-19 did not have any distinguishable impact on the atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases and their growth rates, although there was a temporary decline in new emissions.
- From 1990 to 2020, radiative forcing – the warming effect on our climate - by long-lived greenhouse gases increased by 47%, with CO<sub>2</sub> accounting for about 80% of this increase.
- The ability of land ecosystems and oceans to act as “sinks” may become less effective in future, thus reducing their ability to absorb carbon dioxide and act as a buffer against larger temperature increases.

**Concerns:**

- An increase in the temperature is expected by the end of this century far in excess of the Paris Agreement targets of 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- Parts of the Amazon rainforest have gone from being a carbon sink that sucks carbon dioxide from the air to a source of CO<sub>2</sub> due to deforestation and reduced humidity in the region.
- Given the long life of CO<sub>2</sub>, the temperature level already observed will persist for several decades even if emissions are rapidly reduced to net zero. Alongside rising temperatures, this means more weather extremes including intense heat and rainfall, ice melt, sea-level rise and ocean acidification, accompanied by far-reaching socioeconomic impacts.

## 1.149 CLIMATE VULNERABILITY INDEX

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, a report titled “Mapping India’s Climate Vulnerability – A District-level Assessment” has been released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) (not-for-profit policy research institution).
- The report has also launched the first-of-its-kind Climate Vulnerability Index.
- The index has analysed 640 districts in India and found that 463 of these are vulnerable to extreme floods, droughts and cyclones.

**Key Points**

- Affected States: 27 Indian states and Union territories are vulnerable to extreme climate events which often disrupt the local economy and displace weaker communities.
- The states of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bihar are the most vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods, droughts and cyclones in India.
- Magnitude of Impact of Climate Change: More than 80% of Indians live in districts vulnerable to climate risks.
- 17 of 20 people in the country are vulnerable to climate risks, out of which every five Indians live in areas that are extremely vulnerable.
- More than 45% of these districts have undergone “unsustainable landscape and infrastructure changes”.
- Low-level of Adaptability: More than 60% of Indian districts have medium to low adaptive capacity in handling extreme weather events.
- Role of Anthropogenic Activities: The anthropogenic activity has already made vulnerable districts become even more vulnerable to impacts of natural disasters. Some of the activities has led to:
  - Loss of wetlands and loss in mangroves which would act as a natural barrier, making it more vulnerable.
  - Landscape disruptions such as the disappearance of forest cover, over-construction, have led to degradation of natural ecosystems.
- Triggering Financial Crisis: Combating the rising frequency and scale of extreme climate events is fiscally draining for developing countries such as India.

- Investments in infrastructure such as housing, transport, and industries will be threatened by these events, especially along the coasts, adding that mounting weather-related insurance losses could trigger the next financial crisis.

### **Suggestions**

- Decentralized Planning: Since most districts in India are highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, a district-wise climate action plan is required.
- The CEEW study also indicated that only 63% of Indian districts have a District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP).
- Policymakers, industry leaders and citizens must use the district-level analysis to make effective risk-informed decisions.
- Mobilizing Green Finance: With loss and damage rising exponentially due to the climate crisis, India must demand climate finance for adaptation-based climate actions at COP-26 (Climate Conference).
- At COP-26, developed countries must regain trust by delivering the USD 100 billion promised since 2009 and commit to stepping up climate finance over the coming decade.
- Further, India must collaborate with other countries to create a Global Resilience Reserve Fund, which could act as insurance against climate shocks.
- Climate Risk Identification: Finally, developing a Climate Risk Atlas for India would help policymakers to better identify and assess risks arising from extreme climate events.
- Climate-proofing of physical and ecosystem infrastructures should also now become a national imperative.
- Institutional Setup: India must create a new Climate Risk Commission to coordinate the environmental de-risking mission.
- Enhanced climate finance can also support India-led global agencies like the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) to further mainstream climate actions.

## **1.150 STATE OF THE CLIMATE IN ASIA 2020 REPORT**

### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- UN's World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) released its annual report titled "State of the climate in Asia" on October 25, 2021.

### **About:**

- As per report, in 2020, Asia suffered its hottest year on record.
- Report notes that, extreme weather is taking a heavy toll on development of the continent.
- In 2020, Extreme weather and climate change in Asia has resulted into loss of life of thousands of people, cost billions of dollars, displaced millions of others, and wreaked a heavy toll on infrastructure & ecosystems.
- As per report, sustainable development is threatened because health risks, food & water insecurity, and environmental degradation is increasing.
- Increased heat and humidity are forecast will also lead to an effective loss of outdoor working hours in Asia.
- Several weathers and climate-related displacements across Asia are prolonged. People are unable to return home or integrate locally.
- In 2020 floods and storms affected around 50 million people in Asia, causing about 5,000 fatalities.

### **Total average losses across countries**

- China suffered an estimated loss of \$238 billion, India suffered \$87 billion, Japan suffered \$83 billion while South Korea suffered \$24 billion.
- Considering the size of economy, average annual losses are likely to be as high as 7.9 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) for Tajikistan, 5.8 percent for Laos and 5.9 percent for Cambodia.

