

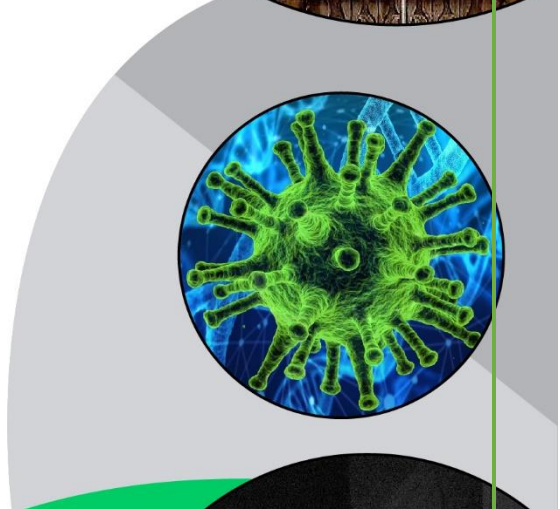


Current Affairs MONTHLY May 2021



By CivilsTap Himachal

**For HPAS & Other
Competitive Exam
in Himachal Pradesh**



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NATIONAL NEWS

1.1 WORLD'S HIGHEST ALTITUDE MOVIE THEATRE OPEN IN LADAKH

WHY IN NEWS?

- The world's highest movie theatre has recently been inaugurated in Ladakh, which got its first-ever mobile digital movie theatre in the Paldan area of Leh, at an altitude of 11,562 feet. The inflatable theatre can operate in -28 degrees Celsius.
- The initiative aims to bring cinema watching experience to most remotest areas of India. It must be noted that four such theatres will be established in Leh in the coming period.

1.2 POSHAN 2.0

WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has decided to celebrate the POSHAN MAAH throughout the month September starting from September 1, 2021

About:

- This will be celebrated as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Entire month has been subdivided into weekly themes for focused and assimilated approach in order to improve Holistic Nutrition and ensure speedy and intensive outreach.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development has planned several activities for this month in tandem with the States and Union Territories.

Weekly themes under the celebration

- Weekly theme for the activities that will be taken from 1st to 7th September is – Plantation Activity as “PoshanVatika”.
- Theme for the second week of September is Yoga and AYUSH for Nutrition
- Theme for the third week is “Distribution of ‘Regional Nutrition Kit’ to Anganwadi beneficiaries in High Burden Districts”.
- While, the theme for the last week of September has been set as “Identification of severe acute malnourished children and distribution of nutritious food”.

About POSHAN Abhiyaan

- POSHAN Abhiyaan stands for Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition. It is a flagship programme of government to improve nutritional outcomes for pregnant women, lactating mothers, children and adolescent Girls. This program was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan on March 8, 2018.

POSHAN 2.0

- Government announced POSHAN 2.0 programme in Budget 2021-2022 with the focus on aims of POSHAN Abhiyaan. It is as an integrated nutrition support programme that seeks to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes. It focuses on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity towards disease and malnutrition

1.3 INDIA'S MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 6TH EASTERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN VLADIVOSTOK

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas will lead a delegation to Russia to participate in the 6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) Summit in Vladivostok.
About Eastern Economic Forum(EEF)
- The Eastern Economic Forum was established by decree of the President of Russia in 2015. Its aim is to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The summit takes place each year in Vladivostok, a city in Russia.
- India-Russia Energy Ties
- India and Russia have robust and growing bilateral energy cooperation, which is a key pillar of Special and Privileged Strategic partnership. Russia is the largest investment destination for the Indian oil and gas companies. Indian public sector companies have made investments in Russia of about US\$ 16 billion, including in the Far East in oil and gas assets such as Sakhalin-1, Vankor and Taas-Yuryakh.
- The largest investor in India's Oil & Gas Sector
- Russia is also the largest investor in India's oil & gas sector and India is encouraging further investments by Russian companies in India's oil and gas sector, especially in gas infrastructure.
- India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED) was established following a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation during the 19th edition of the annual India-Russia Bilateral Summit in the year 2018. Its aim is to identify the most promising areas to improve bilateral trade, economic and investment cooperation and to define joint projects in the framework of national programmes.

1.4 INDIA'S MOST GIFTED CITY

WHY IN NEWS?

- India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gandhinagar seems to be moving up, at least on paper, after delays in land acquisition, infrastructure development snags and political crosswinds.

About IFSC & GIFT

- Promoted as India's offshore alternative to Singapore, Hong Kong and London, the IFSC is located in an under-development "smart" township called Gujarat International Financial Tec-city (GIFT).
- In April 2015, the then finance minister unveiled IFSC regulations at GIFT city to set in motion the process of laws for setting up tax paradise within India.
- GIFT City was conceived as a public-private partnership (PPP) project so that it could be developed in a fast track mode.
- India International Exchange, the country's first international stock exchange, was inaugurated at GIFT city in January 2017

1.5 FM NIRMALA SITHARAMAN INAUGURATES 'MY PAD, MY RIGHT' PROJECT IN TRIPURA

WHY IN NEWS?

- In Tripura, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated a project called 'My Pad, My Right' initiated by NABARD and NABFOUNDATION at Killa village in Gomati district on the second and concluding day of her visit to the state.
- The project aims to bring livelihood and menstrual hygiene closer to rural women by way of grant, wage support and capital equipment.
- The Union Minister also flagged off the mobile ATM van of Tripura State Co-Operative Bank Limited which will cover all Gram Panchayats and Village Committees of South Tripura District.

1.6 PUNJAB TO LAUNCH 'MERA KAAM MERA MAAN' SCHEME TO HELP UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Punjab Cabinet gave a nod to a new scheme that will help the unemployed youth in the state to hone their skills and increase their chances of getting a job.
- These youngsters will be given short-term skill training free of cost under the “Mera Kaam Mera Maan” scheme of the state government. A target of 30,000 beneficiaries has been proposed, at a cost of ₹ 90 crores.
- The scheme also provides an employment assistance allowance of ₹ 2,500 per month for a period of 12 months from the start of the training course, which will be conducted at Punjab Skill Development Mission training centres.
- The allowance shall be given during the training period, and after successfully completing the training, during the pre-placement and post-placement period of 12 months from the date of the start of the programme.

1.7 TN GOVERNOR BANWARILAL PUROHIT GETS ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF PUNJAB, CHANDIGARH

WHY IN NEWS?

- Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit has been given the additional charge of Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Earlier, V P Singh Badnore was the Governor of Punjab and the Administrator of Chandigarh.
- The President has also appointed Purohit as the Administrator of Chandigarh, in addition to his duties as the Governor of Punjab. Traditionally, Punjab Governor has functioned as the Administrator of Chandigarh.

1.8 SHIKSHAK PARV-2021 TO BE OBSERVED FROM SEPT 5

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Shikshak Parv-2021 will be observed from September 5, 2021.

About:

- During the Shikshak Parv-2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address teachers, students and other stakeholders of the education sector on September 7.
- This event will be celebrated to honour the contribution of teachers.
- On the occasion, PM will launch five initiatives:
 1. Indian sign language dictionary of 10,000 words
 2. Talking books (audio books for visually impaired)
 3. School quality assessment and accreditation framework (SQAAF) of CBSE
 4. NISTHA teachers' training programme for NIPUN Bharat, and
 5. Vidyanjali portal to facilitate education volunteers, donors and CSR contributors in development of school.

Shikshak Parv-2021

- Shikshak Parv-2021 will be celebrated by Ministry of Education (MoE) from September 5 to 17, 2021. It will be organised to recognise the valuable contributions of teachers and to take National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 ahead.

National Awards to Teachers

- President Ram Nath Kovind will confer the National Award to Teachers through a webinar on September 5. For the award this year, an online self-nomination process was followed through a three-tier selection process at district, state and national level. During the event, a documentary film on each of the 44 awardee teachers will also be shown.

History of National Awards

- National Awards to Teachers were first established in 1958 in order to recognise excellence and commitment of teachers towards shaping the minds and future of the youth. From the mid-60s

onwards, September 5 was selected as a fixed date for the function to commemorate the birthday of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (former President of India).

Theme of the webinars

- The theme of webinars has been divided into nine sub-themes such as
1. Technology in Education: NDEAR,
 2. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy: A Prerequisite to Learning

1.9 LADAKH'S NEW STATE ANIMAL AND STATE BIRD

WHY IN NEWS?

- Ladakh adopted two endangered species, snow leopard and black-necked crane, as its State animal and State bird respectively on September 1, 2021.

About:

- Ladakh adopted these species two years after it was separate Union created as a separate Union Territory (UT) from the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).
- Snow leopard and black-necked crane are the designated State animal and State bird respectively from the date of issue of the notification.

Black-Necked Crane

- Black-necked Crane is scientifically known as *Grus nigricollis*. It is a medium-sized crane found in Asia. It breeds on the Tibetan Plateau and remote parts of India & Bhutan. The crane is 139 cm long with a wingspan of 235 cm and weighs of 5.5 kg. It is whitish-grey in colour along with a black head, red crown patch, white patch to the rear of eye, black upper neck & legs. Some of its populations are known to make seasonal movements. It is respected in Buddhist traditions and is culturally protected in much of its range. In India, Black-necked crane are only found in Ladakh region. It was the State bird of J&K before it was made a UT in 2019. It is an endangered species.

Snow leopard

- Snow leopard is scientifically called as *Panthera uncia*. It is a felid of genus *Panthera* and is native to the mountain ranges in Central and South Asia. It has been listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List as its global population is lesser than 10,000 mature individuals. It is expected to decline by 10% by 2040. Poaching and habitat destruction are the biggest threat to them.

1.10 WHAT IS 5-STAR 'EAT RIGHT STATION' CERTIFICATION?

WHY IN NEWS?

- On September 2, 2021, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) awarded a 5-star 'Eat Right Station' certification to the Chandigarh Railway Station.

About:

- This certification was awarded for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- It was awarded the certification after the conclusion of an FSSAI-empanelled third-party audit agency with ratings from 1 to 5.
- 5-star rating indicates exemplary efforts made by stations in ensuring that safe and hygienic food is available to passengers.

Which body is responsible for food supply?

- Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC) is the body responsible for food supply to the Railways. It also looks after the upgradation of railway stations. IRSDC has selected the Chandigarh Railway station to upgrade it on the line of World Class Railway Station.

Eat Right Station certification

- The 'Eat Right Station Certification' was the part of the 'Eat Right India' movement. It is a large-scale effort made by FSSAI to transform food system in India in order to ensure safe, healthy and

sustainable food for all Indians. As per IRSDC, Eat Right India adopts a mix of regulatory, capacity building, collaborative, and empowerment approaches in ensuring that the food is suitable both for people as well as planet.

Which stations have got this certification?

- Chandigarh Railway Station has become the fifth station in India to receive this certification. Other stations with this certification include- Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station in Delhi, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai, Mumbai Central Railway Station in Mumbai and Vadodara Railway Station in Vadodara.

1.11 WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT MINISTER INAUGURATES NUTRI GARDEN

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated NUTRI GARDEN to mark the beginning of Poshan Maah – 2021 at All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).
- Plantation of Shigru (Sahijan) and Amla saplings were also carried out. AIIA, New Delhi under the direction of the Ministry of Ayush initiated the celebration of Poshan Maah – 2021.
- Nutri kitchen garden/Nutri garden is a method of planting and harvesting nutrient-rich crops in residential houses or in their vicinity to meet the requirements of the family all year round.
- In urban areas, Nutri kitchen gardening can be promoted in the form of rooftop gardening, terrace gardening, vertical gardening and container gardening.
- In rural areas, Nutri kitchen gardens can be promoted in the backyard of the houses.

1.12 I&B MINISTRY TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW JOURNALIST WELFARE SCHEME

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has decided to form a committee to review the existing guidelines of the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS).
- The 12-member committee, with **Ashok Kumar Tandon**, Member, Prasar Bharati Board, as its chairperson, will revise the quantum of ex-gratia payment in case of death as well as in other cases under the scheme.
- The terms of reference (ToR) of the committee include examining the need for such a revision of the quantum of ex-gratia payment. The committee will look into the aspect of differentiation or parity between accredited and non-accredited journalists for availing benefits under the scheme.
- The committee shall give its recommendations within two months and all secretarial assistance for convening its meetings will be provided by the Press Information Bureau (PIB).

1.13 PM MODI UNVEILS SPECIAL Rs 125 COIN ON ISKCON FOUNDER'S 125TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

WHY IN NEWS?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually unveiled a special commemorative coin of Rs 125 to mark the 125th birth anniversary of ISKCON founder Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.
- In July 1966, Prabhupada founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) commonly known as the 'Hare Krishna movement'.
- The spiritual leader was born as Abhay Charan De on September 1, 1896, in Calcutta and later came to be known by the honorific A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

1.14 GOI LAUNCHES AYUSH AAPKE DWAR CAMPAIGN TO DISTRIBUTE MEDICINAL SAPPLINGS

WHY IN NEWS?

- As a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration, the Ministry of AYUSH has launched a campaign titled 'AYUSH AAPKE DWAR', which aims to distribute medicinal plant saplings to 75 lakh households in one year.
- The campaign was inaugurated by the Union Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal from Mumbai, during which he distributed medicinal plant saplings to citizens. Subsequently, the campaign was launched from more than 45 locations across the country.
- The medicinal plants being distributed include **Tejpatta, Stevia, Ashoka, Giloy, Ashwagandha, Lemongrass, Tulsi, Sarpagandha and Amla**. Under this campaign, it is proposed to undertake the cultivation of medicinal plants across 75,000 hectares in one year.

1.15 VARANASI-CHUNAR CRUISE SERVICE BEGINS TO BOOST TOURISM

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Varanasi-Chunar Cruise service started on September 5, 2021 and added a new dimension to the tourism facilities in Varanasi.