### **Warmest Year in Asia**

- The warmest year on record in Asia, witnessed the mean temperature 1.39 degrees Celsius above as compared to 1981-2010 average. 38 degrees Celsius was recorded at Verkhoyansk in Russia, which is the highest known temperature in north of the Arctic Circle.

## 1.151 G20 CLIMATE RISK ATLAS

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, a report named G20 Climate Risk Atlas from the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) has said that G20 (Group of 20) countries including the wealthiest like the US, European countries, and Australia will bear extreme impacts of climate change over the coming years.
- The first study of its kind, it provides climate scenarios, information, data and future changes in climate across the G20 countries.
- The report came two days ahead of the G20 summit in Rome at the end of October 2021.

### Impact on G20 Countries:

#### Heatwaves:

- Heat waves could last at least ten times longer in all G20 countries, with heatwaves in Argentina, Brazil and Indonesia lasting over 60 times longer by 2050.
- In Australia, bushfires, coastal floods and hurricanes could raise insurance costs and reduce property values by 611 billion Australian Dollars by 2050.

#### GDP Loss:

- GDP (Gross Domestic product) losses due to climate damage in G20 countries increase each year, rising to at least 4% annually by 2050. This can reach over 8% by 2100, equivalent to twice the bloc's economic losses from Covid-19.
- Some countries will be even worse hit, such as Canada, which could see at least a 4% decrease in its GDP by 2050 and over 13% by 2100.

#### Sea Level Rise:

- The sea level rise could wreck coastal infrastructure within 30 years, with Japan set to lose 404 billion euro and South Africa 815 million euro by 2050, on a high emissions pathway.

#### Flooding

- Expected annual damages from riverine flooding by 2050 are estimated to be 376.4 billion Euro under a low emissions scenario and rise to 585.6 billion EUR under a high emissions scenario.

### Impact on India:

#### Emission Scenarios:

- Low Emission (emissions lower than in present):
- Projected temperature variations will remain contained under 1.5 degree celsius , both by 2050 and 2100.
- Medium Emission (same as present):
- Between 2036 and 2065, the maximum temperature of the warmest month in India could rise by at least 1.2 degree celsius in a medium emission pathway.
- High Emission (higher than present):
- By 2050 under a high emission scenario average temperature could rise to 2 degree celsius.

#### Rainfall:

- Annual rainfall is likely to record a steep increase by 2050 with an 8% to 19.3% increase in all emission scenarios.

#### Economic Impact:

- In India, declines in rice and wheat yields due to climate change could lead to economic losses between 43 and 81 billion EUR (or 1.8-3.4% of (GDP) by 2050.
- Water demand for agriculture is likely to rise around about 29% by 2050 – meaning yield losses are likely to be underestimated.

#### Heatwaves:

- Heatwaves in India will last 25 times longer by 2036-2065 if emissions are high (4°C), over five times longer if global temperature rise is constrained to about 2°C, and one and a half times longer if emissions are very low and temperature rise only reaches 1.5°C.

**Agricultural Drought:**

- On a pathway to 4°C global heating, agricultural drought will become 48% more frequent by 2036-2065.
- On a 2°C pathway (the maximum temperature agreed by the Paris Agreement) this drops to 20% more frequent, and constraining temperature rise to 1.5°C (the aspirational goal of the Paris Agreement), agricultural drought will still be 13% more frequent.

**Flooding:**

- Under 18 million Indians could be at risk of river flooding by 2050 if emissions are high, compared to 1.3 million today.

**Labour:**

- Total labour is expected to decline by 13.4% under a low emissions scenario by 2050 due to the increase in heat, and by 24% under a medium emissions scenario by 2080.

**Food Security:**

- In India, declines in rice and wheat production could spark economic losses of up to Euros 81 billion by 2050 and a loss of 15% of farmers' incomes by 2100.

**PRACTISE MCQS**

**QUESTION 1: Digital Economy Report 2021 has been released by-**

- A. World Bank
- B. UNCTAD
- C. World Economic Forum
- D. International Telecommunication Union

**QUESTION 2: Global Financial Stability Report is released by-**

- A. World Bank
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. International Monetary Fund
- D. United Nations

**QUESTION 3: The state of World's Children 2021 report is published by-**

- A. World Health Organisation
- B. Economic Intelligence Unit
- C. United Nations Children's Fund
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 4: What has been India's ranking on the Henley Passport Index 2021?**

- A. 40<sup>th</sup>
- B. 50<sup>th</sup>
- C. 60<sup>th</sup>
- D. 90<sup>th</sup>

**QUESTION 5: Multidimensional Poverty Index is jointly released by \_\_\_\_\_ and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).**

- A. Amnesty International
- B. World Bank
- C. United Nations Development Program
- D. International Monetary Fund

**QUESTION 6: Ernst & Young's (EY) Renewable Energy (RE) Country Attractiveness Index has put India at \_\_\_ rank.**

- A. 1<sup>st</sup>
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- C. 3<sup>rd</sup>
- D. 7<sup>th</sup>