About:

- This cruise service in Ganga River will run from Varanasi to historic Chunar fort in Mirzapur.
- Tourists travelling to Varanasi can now travel around 30 km long journey in River Ganga.
- Tourists can now enjoy the day-long luxury cruise ride which starts at 9 a.m. in the morning from Ravidas ghat.
- It returns back to Varanasi at around 5pm from the Chunar fort.
- State government is further planning to extend this journey till Sangam in Prayagraj.

The Chunar Fort

- Chunar Fort is located in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh. Chunar town is also situated below the fort. Both the places are historic places with common history and legends. It is located 23 kilometres south west of Varanasi. South-eastern part of the fort touches the rocky bank of the Ganges River. The history span of the fort is from 56 BC and between Afghan decedent Sher Shah Suri's rule, the Mughal Empire rule, as well as the Maratha rule in 1782 to 1804. British Raj occupied this fort till 1947 when India gained independence.

Sant Ravidas Ghat

- Ravidas ghat is the southernmost and largest ghat in Varanasi. It is known for an important religious place Ravidasis comprising of a 25 acres park known as Sant Ravidas Smarak Park. Its creation was announced in in February 2008 and was inaugurated in 2009.

1.16 ATLAS OF MORTALITY AND ECONOMIC LOSSES FROM WEATHER, CLIMATE AND WATER EXTREMES (1970-2019)

WHY IN NEWS?

- Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970-2019) was released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

About:

- According to the atlas, developed nations incurred the bulk of \$3.6tn in economic losses because of severe weather events in past five decades.
- High death tolls in poorer countries have been partly reduced by better evacuation.

- According to scientists of UN's world meteorological organisation, in past 50 years, number of weather-related disasters had increased fivefold across the globe.
- In this period, death toll of 115 people and more than \$200m was lost every day. The death toll was the result of climate change, more extreme weather and improved reporting.
- In this period, total losses amounted to \$3.6tn and 2m deaths.
- For instance, estimated cost of Hurricane Ida, fifth-largest hurricane to make landfall in US, could be about \$80bn.
- Three out of 10 world's costliest disasters occurred in 2017 alone namely- hurricanes Harvey (cost-\$96.9bn), Maria (cost-\$69.4bn) and Irma (cost-\$58.2bn).

Wider economic cost

- As per catastrophe and risk modelling group AIR, wider economic cost comprises of an estimated hit to insurers of between \$17bn and \$25bn. This will cover the damage from wind & storm surge and it will pay out to repair cars, residential property, and commercial as well as industrial property. However, it does not include insurance claims that will come from the heavy rains and flooding caused by Ida.

What has led to increase in frequency of extreme weather events?

- Frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including wildfires, across southern Europe, Siberia & the US and flooding in northern Europe, has increased due to global warming.

1.17 TN TO OBSERVE PERIYAR'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY AS DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Tamil Nadu government has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of reformist leader E V Ramasamy Periyar "Social Justice Day".

About:

- E V Ramasamy Periyar was born on September 17. This day will now be celebrated as 'Social Justice Day' every year.
- Periyar's ideology was all about social justice, equality, self-respect, and rationalism. This laid the foundation stone for Tamil society's growth during the last century. These ideologies would also pave way for the future. Thus, government decided to celebrate his birth anniversary every year to celebrate the symbolic reinforcement of his egalitarian principles.

How this day will be celebrated?

- Every year, on September 17, employees in all government offices and State Secretariat will take pledges to follow values on the basis of such lofty ideals comprising of equality, brotherhood, self-respect and rationalism.

Contribution of E V Periyar

- According to the Chief Minister, services of Periyar to the Tamil society were significant and instrumental in the enactment of first Constitutional Amendment Act, which safeguarded reservation for backward classes.

Erode Venkatappa Ramasamy Periyar (EV Ramasamy Periyar)

- He was commonly known as Periyar or Thanthai Periyar. He was an Indian social activist and politician. He started Self-Respect Movement and Dravidar Kazhagam and is known as the 'Father of the Dravidian movement'. He rebelled against the Brahmanical dominance as well as gender & caste inequality in Tamil Nadu.

Periyar and INC

- E.V. Ramasamy joined the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1919, but resigned in 1925 after he realised that INC was only serving the interests of Brahmins. In 1924, he participated in non-violent agitation (satyagraha) at Vaikom, Travancore. He became the head of the Justice Party in 1939 and changed its name to Dravidar Kazhagam in 1944

1.18 INDIA'S 1ST EMERGENCY LANDING FACILITY ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN RAJASTHAN

WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh and Union Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Emergency Landing Facility on a National Highway in Rajasthan.

About:

- This emergency landing facility has been constructed on the Satta-Gandhav stretch of National Highway (NH) 925A in Barmer, Rajasthan.
- On the occasion, C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft of Indian Air Force (IAF) landed at the emergency field landing at the National Highway in Jalore, Rajasthan.
- This is the first time; a National Highway will be used for emergency landing of IAF aircraft.

How this was made possible?

- Development of roadways as key infrastructure enabled the construction of high-quality expressways and highways, that can be used as runways with few modifications. These highways and expressways have a limited construction of additional infrastructure. As a result, they can be used to operate various types of aircraft during emergencies.

Who built this Facility?

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) developed a three kilometres section of the Satta-Gandhav stretch on NH-925A, under the supervision of IAF.

About Emergency Landing Facility

- This facility was developed on NH-925A from Km 41/430 to Km 44/430 for the IAF. It is a part of newly developed two-lane stretch of Satta-Gandhav and Gagariya-Bakhasar section in Barmer (Rajasthan). Total length of the highway is 196.97 kilometres, while the length of emergency landing facility is 3.5km. It costs worth Rs 765.52 crores under the Bharatmala Pariyojana. It was completed in 19 months.

Significance of Emergency Landing Facility

- This facility will be used for road traffic flow on every day basis. However, during the operations of IAF, it will be used to facilitate the landing of all types of aircraft of IAF. It will improve the connectivity between villages of Jalore and Barmer districts in Rajasthan

1.19 INDIA-ADB DEAL TO IMPROVE URBAN WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE IN JHARKHAND

WHY IN NEWS?

- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$112 million loan in order to develop water supply infrastructure in the state of Jharkhand.

About:

- The loan will also strengthen capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) in order to improve service delivery in four towns of Jharkhand.
- This project is in line with the priority of Jharkhand Government to improve urban services in state.
- It will ensure continuous, treated piped water supply in Ranchi and other three towns namely Jhumri Telaiya, Hussainabad, and Medininagar. These towns are located in economically and socially backward areas.

ADB's first project

- This project will be the first urban project of ADB in Jharkhand. It will help in establishing a model for continuous water supply in combination with policy reforms for sustainable operation.
- Under the project, four water treatment plants will be established in four towns with a combined capacity of 275 million liters per day.

- These plants would provide safe drinking water of national drinking water quality standards.
- It will also establish 940 kilometres of water distribution network in order provide continuous water supply across 115,000 households, including below poverty line households, scheduled caste & scheduled tribe members and other vulnerable groups.

How project will ensure sustainability?

- In order to ensure sustainability, project will strengthen the capacity of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) by developing an asset management strategy and training on design and implementation of urban projects. It will also introduce innovative technologies in order to minimize water losses in water treatment and distribution. It will also use a supervisory control and data acquisition system for water supply operation and geographic information system-based asset management in the state's capital city, Ranchi.

1.20 TAMIL NADU-DENMARK PLAN ENERGY ISLAND IN GULF OF MANNAR

WHY IN NEWS?

- State of Tamil Nadu and Denmark have planned to create an energy island in Gulf of Mannar that lies between the west coast of Sri Lanka and south-eastern tip of India.

About:

- This plan was made as Tamil Nadu is looking to expand its footprint in the green energy sector.
- To achieve this target, Denmark is likely to invest \$5-10 billion in the renewable energy sector in the state. It also includes investment for an energy island in the Gulf of Mannar.
- With this investment, island would be able to produce 4-10 GW of energy.

Background

- A delegation of experts from Denmark met Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M K Stalin on September 8, 2021 to discuss the plan. If the plan materialises, it will be India's first offshore floating Wind Park.

Tangedco Solar power projects

- Tamil Nadu and Denmark made their plan for the investments, days after the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) announced to launch 20,000 Mw of solar power projects with adequate battery storage, 2,000 Mw of gas-based power units and 3,000 Mw of pumped storage hydroelectric projects. These projects will require loans of about Rs 1.32 trillion.

Denmark's investment in Tamil Nadu

- Value of Danish investment in Tamil Nadu in the period of January 2003 to January 2021 is estimated at \$ 751.72 million. Some of the Danish companies operating in Tamil Nadu include Maersk, Vestas, Cubic, Danfoss, Grundfos, and FLSmidth.

India-Danish cooperation

- Around 200 Danish companies are operating in other parts of India, including Ramboll, A.P. Moller Maersk, and Novo-Nordisk. In the last decade, Denmark has invested more than \$1 billion in India. Indian companies operating in Denmark include Tata Consultancy Services, ITC Infotech, Infosys Technologies and L&T Infotech

1.21 MSP INCREASED FOR ALL RABI CROPS FOR 2022-23

WHY IN NEWS?

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved an increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all the mandated Rabi crops on September 8, 2021.

About:

- MSP was increased for the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2022-23 with the aim of realigning MSPs in favour of pulses, oilseeds, and coarse cereals. The Differential remuneration aims to encourage crop diversification.

Benefits of increased MSP

- This move will encourage farmers to shift to larger area under these crops and adopt best technologies & farm practices in order to correct the demand-supply imbalance.
- With this step, government seeks to ensure remunerative prices for the growers for farmer's produce.

MSP rate

- Highest absolute increase in MSP has been recommended. MSP has been increased by Rs 400 per quintal on each of lentil, rapeseeds and mustard. On gram, it was increased by Rs 130 per quintal while in case of safflower, it was increased by Rs 114 per quintal as compared to MSP in 2020.

Background

- MSP for Rabi crops for RMS 2022-23 was increased in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement. In budget it was announced to fix the MSPs at the level of at least 1.5 times of the all-India weighted average cost of production.

Other Steps by Government

1. National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)

- Government announced this centrally sponsored scheme recently to help in increasing the domestic production of edible oils and reduce imports dependency. It was announced with a total outlay of Rs 11,040 crore. Scheme will aid farmers in expanding area and productivity of the sector and benefit them by increasing their income and generation of additional employment.

2. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanrakshAn Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)

- This scheme was announced in 2018 to aid farmers in providing remunerative return for their produce. It has three sub-schemes namely, Price Support Scheme (PSS), Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS) and Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS).

1.22 INDIA RANKINGS 2021 OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL RANKING FRAMEWORK

WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), listing the top universities and colleges across India.

About:

- NIRF India Ranking 2021 has been announced for eleven categories, namely, Overall, University, Management, Pharmacy, College, Architecture, Engineering, Medical, ARIIA (Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements), Law and Research Institutions.
- NIRF India Ranking parameters and weighted averages were adopted to rank colleges and universities for all the categories.
- Broad categories adopted to rank the colleges, universities and institutes are- Teaching, Learning and Resources; Graduation Outcomes, Research and Professional Practice; Outreach & Inclusivity and Peer Perception.
- Number of institutes participating in NIRF rankings has increased over the years. Thus, categories in which institutes are ranked were changed this year. In 2016, there were four categories to rank the institutes which increased to eleven in 2021.
- About 6,000 colleges and universities participated in the sixth edition of NIRF 2021 Rankings.

Which institute has topped the list?

- IIT Madras has topped the list in the Engineering Category, for the sixth consecutive year.
- IIT Madras also topped the list in overall category.
- IIM Ahmedabad also maintained its top rank in Management category, for the second year.
- In University category, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore was at top position.
- Miranda House, Delhi topped the list in college category.
- Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi was ranked at first position in Pharmacy category.
- In Medical Category, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi was ranked at first position.

1.23 INDIA'S FIRST BIO-BRICK BASED BUILDING OPENED AT IIT HYDERABAD

WHY IN NEWS?

- India's first building made of bio-bricks from agro-waste has been inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad. The sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework.
- The roof is also made of bio-bricks over PVC sheets to reduce heat. It is part of the Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.
- A prototype of the guard cabin was designed and set up in the space allocated by IIT-H. It is part of the Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.
- The sample building is made up of bio-bricks supported by a metal framework. The roof is also made of bio-bricks over PVC sheets to reduce heat. Both inside and outside walls are cement-plastered to protect the bio-bricks from rain.

1.24 PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND PRESENTS NATIONAL AWARD FOR TEACHERS 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- National Teachers' Award 2021 was awarded by President Ram Nath Kovind, September 5, 2021. President Kovind gave the awards to 44 finest teachers in the country for their dedicated contribution.
- The award is contributed to those who improve the quality of education for students and also inspire, enrich their lives. This year, the Ministry of Education released the name of 44 teachers, who would be conferred the National Teachers' Award.
- Out of the total 44 teachers, 9 of the awardees are women. Due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation, President Kovind addressed the teachers virtually. While highlighting the role and importance of teachers in one's life, President Kovind expressed his gratitude to all the teachers who received the awards.
- The award was also bestowed upon Pramod Kumar Shukla of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Chhattisgarh. It is the second award in a row for an EMRS established under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

1.25 JAL SHAKTI MINISTRY LAUNCHES SWACHH SURVEKSHAN GRAMEEN 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- Minister of State of Jal Shakti Ministry, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, launched the "Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021" under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase -II.

About:

- It was launched at an event organized by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) on September 9, 2021.
- Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 will be undertaken by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) across the country. DDWS has commissioned the Survekshan in 2018 and 2019 earlier.

Aim of the Phase two of SBM (G)

- This programme was launched with the aim of supporting acceleration of ODF (Open defecation free) Plus interventions and increase momentum of improving ODF Sustainability and Solid & Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) activities in villages. It seeks to achieve the goal of comprehensive cleanliness.