**QUESTION 7: Consider the following statements-**

- 1 Global Hunger Index is prepared jointly by 'Concern Worldwide' and 'Welt Hunger Hilfe'.
- 2 India has been placed to 101<sup>st</sup> position out of 116 countries in Global Hunger Index 2021.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1

- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 8: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 Global Food Security (GFS) Index is published by Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- 2 India is ranked at 71<sup>st</sup> position in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 9: The Production Gap report 2021 was released by-**

- A. UN Environment Programme
- B. World Bank
- C. International Monetary Fund
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 10: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 Global Threat Assessment report 2021 has been released by Interpol.
- 2 According to it, child abuse is chronically underfunded issue.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 11: According to Global Agricultural Productivity Report 2021, Total Factor Productivity (TFP) is growing at an annual rate of-**

- A. 1.36%
- B. 2.36%
- C. 4.36%
- D. 13.46%

**QUESTION 12: Greenhouse Gas bulletin is released by-**

- A. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- B. World Meteorological Organization
- C. United Nations Environment Programme
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 13: A report titled "Mapping India's Climate Vulnerability – A District-level Assessment" has been released by-**

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. The Energy and Research Institute
- C. Council on Energy, Environment and Water
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 14: Consider the following statements:**

- 1 A report titled "State of the climate in Asia" was released by World Meteorological Organisation.
- 2 As per report, in 2020, Asia suffered its hottest year on record.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 15: The G20 Summit in 2021 will be held in-**

- A. London
- B. New York
- C. New Delhi
- D. Rome

**ANSWERS:**

ANSWER 1: B

ANSWER 2: C

ANSWER 3: C

ANSWER 4: D

ANSWER 5: C

ANSWER 6: C

ANSWER 7: C

ANSWER 8: B

ANSWER 9: A

ANSWER 10: B

ANSWER 11: A

ANSWER 12: B

ANSWER 13: C

ANSWER 14: C

ANSWER 15: D



## SPORTS

### 1.152 INDIA WINS BRONZE AT ASIAN TT CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Indian men's table tennis team has won bronze medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships being held in Doha, Qatar.

#### About:

- Indian team won bronze after losing to South Korea by 0-3 in the semi-finals.
- Team was assured of winning a medal after beating Iran by 3-1 in the quarterfinals on September 29.
- Both the semi-finalists won a bronze medal.
- Asian Table Tennis Championships
- It is a biennial table tennis tournament and is regarded as continental championships by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF). The tournament was organized by the Table Tennis Federation of Asia (TTFA) from 1952 to 1972. Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU) started its own Asian Championships because of conflict between national table tennis associations in Asia.

#### International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)

- ITTF is the governing body of all the national table tennis associations. It looks after the rules & regulations and seeks technological improvement for table tennis. The body is responsible for organizing numerous international competitions such as World Table Tennis Championships.

#### World Table Tennis Championships

- This tournament has been held since 1926. Since 1957, it is held biennially. Under the tournament, five individual events including men's singles, women's singles, women's double, men's doubles and mixed doubles, are held in odd numbered years.

### 1.153 TOKYO OLYMPIC MEDALLIST RUPINDER PAL SINGH ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM HOCKEY

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Olympic bronze medal-winning Indian hockey player, Rupinder Pal Singh has announced his retirement from international hockey to make way for young and talented players.
- The 30-year-old Rupinder represented the Indian hockey team in 223 matches in his 13 years hockey career. Rupinder was part of the Indian hockey team that won the bronze medal in the 2020 Summer Tokyo Olympics, held in July – August 2021.

### 1.154 PROFESSIONAL BOXER MANNY PACQUIAO ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM BOXING

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- After 26 years and 72 professional bouts, Former world champion Manny Pacquiao announced his retirement from professional boxing. He made his professional debut in 1995 at age 16.
- He became the first boxer to win the lineal championship in five different weight classes and is the only boxer to hold world championships across four different decades. He held the welterweight title as recently as 2019 at age 40.

### 1.155 INDIA WOMEN TEAM PLAYED THEIR FIRST-EVER PINK-BALL TEST

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The first pink-ball day and night Test match between India and Australian women team at the Carrara Oval in Queensland, Australia on 30th September.
- The BCCI and Cricket Australia wish to slot in a Test in the full series they play going forward. The Indian team lead by Mithali Raj.
- Australia played the first pink-ball Test against England in 2017 in Sydney during the women's Ashes. The two teams last played a Test in Adelaide in 2006 when Australia won convincingly. Jhulan Goswami is one of two survivors from that Test along with Mithali Raj

### **1.156 KIREN RIJITU INAUGURATES INDIA'S FIRST SPORTS ARBITRATION CENTRE IN GUJARAT**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Union Minister of Law and Justice, Kiren Rijitu has inaugurated the first Sports Arbitration Centre of India at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
- This Sports Arbitration Centre of India (SACI) will serve as an independent body to fast track disputes in the sports sector and serve as a mechanism to redress issues related to sports.
- The SACI will be promoted by Ahmedabad-based SE TransStadia Pvt Ltd. and all legal backing will be provided by the Ministry of Law and Justice. The SACI will have a far-reaching impact for the sports sector of the country by creating a reputation and establishing credibility for itself through the provision to settle disputes and other issues and concerns of the sports sector in a fast, transparent and very accountable manner

### **1.157 FC GOA LIFT MAIDEN DURAND CUP FOOTBALL TROPHY**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- FC Goa beat Mohammedan Sporting to win their maiden Durand Cup football title, 1-0, in the final, held at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata.
- FC Goa Captain Eduardo Bedia scored the all-important goal in the 105th minute after the final match went into the extra time.
- The 2021 Durand Cup was the 130th edition of the Durand Cup, the oldest football tournament in Asia. The tournament was held from September 05 to October 03, 2021, in West Bengal

### **1.158 WRESTLER ANSHU MALIK BECOMES 1ST INDIAN WOMAN TO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SILVER**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- At the 2021 World Wrestling Championships, Indian wrestler Anshu Malik created history as she became the first Indian women finalist at the World Championship, and also the first female player from India to claim a silver medal.
- The 19-year old Anshu settled for a silver medal after losing to 2016 Olympic champion Helen Lousie Maroulis of the United States in a 57kg freestyle bout.

### **1.159 FIFA UNVEILS "IBHA" MASCOT OF INDIA'S 2022 U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- World football body, FIFA has unveiled the official mascot of the U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 "Ibha" an Asiatic lioness representing women power.
- The tournament will be held in India from October 11-30 next year. The announcement coincided with the International Day of the Girl Child.

- According to a release issued by the global body, Ibha aims to inspire women and girls across India and around the world to realise their potential.
- Ibha is a strong, playful and charming Asiatic lioness that aims to inspire and encourage women and girls by using teamwork, resilience, kindness and empowering others.

## 1.160 INDIA BEAT NEPAL 3-0 TO WIN 2021 SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India beat Nepal, 3-0, to win the 2021 SAFF Championship final title, at the National Football Stadium in Male, Maldives.
- This is the eighth SAFF Championship title claimed by the Indian men's national football team. Previously the team had won the title in 1993, 1997, 1999, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2015. Sunil Chhetri, Suresh Singh Wangjam and Sahal Abdul Samad were the goal scorer for the Indian team in final.
- Top Scorer in the championship Sunil Chhetri (Captain) – 5 goals. Meanwhile, Sunil Chhetri scored his 80th international strike at the championship to equal his score with iconic Lionel Messi and became the second-highest goal-scorer in international football among active players.

### PRACTISE MCQS

**QUESTION 1: The Indian men's table tennis team has won bronze medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships. It is being held in-**

- A. Qatar
- B. South Korea
- C. China
- D. Japan

**QUESTION 2: The Olympic bronze medal-winning Indian player, Rupinder Pal Singh has announced his retirement. Which sport is he associated with?**

- A. Hockey
- B. Athletics
- C. Weight lifting
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 3: Former world champion Manny Pacquiao announced his retirement from which sport?**

- A. Basketball
- B. Cricket
- C. Boxing
- D. Lawn Tennis

**QUESTION 4: India cricket women team played their first-ever pink-ball test against-**

- A. Pakistan
- B. West Indies
- C. England
- D. Australia

**QUESTION 5: The first Sports Arbitration Centre of India has been inaugurated in-**

- A. Ahmedabad
- B. Bhopal
- C. Chandigarh
- D. New Delhi

**QUESTION 6: Which team won 2021 Durand Cup?**

- A. Mohammedan SC
- B. FC Goa
- C. Mohun Bagan
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 7: Who has become 1<sup>st</sup> Indian woman to win World Championships silver medal-**

- A. Kunjarani Devi
- B. Mirabai Chanu
- C. Anshu Malik
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 8: FIFA has unveiled “Ibha”, mascot of India’s 2022 U-17 Women’s World Cup. It is a/an-**

- A. Bengal Tigress
- B. Indian cobra
- C. Great Indian Bustard
- D. Asiatic lioness

**QUESTION 9: India has won the 2021 SAFF Championship football final title beating\_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Nepal
- B. Maldives
- C. Pakistan
- D. Bangladesh

**ANSWERS**

ANSWER 1: A

ANSWER 2: A

ANSWER 3: C

ANSWER 4: D

ANSWER 5: A

ANSWER 6: B

ANSWER 7: C

ANSWER 8: D

ANSWER 9: A

## AWARDS

### 1.161 2021 YIDAN PRIZE

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- India-based Dr Rukmini Banerji was awarded with the 2021 Yidan prize.

#### About:

- Award was presented to her by Yidan Prize Foundation.
- Apart from her, US-based Professor Eric Hanushek was also conferred with the prestigious Yidan Prize 2021.
- Both have been awarded the Yidan Prize for recognition of their ground-breaking work that addresses a crucial piece of education puzzle called “improving quality of education as well as outcomes for learners at scale”.
- Both of them will join nine laureates who have been awarded the Yidan Prize since 2016.

#### Cash Prize

- Both the persons will receive HK\$30 million which is equal to approximately US\$3.9 million. The money includes HK\$15 million cash prize and a project fund of HK\$15 million, from the Foundation.