ODF Declaration

- India achieved the challenge of ODF declaration of all villages in mission mode in five years period of 2014-2019. The vision of Swachh Bharat triggered the Behavior Change to end open defecation by construction of more than 10 crore toilets. It also led to Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to address water security.

SSG 2021 mobile App

- Under this phase, a mobile app named “SSG 2021 mobile app” will also be made available in major local Indian languages. App will help in getting feedback from citizens and using it survey will be well monitored through frequent field visits.

Swachh Bharat Initiative

- Swachh Bharat initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. Under it, a national behaviour change movement was started comprising of two primary yardsticks that is, Transparency and people’s participation. With the help of this movement, Swachh Bharat initiative succeeded in achieving its goal of safe sanitation across rural India.

1.26 GOVERNMENT SIGNS PEACE PACT WITH NAGA INSURGENT GROUP NSCN

WHY IN NEWS?

- According to Ministry of Home Affairs, Central Government inked a ceasefire agreement with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) Khaplang (K), led by Nikki Sumi.

About:

- According to Ministry, with the signing of the peace agreement, about 200 cadres of NSCN group along with 83 weapons have joined the peace process.
- The agreement was signed between Additional secretary (Northeast) in MHA, Piyush Goyal, and representatives of NSCN (K) Niki along with supervisor of ceasefire supervisory board and a CFSB member.

Background

- Nikki Sumi had expressed his willingness to sign the ceasefire agreement with the government in December 2020. However, he was not able to present to sign the deal because of ill health.

Why peace pact was needed?

- According to Ministry of Home Affairs, this peace process was signed with the aim of fulfilling Prime Minister Modi’s vision of ‘insurgency free and prosperous North East. It will also be a significant step for the Naga peace process.

Pact between Government and other factions of NSCN

- Central Government has also signed peace pact with other factions of National Socialist Council of Nagaland- NSCN (NK), NSCN (R), and NSCN (K)- Khango.

Naga Peace Accord

- The framework agreement for Naga Peace Accord was inked between Central Government and NSCN (IM) group on August 3, 2015. Before this framework agreement, NSCN (K) had revoked the peace pact with the government in March 2015. This pact was signed to end the insurgency in Nagaland.

1.27 MOS FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE INAUGURATED DIGITAL POPULATION CLOCK

WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Bharati Pravin Pawar, inaugurated “Digital Population Clock”.

About:

- Minister also presided over the Seminar on Population, Human Capital and Sustainable Development.

- Digital Population Clock was inaugurated at the Institute for Economic Growth inside the **University of Delhi**.
- She also launched a book titled “Infant and Child Mortality in Assam – Demographic and Socio-Economic Interrelations” on the occasion. The book was written by Dr Dipanjali Haloi and Dr Suresh Sharma.
- During the event, a HMIS Brochure or Ready Reckoner was also launched.

Highlights of the minister’s address

- In her address minister noted that, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is committed to strengthen the health infrastructure in India and fulfil the Vision of Prime Minister Modi- “Health for All”.
- According to her, population policy should be made in order to stabilize population and it requires macro as well as micro approach.
- Government is working to provide everyone clean fuel, house, clean water and health care.

Population Research Centres (PRCs)

- Minister noted the role played by Population research centres in carrying research on contemporary issues because population estimation is critical in distribution and access to public goods.

What is the purpose of Population clock?

- Population clock was launched in order to provide minute by minute estimate of India’s population. It will also capture data on Total Fertility Rate, Infant Mortality Rate as well as Maternal Mortality Rate. It will help in raising awareness in young generations and conducting research

1.28 INDIA’S FIRST HIGH ASH COAL GASIFICATION BASED METHANOL PRODUCTION PLANT INAUGURATED

WHY IN NEWS?

- India’s first indigenously Designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant at Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Research and Development Centre, Hyderabad was inaugurated.
- The project was funded by the Department of Science and Technology, which provided a Rs 10 crore grant, at the initiative of NITI Aayog, PMO-India and the Ministry of Coal.
- The facility can create 0.25 ton per day (TPD) Methanol from high ash Indian coal using a 1.2 TPD Fluidized bed gasifier.
- The purity of the crude methanol produced is between 98 and 99.5 percent.

1.29 HARYANA TOPPED IN INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PUMPS UNDER PM-KUSUM

WHY IN NEWS?

- Haryana has topped among all other states of the country in terms of installation of off-grid solar pumps under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahaabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM), as per the data by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Haryana has installed 14,418 pumps against 15,000 sanctioned pumps for the year 2020-21. Haryana was given a target of 15,000 pumps for the year 2020-21 with a total cost of Rs 520 crore.
- The centrally-sponsored PM-KUSUM scheme was launched in 2019 with the target to install 20 lakh standalone solar pumps.
- Under this scheme, farmers have to bear 40 per cent of the pump’s cost, while the central and state governments subsidize the remaining 60 per cent for solar pumps that have a capacity of up to 10 HP.
- However, Haryana and some other states have provided additional top-up on the subsidies, which has reduced the farmer’s share to less than 25 per cent

1.30 NUAKHAI JUHAR HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN ODISHA

WHY IN NEWS?

- Nuakhai Juhar, the agrarian festival of Western Odisha, was celebrated with religious fervour and tradition. It is celebrated 1 day after the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi.
- Nuakhai is a crop festival celebrated by people of Western Odisha and Southern Chhattisgarh, to welcome the new rice of the season. Nua means new and khai means food. So, the festival of nuakhai is a festival to celebrate newly harvested food by the farmers

1.31 'MEDICINE FROM THE SKY' INITIATIVE LAUNCHED IN TELANGANA

WHY IN NEWS?

- Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched a first of its kind "Medicine from the Sky" project in Telangana. The project has aimed at transporting vaccines and other essential products to remote areas using drones.
- The Medicine from the Sky project will be taken up on a pilot basis in 16 green zones in Telangana and later scaled up on the national level based on data.
- "This 'Medicines from the Sky' project will be taken up in 16 green zones.
- The data will be analysed for three months.
- Along with the health ministry, IT ministry, state government and the Centre will together analyse the data and make a model for the whole country.

1.32 CHHATTISGARH GOVT LAUNCHES 'MILLET MISSION' TO BECOME MILLET HUB OF INDIA

WHY IN NEWS?

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced the launch of 'Millet Mission', which aims to provide proper price rates to farmers for minor cereal crops.
- The initiative is also a step towards the Chief Minister's vision for the state to become India's millet hub.
- To implement the mission, the state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad and the collectors of 14 districts of the state.
- Other important benefits under the Millet Mission to farmers will include input assistance for millet, procurement arrangements, aid farmers in the processing of crops and ensure that the farmers get the benefit of the expertise of experts.

1.33 INDIA'S LARGEST OPEN AIR FERNERY OPENED IN UTTARAKHAND

WHY IN NEWS?