#### Dr Rukmini Banerji

- He is the Chief Executive Officer of ‘Pratham Education Foundation’. She was awarded the 2021 Yidan Prize for Education Development. Award recognises her work in improving learning outcomes. He also pioneered the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) assessment approach, revealing literacy and numeracy gaps among children in India. To bridge these gaps, they started “Teaching at the Right Level” (TaRL) program which works with schools and local communities in order to provide basic reading and arithmetic skills. This programme ensures that no children are left behind.

#### About Yidan Prize

- Yidan prize was established by Yidan prize Foundation in 2016. Yidan Prize Foundation is a global philanthropic education foundation, inspiring progress and change in education. It is an education award, recognizing individuals, or up to three-member teams, who have contributed towards education research & development. It aims to progress learning by means of building a global community that is committed towards advancing ideas in education.

### 1.162 YEMENI HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION WINS NANSEN REFUGEE AWARD 2021

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- A humanitarian organization from Yemen has been declared as the winner of the 2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award.
- The organisation named “Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development”, founded in 2017 by Ameen Jubran has won the prestigious honour to support and provide a lifeline to tens of thousands of Yemenis people displaced by the country’s conflict.
- The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award honours individuals, groups or organizations for going above and beyond the call of duty to protect refugees, other displaced and stateless people.

### 1.163 2021 NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- American scientists David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian won the prestigious “2021 Nobel Prize for Medicine”.

**About:**

- They won the prize for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch.
- According to award-giving body, these discoveries could make way for new pain-killers.
- These findings have allowed to understand how heat, cold and mechanical force initiate the nerve impulses which in turn allow humans to perceive and adapt to the world around.
- This development and knowledge are being used to develop treatments for a several disease conditions, including chronic pain.
- This year, the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine was shared in equal parts by the two laureates.
- But medicine has been into the spotlight because of COVID-19 pandemic. There were recommendations that, those who developed covid-19 vaccines could be rewarded with Nobel Prizes.

**About Nobel Prizes**

- The prestigious Nobel prizes for “science, literature and peace” were created and funded in the name of Swedish dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel. The prize is awarded since 1901. The Nobel prize for economics was first conferred in 1969. This century-old prize is worth 10 million Swedish crowns.

**Who is Ardem Patapoutian?**

- Ardem Patapoutian was born in 1967 in Lebanon, to Armenian parents. He moved to Los Angeles in his youth and currently he is a Professor at Scripps Research, La Jolla, California. He has done research at the University of California, San Francisco as well as at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. He was awarded with The Nobel Prize for finding a cellular mechanism and underlying gene which translates a mechanical force on our skin into an electric nerve signal.

**Who is David Julius?**

- Davis Julius was born in New York. He is a Professor at University of California, San Francisco. He was awarded for his findings on the skin’s sense of temperature on the basis of how certain cells react to capsaicin.

## 1.164 NOBEL PRIZE 2021 FOR PHYSICS

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Nobel Prize 2021 for physics was awarded to three scientists from Japan, Germany and Italy. Secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Goran Hansson, announced the winners on October 5, 2021

**About:**

- Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann were awarded for their work in “physical modelling of Earth’s climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming”.
- Second half of the prize was awarded to Giorgio Parisi for his “discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales.”
- As per Nobel Prize Panel, Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann have laid the “foundation of our knowledge of Earth’s climate and how humanity influences it”.

**Demonstration by Syukuro Manabe**

- Since 1960s, he had demonstrated how increases in amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases the global temperatures. This demonstration laid the foundations for current climate models.

**Demonstration by Klaus Hasselmann**

- He had created a model to link weather and climate. This model helped in explaining why climate models can be reliable despite the chaotic nature of weather. He also demonstrated ways to look after specific signs of human influence on the climate.

**Model developed by Giorgio Parisi**

- He built a deep physical and mathematical model. This model made it possible to understand the complex systems in fields of mathematics, machine learning, biology and neuroscience.

## Background

- In the year 2020, the prize was conferred to Andrea Ghez from America, Roger Penrose from Britain and Reinhard Genzel from Germany for their research into black holes.

## About Nobel Prize

- The award comes with a gold medal as well as 10 million Swedish kronor. Money for prize comes from a bequest left by the creator of prize & Swedish inventor, Alfred Nobel.

### 1.165 INDIAN ORGANISATION LIFE RECEIVES 2021 RIGHT LIVELIHOOD AWARD

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Delhi-based environmental organisation “Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)” has been felicitated with the 2021 Right Livelihood Award, an international honour, also known as Sweden’s alternative Nobel Prize.
- LIFE has been selected for the award for its “grassroots approach of empowering vulnerable communities to protect their livelihoods and claim their right to a clean environment.”
- The Right Livelihood Award comes with a cash prize of 1 million Swedish crowns (\$115,000) and long-term support to highlight and expand Laureates’.

### 1.166 M. VENKAIAH NAIDU PRESENTED LOKAPRIYA GOPINATH BORDOLOI AWARD

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu has presented Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award for National Integration and National Contribution.
- This award has been conferred to eminent writer Nirode Kumar Barooah, Assam Branch of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust and Shillong Chamber Choir at a special function in Guwahati.
- The award carries a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a shawl. It is one of the biggest civilian awards of Assam.
- This award was instituted by the Assam government in memory of the state’s first chief minister Gopinath Bordoloi.
- The Assam branch of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust was founded by Mahatma Gandhi on 9 January 1946.
- Shillong Chamber Choir (SCC) is a renowned musical group founded in 2001. It has performed on various national and international platforms.

### 1.167 THE NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY 2021 ANNOUNCED

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2021 was awarded jointly to Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan “for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis.” This has had a great impact on pharmaceutical research and has made chemistry greener.
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2021.
- Catalysts are thus fundamental tools for chemists, but researchers long believed that there were, in principle, just two types of catalysts available: metals and enzymes.
- Benjamin List and David MacMillan are awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2021 because in 2000 they, independent of each other, developed a third type of catalysis. It is called asymmetric organocatalysis and builds upon small organic molecules

## 1.168 PROF ERIC HANUSHEK AND DR. RUKMINI BANERJI AWARDED THE 2021 YIDAN PRIZE

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Professor Eric A. Hanushek and Dr Rukmini Banerji have been awarded the 2021 Yidan Prize for Education Development for improving learning outcomes in schools at scale.
- Yidan Prize is the world's highest education accolade, in recognition of their ground-breaking work addressing a crucial piece of the education puzzle: improving quality of education and outcomes for learners at scale.
- The Yidan Prize was founded by Charles Chen Yidan in 2016 to create a better world through education. Yidan Prize Laureate receives a gold medal and a sum of \$3.9 million.

## 1.169 NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE 2021

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Nobel Prize in Literature 2021 was conferred to Tanzanian novelist "Abdulrazak Gurnah"

### About:

The novelist was awarded with the Prize for his uncompromising & compassionate penetration of "effects of colonialism" and fate of refugees in the gulf between cultures & continents.

### Who is Abdulrazak Gurnah?

- Abdulrazak Gurnah was born in the year 1948. He grew up on the island of Zanzibar in Indian Ocean. Later he arrived in England as a refugee in 1960's. He worked as Professor of English & Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Kent, Canterbury. He has published ten novels and several short stories.

### First Literature

- His work revolves around the theme of the refugee's disruption. He started writing as a 21-year-old in English exile. Even though Swahili was his first language, he made English his literary tool. He consciously breaks with convention to highlight the indigenous populations. As a result, his novel 'Desertion' about a love affair becomes a contradiction to "the imperial romance".

### Cultural Interests

- Alfred had broad cultural interests. He developed literary interests during his early youth, that lasted throughout his life. His library comprised of a rich selection of literature in different languages. He tried his hand as an author & started writing fiction during the last years of his life.

### People recognised under this category

- Academy has recognised 117 people for their literary creations, so far. Out of them, 16 are women.

### 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature

- 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature was given to American poet Louise Glück, who is professor of English at Yale University. He was awarded for his unmistakable poetic voice

## 1.170 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2021

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to journalists Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace.
- In 2020, the award was given to the World Food Programme (WFP), a United Nations (UN) agency.
- Other 2021 Nobel Prizes for Literature, Chemistry, Physics and Medicine have already been announced.

### Maria Ressa:



- She is an investigative journalist, in 2012 she co-founded Rappler, a digital media platform for investigative journalism, which she continues to head.
- Rappler has focused critical attention on President Rodrigo Duterte's regime's controversial, murderous anti-drug campaign.
- In the 2021 World Press Freedom Index, the Philippines ranked 138 of 180 nations (India was ranked lower, at 142).
- She has also authored Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of Al-Qaeda's Newest Center, and From Bin Laden to Facebook: 10 Days of Abduction, 10 Years of Terrorism.

#### **Dmitry Muratov:**

- Muratov has for decades defended freedom of speech in Russia under increasingly challenging conditions".
- Russia has ranked 150 in the 2021 World Freedom Index.
- He along with around 50 colleagues started Novaya Gazeta (Newspaper) in 1993, as one of its founders. He has served as the newspaper's editor-in-chief since 1995.
- Committee to Protect Journalists, a US-based non-profit, had felicitated Muratov as one of its International Press Freedom awardees in 2007.
- Six of Muratov's colleagues have been killed since the newspaper started, which has often faced harassment, threats, violence and murder from its opponents.
- Despite the killings and threats, editor-in-chief Muratov has refused to abandon the newspaper's independent policy.

### **1.171 THE NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES 2021 ANNOUNCED**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2021 with one half to David Card (University of California, Berkeley, USA) "for his empirical contributions to labour economics".
- The other half jointly to Joshua Angrist (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA) and Guido Imbens (Stanford University, USA) "for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships".
- The Prize in Economic Sciences is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden, according to the same principles as for the Nobel Prizes that have been awarded since 1901.