- India's largest open-air fernery has been inaugurated in Ranikhet of Uttarakhand. The new centre will serve the dual objective of 'conservation of fern species as well as 'create awareness about their ecological role and promote further research.
- The fernery is home to a large number of fern species, some of which are endemic to the state, some hold medicinal value while some are threatened species that demand care and conservation.
- The Ranikhet fernery has around 120 different types of fern, spreads over four acres of land at an altitude of 1,800 metres.
- The facility has been developed under Central Government's Compensatory Afforestation Management Funds Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme, by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department over a period of three years.

1.34 PM NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATES SARDARDHAM BHAVAN

WHY IN NEWS?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Sardardham Bhavan in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, via video conferencing. He also performed the “Bhoomi Pujan” of the Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralaya (girls’ hostel) project.
- Both these establishments are dedicated to the “Iron Man of India,” Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The project is developed by the Vishwa Patidar Samaj.
- The state-of-the-art Sardardham Bhavan provides separate hostel facilities to girls and boys from rural areas who aspire for better career prospects.
- Phase I of the Sardardham Bhavan project is built over an area of 11,672 square feet at an estimated cost of Rs 200 crore, near the Vaishnodevi circle in the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar border area. It will house 1,600 students, including 800 boys and 800 girls.
- The Phase II of the Sardardham project is expected to house around 2,000 girl students. The project will be built at the cost of another Rs 200 crore.

1.35 RMI INDIA LAUNCH ‘SHOONYA’ CAMPAIGN

WHY IN NEWS?

- NITI Aayog, in association with the RMI and RMI India, launched Shoonya campaign.

About:

- Shoonya campaign is an initiative to work with consumers and industry in order to promote pollution-free delivery vehicles.
- This campaign was launched with the aim of accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in urban delivery segment and raise consumer awareness regarding the benefits of pollution-free delivery.
- Industry stakeholders like e-commerce companies, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), fleet aggregators and logistics companies are expanding their efforts on electrifying last mile deliveries.
- In the initial phase, about 30 companies like Tata Motors, Mahindra Electric, Ashok Leyland, Zomato, Sun Mobility, Lightning Logistics, Big Basket, Brudart, Swiggy and Hero Electric attended a kick-off meeting that was chaired by CEO of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant.

Branding and certification programme

- Under the campaign, a corporate branding and certification program has been launched in order to recognize and facilitate industry’s efforts of shifting towards EVs for final mileage delivery. Online tracking platform shares the impact of this campaign by providing data like kilometers of electrified vehicles, standard pollutant savings, carbon savings and other benefits from clean delivery vehicles.

Main Purpose of the campaign

- The main purpose of the campaign is to eliminate pollution from urban freight sector. For this purpose, e-commerce companies, automakers, and logistics fleet operators have been asked to recognize the opportunity.

Urban freight vehicles in India

- Urban freight vehicles account for 10% of India’s freight-related CO2 emissions. These emissions are expected to rise by 114% by 2030. Since EVs do not emit such emissions, they can contribute in improving air quality. They also emit 15-40 percent less CO2 as far as its manufacturing is concerned. Their operating costs is also low as compared to their internal combustion engine counterparts.

1.36 INDIAN RAILWAYS LAUNCHED “RAIL KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA”

WHY IN NEWS?

- Indian Railways took a leap in advancement of Skill India Mission by launching the “Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY)” under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)”.

About:

RKVY was launched by Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav.

- This Mission will provide Railways an entry level training in industry relevant skills with the help of 75 Railway training institutes across India.
- This mission seeks to empower youth by providing entry level training in skills relevant to industry as part of 75 years of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Significance of the mission

- This mission incorporates the vision of skill development of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mission will train about 50 thousand youth. It was launched with the aim of imparting training skills to the youth across several trades to bring qualitative improvement. Under the mission, training will also be conducted in remote areas. It will improve the employability of the youth as well as upgrade the skills of self-employed. It will also cater to those who are working with contractors through re-skilling and up – skilling.

Training under RKVY

- Under the mission, training will be provided to 50000 candidates in a period of three years. In the initial phase, training will be provided to 1000 candidates. Youth will be trained in four trades namely, Electrician, Welder, Machinist and Fitter. Mission comprises of initial basic training of 100 hours. In later phases, zonal railways will add other trades to the training programs. Youth will be trained for free and participants will be selected from applications received online, on the basis of marks in matriculation. Candidates who are 10th passed and between 18-35 years shall be eligible to apply.

1.37 SWACHHATA PAKHWADA LAUNCHED IN COCHIN PORT TRUST

WHY IN NEWS?

- Swachhata Pakhwada 2021 was launched at the Cochin Port Trust and the Swachhata pledge was administered in all departments.

About:

- On the occasion, shramdaan cleaning activities were also started in the Port areas.
- Activities that were proposed during the Pakhwada comprise of cleaning of work places, crafts & public spaces and office premises within the Port area.
- Programmes will be led by all heads of the department during the period.

About Swachhta Pakhwada

- Swachhta Pakhwada was started in April 2016, with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on issues and practices of the Swachhta by engaging all the government ministries & departments in their jurisdictions. In order to plan the Pakhwada activities, an annual calendar is circulated among the Ministries in advanced. Ministries that observe Swachhata Pakhwada are monitored by means of online monitoring system of Swachhata Samiksha. On this system, action plans, images & videos related to Swachhata activities are uploaded and shared.

Background

- This is an environment awareness campaign launched under Swachh Bharat Mission. It was launched to achieve the goal of total sanitizations and cleanliness by October 2, 2019. Under the campaign, several ministries organise a theme wise campaign called “Swachh Bharat Fortnight”. It is a voluntary exercise and it seeks to raise awareness and target programmes.

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

- SBM is a country-wide campaign that was initiated by central government in 2014 with the objective of eliminating open defecation and improving solid waste management. This mission is a restructured version of Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan which was launched in 2009. Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan

failed to achieve its intended targets. Phase 1 of the Swachh Bharat mission ended in October 2019 while Phase 2 of the mission has been implemented between 2020–21 & 2024-25.

1.38 3 NIELIT CENTRES OF NORTHEAST STATE INAUGURATED

WHY IN NEWS?

- Union minister of state for electronics & information technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, inaugurated three National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) centres of northeast states on September 16, 2021

About:

- One of the NIELIT centres was inaugurated in Churachandpur district of Manipur, physically. While, two other centres were inaugurated in Kokrajhar and Tezpur districts of Assam.
- On the occasion, two existing centres at Imphal & at Aizawl districts of Mizoram were upgraded.
- Minister noted that, NIELIT centre in Churachandpur district, these NIELIT centres would be soon be acting as job creation centres with the collaboration of Centre and States.
- These centres will not just be training centres but these are centres to skill the youth and get them into the runway of opportunity and jobs.

NIELIT Centre, Churachandpur

- It is the second centre of NIELIT in Manipur. Its campus spreads over 4.13 acres of land provided by the state government. It comprises of eight laboratories and two class rooms. Its annual training capacities is of 600 students.