### **1.172 ASTRONAUTICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA CONFERS ARYABHATA AWARD TO G SATHEESH REDDY**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy has been conferred the prestigious Aryabhata Award by the Astronautical Society of India (ASI) for his outstanding lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.
- Dr Reddy is a pioneer in the area of R&D of advanced avionics, navigation, and missile technologies. Dr Reddy has contributed immensely to strategic and tactical missile systems and helped the country become self-reliant in critical defence technologies.
- He is an institution builder and has set up mechanisms to establish robust defence development and production ecosystem.

## 1.173 MICROSOFT TEAM WINS 2021 C.K. PRAHALAD AWARD

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Indian American Microsoft CEO, Satya Nadella has won the prestigious C K Prahalad award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership for the year 2021, along with three other top leaders of Microsoft.
- The four top Microsoft leaders have received the Award for their collaborative leadership to transform Microsoft into a carbon negative company by 2030 and remove all its historical emissions by 2050.
- Apart from Nadella, Microsoft's President and Vice-Chair Brad Smith, Chief financial officer Amy Hood and chief environment officer Lucas Joppa have shared the award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership.

## 1.174 INDIAN PROJECT WINS ECO OSCARS

### WHY IN NEWS?

- An Indian Project, Takachar's Innovation, that recycles agricultural waste into fuel has won the "Prince William's inaugural Earthshot Prize", which is also called as "Eco Oscars."

### About:

- Eco Oscars honour people who are trying to save the planet Earth.
- This award is presented with the aim of providing assistance to and inspire innovative local solutions as the climate crisis is growing globally.

### Takachar's Innovation

- Takachar's Innovation is led by Vidyut Mohan. This technology was recognised for its affordable technology in order to convert crop residues into sellable bio-products. It reduced smoke emissions by 98 per cent. Thus, it calls for improving air quality. Vidyut Mohan was awarded for this technology in "clean our air category". This award was among five other winners of the prize worldwide.

### Significance of the technology

- World generate around USD 120 billion of agricultural waste per year. When farmers fail to sell, they often burn the waste. Burning of waste have catastrophic consequences for human health as well as environment. Burning causes air pollution, which has reduced life expectancy in some areas by a decade. Thus, this technology is significant in mitigating this challenge.

### Background

- For the next 10 years, the Earthshot will be awarding £1m each year to each of five projects that are working for findings solutions to the environmental problems on the planet.

### About Earthshot Prize

- This prize is awarded to five winners each year, whose projects help the environment. It will be awarded annually from 2021 to 2030. It is given by the Royal Foundation, which is headquartered in London, England. The prize is distributed in five separate categories that are supported by UN Sustainable Development Goals. This prize was launched in the year 2020 by Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and David Attenborough.

## 1.175 SATYAJIT RAY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is going to held in Goa from November 20 to November 28, 2021 in which Hungarian filmmaker Istvan Szabo and Hollywood icon Martin Scorsese will be honoured with "Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award".

### Istvan Szabo

- Istvan Szabo is the most notable Hungarian filmmakers. He has been known outside the Hungarian-speaking world since 1960s.

- He achieved his greatest international success with movie called Mephisto (1981). For this, he was awarded with an Oscar in the best foreign language film category.

#### **Martin Scorsese**

- He is one of the greatest and most influential directors in film history. He established filmmaking history in nine films made with Robert De Niro, such as biographical sports drama Raging Bull (1980) and psychological thriller Taxi Driver (1976). He has also been known for his collaborations with actor Leonardo DiCaprio. Scorsese directed Leonardo in five films namely, Gangs of New York (2002), The Aviator (2004), The Departed (2006), Shutter Island (2010) and The Wolf of Wall Street (2013).

#### **52nd International Film Festival of India**

- 52nd International film Festival of India is scheduled to organise from November 20 to November 28, 2021 in Goa. It will be held in hybrid form like its 51st edition. In the year 2021, to mark the birth centenary of Satyajit Rai, Directorate of Film Festivals will pay tribute to him by means of a 'Special Retrospective'. An award named "Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema, will be given on the occasion to recognise auteur's legacy.

#### **Satyajit Ray**

- He was an Indian film director, documentary filmmaker, scriptwriter, essayist, author, illustrator, lyricist, magazine editor, calligrapher, and music composer. He is considered as one of the greatest filmmakers of all time

### **1.176 KUNG FU NUNS WINS UNESCO'S MARTIAL ARTS EDUCATION PRIZE 2021**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- The well-known Kung Fu Nuns of the Drukpa order of Buddhism has won the inaugural UNESCO's Martial Arts Education Prize 2021, for their brave and heroic acts of service and championing of gender equality across the Himalayas.
- The Nuns empower young girls through martial arts, to defend themselves, build confidence, and take on leadership roles in their communities.
- The award has been launched by UNESCO ICM (International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement), to collect and promote good practices of martial arts education(MA Edu.)

### **1.177 67TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS PRESENTED**

#### **WHY IN NEWS?**

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the 67th National Film awards on October 25, 2021.

#### **About:**

- 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award was conferred to actor Rajinikanth.
- Manoj Bajpayee, Kangana Ranaut and Dhanush were conferred with acting honours.
- Best Feature Film award was given to Priyadarshan's Malayalam period epic named 'Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea'.
- Best Hindi Film Award was presented to Chhichhore movie, starring the late Sushant Singh Rajput.

#### **About 67<sup>th</sup> National Film awards**

- 67th National Film awards were announced in March 2021 however, they were honoured the best in cinema in the year 2019. Awards were postponed due to the covid-19 pandemic.

#### **National Film Awards**

- It is the most prominent film award ceremony, held in India. It was established in the year 1954. It has been administered since 1973, along with Indian Panorama and International Film Festival of India by the Directorate of Film Festivals of Indian government.

### How are entries selected?

- Government appoints a national panel every year to select the winning entry. Award ceremony is held in New Delhi and the President of India conferred the awards to winning entries. After that, National Film Festival is inaugurated where award-winning films are screened for public. Awards are declared for films produced in previous year and they hold distinction of awarding merit to the best of Indian cinema. Awards are also presented for the best films in each region and language of India.

## 1.178 TSITSI DANGAREMBGA RECEIVES PEACE PRIZE OF THE GERMAN BOOK TRADE 2021

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade 2021 has been awarded to the Zimbabwean author and a filmmaker Tsitsi Dangarembga for a “new Enlightenment”, a work on violence in her country and all over the world by Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels, an association of German book publishers and booksellers.
- Dangarembga is the first black woman to win the German Peace Prize. She has won the PEN Pinter prize 2021. Her debut novel, Nervous conditions were the first to be published in English by black women from Zimbabwe.

## PRACTISE MCQS

### QUESTION 1: Who has been awarded with the 2021 Yidan prize recently?

- A. Rukmini Banerji
- B. SV Saraswati
- C. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
- D. None of the above

### QUESTION 2: Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development which won Nansen Refugee Award 2021 belongs to-

- A. Yemen
- B. Sudan
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Iraq

### QUESTION 3: The Nobel Prize for economics was first conferred in-

- A. 1969
- B. 1979
- C. 1989
- D. 1959

### QUESTION 4: Who won the Nobel Prize for Physics 2021?

- A. Syukuro Manabe
- B. Klaus Hasselmann
- C. Giorgio Parisi
- D. All of the above

### QUESTION 5: The 2021 Right Livelihood Award, an international honour, also known as Sweden’s alternative Nobel Prize has been won by-

- A. Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- B. Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)
- C. Udaan Welfare Foundation
- D. None of the above

### QUESTION 6: Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu has recently presented Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award. It is instituted by which state?

- A. Assam
- B. West Bengal
- C. Chattisgarh
- D. Delhi

### QUESTION 7: The Nobel prize in chemistry 2021 was given for-

- A. Asymmetric organocatalysis
- B. Hepatitis c vaccination
- C. Crispr cas9
- D. None of the above

### QUESTION 8: The Yidan Prize is given for excellence in which field-

- A. Healthcare
- B. Sports
- C. Education
- D. Literature

**QUESTION 9: Nobel Prize in Literature 2021 was conferred to-**

- A. David Diop
- B. Abdulrazak Gurnah
- C. Louise Gluck
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 10: The 2021 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to-**

- A. Maria ressa
- B. Dmitry muratov
- C. Both a and b
- D. None

**QUESTION 11: The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences is awarded by-**

- A. Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute
- B. Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- C. Swedish Academy
- D. Norwegian Nobel Committee

**QUESTION 12: Who has been conferred the prestigious Aryabhata Award by the Astronautical Society of India?**

- A. B Gopal
- B. Randeep Guleria
- C. G Satheesh Reddy
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 13: The 2021 C.K. Prahalad Award has been won by the team from-**

- A. Google
- B. Microsoft
- C. Yahoo
- D. Facebook

**QUESTION 14: Which Indian foundation has won the "Prince William's inaugural Earthshot Prize", which is also called as "Eco Oscars"?**

- A. Takachar's Innovation
- B. Akshaya Patra
- C. Save Life Foundation
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 15: Who will be honoured with "Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award" at 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?**

- A. Amitabh Bachhan
- B. Istvan Szabo
- C. Martin Scorsese
- D. Both B and C

**QUESTION 16: The UNESCO's Martial Arts Education Prize 2021 has been won by-**

- A. Kung Fu Nuns
- B. Taekkyeon
- C. Silat
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 17: The 51<sup>st</sup> Dadasaheb Phalke Award was recently conferred to-**

- A. Amitabh Bachhan
- B. Akshay Kumar
- C. Rajnikanth
- D. Kamal Hasan

**QUESTION 18: Who has been awarded The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade 2021?**

- A. David Diop
- B. Tsitsi Dangarembga
- C. Louise Gluck
- D. None of the above

## **ANSWERS**

**ANSWER 1: A**

**ANSWER 2: A**

**ANSWER 3: A**

**ANSWER 4: D**

**ANSWER 5: B**

**ANSWER 6: A**

**ANSWER 7: A**

**ANSWER 8: C**

**ANSWER 9: B**

**ANSWER 10: C**

**ANSWER 11: B**

**ANSWER 12: C**

**ANSWER 13: B**

**ANSWER 14: A**

**ANSWER 15: D**

**ANSWER 16: A**

**ANSWER 17: C**

**ANSWER 18: B**

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