National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)

- NIELIT was formerly known as the DOEACC Society. It offers Information Technology & Electronics training at different levels. It is associated with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and works as an autonomous Statutory Organisation under the Central Government. NIELIT enjoys the power similar to Organisations like CBSE, UGC etc.

1.39 “EK PAHAL CAMPAIGN” LAUNCHED FOR JUSTICE DELIVERY AT DOORSTEP

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Law and Justice has launched a Pan-India Special Campaign called “Ek Pahal Drive” for Justice Delivery at doorstep.

About:

- The campaign was launched in a bid to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law.
- The campaign was launched by Department of Justice and NALSA.
- This campaign seeks to actualize the aspiration of access to justice for citizens in India.

Justice in Preamble

- The Preamble to the Constitution of India has recognised Justice as the first deliverable for the Indian citizens. A successful and vibrant democracy is where every citizen not only get guaranteed justice, but where justice is equitable. This principal mandates for State to create an environment where justice-delivery is looked as a citizen-centric service rather than a sovereign function.

EK Pahal Campaign

- Department of Justice launched this campaign across India, that will run from September 17th to October 2nd in order to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law. At the launch of campaign, registration login of 5480 beneficiaries was done. This login drive registered 138% increase as compared to daily average registration of beneficiaries. More than 25000 banners were displayed at CSCs in regional languages. Campaign will include the deployment of 185 Mobile Vans and other vehicles in order to show-case films and documentaries regarding Access to Justice programme.

Significance of Tele law

- Tele Law provides pre-litigation advice or consultation to beneficiaries by Panel Lawyers. This medium uses a huge network by covering 51,434 Common Service Centres across 50,000 Gram Panchayats in 633 districts of 34 States & UTs. It will also be holding 4100 Legal Aid Clinics to give pre-litigation or legal advice to common citizens with the help of Panel Lawyers and Para-Legal Volunteers. Awareness programmes will also be launched at village level on legal aid in 672 districts.

1.40 SPIN SCHEME: KVIC

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched the SPIN (Strengthening the Potential of India) scheme to make potters self-sustainable.

SPIN Scheme:

About:

- Under SPIN, KVIC will facilitate potters to get easy loans from banks that will help the potters to diversify their activities and enhance their income.

Objective:

- It is aimed at sustainable development by creating local self-employment which is aligned with the Prime Minister's commitment of "Job to Every Hand" (Har Hath Me Kaam).

Features:

- It is a no-subsidy program.
- KVIC facilitates potters to get bank loans under Pradhan Mantri Shishu Mudra Yojana.
- No financial burden on the exchequer.
- Beneficiaries can repay the loans in easy installments.

Significance:

- It will reduce their dependence on government subsidy and thus make potters self-reliant.

1.41 THE TOWN OF WOODEN TOYS

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, a Welfare Association of wooden toymakers named Ambasamudram Bharani Mara Varna Kadasal Artisans has applied for the Geographical Indications tag for Choppu Samaan.

What is Choppu Samaan?

- It is a traditional toy for kids. It is a kitchen set that is made up of fine wood with polished edges. Furthermore, it is painted with harmless natural colours, so it is safe for children. Originally, artists used teak and rosewood, but now there is more use of eucalyptus and rubberwood.

How it is made?

- The wood is seasoned by the method of air drying. It is then cut into smaller cylinders to fit onto a lathe (machine for shaping wood). The toys are shaped on that lathe with standard carpentry tools. After manufacturing, the products are either lacquered on a wooden lathe or simply painted with colours. Lacquer is prepared by mixing lac with pigments. Screw-pine leaves are used to polish the finished toys. These are also known as Kadasal toys.

What is a GI tag?

- A GI tag is a sign used on goods that have a specific Geographical Indications origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are specific to that origin.
- The tag can be awarded for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- A GI tag is a part of the intellectual property rights that comes under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. Once a product is accorded a GI tag, it is protected by various legislations, such as legislations by the World Intellectual Property Organization(WIPO).

1.42 INFOSYS LAUNCHES DIGITAL COMMERCE PLATFORM EQUINOX

WHY IN NEWS?

- Infosys, a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting, launched Infosys Equinox to help enterprises securely deliver hyper-segmented, personalized omnichannel commerce experiences for B2B and B2C buyers.
- The platform's future-ready architecture offers unprecedented flexibility for enterprises to pick and choose out-of-the-box microservices and pre-built experiences to build curated digital journeys that enhance their digital commerce or launch it grounds-up in a matter of weeks.
- Infosys Equinox also brings together best-of-breed service, product, platform and industry capabilities from Infosys, and its partners, in an integrated ecosystem.

1.43 INDIA TO ORGANISE FIRST-EVER GLOBAL BUDDHIST CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER

WHY IN NEWS?

- India is set to host the first-ever Global Buddhist Conference on November 19 and 20, 2021, in Nava Nalanda Mahavihara campus, in Nalanda, Bihar. The academic conference, being organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), will become an annual feature.
- Four regional conferences in India (Telangana, Saranath, Gangtok and Dharamshala) and abroad (Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Cambodia) will be organised, in the run-up to the conference. The reports of these regional conferences will be presented at the inaugural Global Buddhist Conference.
- Global Buddhist Conference focuses on making India the center of Buddhism, by promoting Buddhist activities, like academic, cultural, seminars, people travelling for festivals like Buddha Purnima, Vesak.

1.44 INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS CRUISE LINER LAUNCHED BY IRCTC

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has joined hands and signed the agreement with Cordelia Cruises being operated by M/s Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd for promotion and marketing of the first indigenous luxury cruise in India.
- This is another incredible luxury travel offering under IRCTC's umbrella of tourism services to the public.
- The luxury travel offering in the form of the indigenous cruise will take guests on-boards to some of the most popular Indian and international tourist destinations – such as Goa, Diu, Kochi, the Lakshadweep islands, and Sri Lanka.
- Cordelia Cruises is one of India's premium cruise liners and aspires to promote and drive the cruise culture in India through experiences that are "stylish, luxurious, and most importantly, inherently Indian."

1.45 MANIPUR'S SIRARAKHONG CHILLI AND TAMENGLONG ORANGE GETS GI TAG

WHY IN NEWS?

- Two famous products of Manipur, Hathei chilli, which is found in Manipur's Ukrul district and is known for its unique flavour, and Tamenglong mandarin orange have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- This is a historic milestone in the history of Manipur and it will increase the income of farmers in Manipur.

- The Hathei chilly works as a good anti-oxidant and possesses high calcium and Vitamin C levels. It has an extremely high American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) colour value of 164. The extractable colour of chilli is usually expressed using ASTA values

1.46 'KATLEY' DECLARED AS STATE FISH OF SIKKIM

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Government of Sikkim has declared 'Cooper Mahseer' locally named as 'Katley' as the state fish. *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis* is the scientific name of the Cooper Mahseer.
- The decision has been taken to highlight the importance of the Katley fish and to give emphasis to its conservation measures. The fish has high market value and is highly preferred by the public in the State.

1.47 CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI TO BE NEXT CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Congress party has elected Charanjit Singh Channi, the outgoing technical education minister, as the new chief minister of Punjab after Captain Amarinder Singh resigned from the post.
- He has been elected as the leader of the Punjab Congress Legislative Party (CLP). He is an MLA from the Chamkaur Sahib assembly constituency. He will become Punjab's first Dalit chief minister.
- Captain Amarinder Singh, who resigned as the chief minister of Punjab on Saturday following months of infighting between him and Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

1.48 ASSAM SET UP A TEA PARK AT KAMRUP DISTRICT'S CHAYYGAON

WHY IN NEWS?

- Assam is setting up a tea Park at Chayygaon in Kamrup District. This tea garden will have rail and port connectivity, cargo and warehouse amenities, processing facilities like tea grinding, blending, packaging and other utility services under one roof.
- Tea garden companies using garden lands for plantation of Segun and agar or selling off the tea estates, the Minister stated that tea garden owners cannot sell off their estates as the leased land still belongs to Assam Government and instead asked them to focus on innovation and branding of Assam Tea.

1.49 GEETA SAMOTA BECOMES 'FASTEST INDIAN' TO SUMMIT TWO PEAKS

WHY IN NEWS?

- CISF official Geeta Samota became the "fastest Indian" to summit two peaks located in Africa and Russia.
- Earlier this month, Sub Inspector Geeta Samota had scaled Mount Elbrus in Russia, the highest peak in Europe. While Mt Elbrus (5,642 mts) is in Russia, the Kilimanjaro peak (5,895 mts) is located in Tanzania and is Africa's highest peak.

1.50 INDIA TO BECOME TRANS-FAT-FREE BY 2022

WHY IN NEWS?

- As per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) study, India is all set and is on the right track to become industrial trans-fat-free by 2022.

About:

- In India, only 1.34 percent of the newly tested processed food samples shows more than the permissible levels of ingredients.
- FSSAI cited pan-India survey results and dismiss the perception of excessive use of industrial trans fats in processed food products.
- India has mandated to reduce the limit of industrially produced trans fats to 2 per cent in order make India free from the industrially produced trans fats by 2022, one year ahead of the WHO guidelines.

About the survey of FSSAI

- To test compliance by the industry, the FSSAI collected 6,245 samples of processed foods, in association with the Quality Council of India. Samples were collected from six predefined categories in 419 cities. As per survey,
- 34% of 6,000 processed food samples were high in fats
- 3% of packaged food item samples comprises of over 2% trans fat

WHO guidelines on Trans Fat

- According to WHO, Increased intake of trans fat that is, more than 1% of total energy intake, increases the risk of coronary heart disease mortality.
- Casualties due to trans fat
- Trans fat intake is associated with 5,00,000 premature deaths worldwide, due to coronary heart disease each year.

About Trans fat

- Trans fat is considered as the worst type of fat. Unlike other dietary fats, trans fat or trans-fatty acids increases bad cholesterol and lowers the good cholesterol. A diet comprising of trans fat increases the risk of heart disease.

1.51 LEH TO HOST FIRST EDITION OF HIMALAYAN FILM FESTIVAL

WHY IN NEWS?

- Leh is all set to host the first edition of the Himalayan Film Festival, which is starting from September 24, 2021.

About.

- The film festival will be inaugurated by Information and Broadcasting Minister, Anurag Thakur, on September 24.
- Himalayan Film festival will run for five days from September 24 to 28.
- Ladakh is hosting the film festival as part of the celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.
- The 5-day festival will comprise of several segments to capture audience and film buffs alike.
- Aim of the festival
- The five-day festival is being organised with the aim of creating an interactive and exposure platform in order to promote aspiring local filmmakers as well as to showcase Ladakh as an attractive film destination.

Who is organising the festival?

- This festival is being organised by Leh in association with the Directorate of Film Festivals under Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- Where it will be held?
- The film festival will be held at the Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra in Leh.

Himalayan region of India

- Himalayan region of India attracts filmmakers from worldwide due to its unique scenic endowment. Unique geography of this region is documented along with its indigenous people, occupations and traditional skills. Film festival thus presents an opportunity for local filmmakers in order to narrate their stories to a wider audience. Himalayan Film festival will also envision institutionalising of a Himalayan film fraternity, which will be having productive repercussions for filmmaking in the Himalayan region of India.

1.52 TAMIL NADU AND PUDUCHERRY BEACHES GET COVETED 'BLUE FLAG' CERTIFICATION

WHY IN NEWS?

- Two more beaches in India have been awarded "Blue Flag" certification, an international eco-level tag, taking the total number of such beaches in the country to 10. The two beaches to receive the certification this year are Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry.
- The Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), Denmark, which accords the Blue Flag certification, has also given re-certification for eight nominated beaches – Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Kappad-Kerala, Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha and Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar, which were awarded the Blue Flag certificate last year.
- These eight beaches got the Blue Flag certification on October 6, 2020.

1.53 UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT TO SET UP 'ELECTRONIC PARK'

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Yogi Adityanath led Uttar Pradesh government has cleared a proposal to develop an 'Electronic Park', along the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) area, near Noida, to promote the electronics industry.
- The park is proposed to be developed in an area of 250 acres of the YEIDA near Jewar Airport.
- National and international companies manufacturing mobile phones, TVs and other electronic devices and accessories will establish their units in the park.
- The new Electronic Park will be built at an investment of around Rs 50,000 crore as well as generate employment for thousands of local youths

1.54 H.P.: WORLD'S HIGHEST EV CHARGING STATION OPENED

WHY IN NEWS?

- World's highest EV charging station was opened at Kaza town, which is located in of Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.

About:

- The EV charging station was opened on September 23, 2021 in order to promote a sustainable environment.
- It is the world's highest electric vehicle charging station located at 500 ft.
- Along with the EV charging station, two women drove electric vehicles from Manali to Kaza to promote a clean and green environment.
- All the products including chargers of this station are made in India.

India's EV ecosystem

- India is gaining good momentum in the electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem. There is a good response for battery-operated small electric vehicles such as e-scooter, e-rickshaws, electric three-wheelers, e-carts, and e-bikes in India. Currently, road ministry is planning to run railway, metro, and long-run intercity buses on green hydrogen fuel. Battery electric vehicle as well as fuel cell vehicle

technologies are complementary to each other. These technologies are all set to overtake fossil-run automotive by 2050 in India.

Kaza Town

- Kaza Town is the sub-divisional headquarters of Spiti Valley. It is located in western Himalayas in Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. Spiti is a high altitude or cold desert which is having close similarities to the neighbouring Tibet and Ladakh regions with respect to the terrain, climate and the Buddhist culture. Kaza is situated along the Spiti River, at the elevation of 3,650 metres. It is the largest township and commercial center in Spiti valley

1.55 KVIC SETS UP ODISHA'S FIRST SILK YARN PRODUCTION CENTRE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has started a historic initiative to set up first ever Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre at Choudwar in Cuttack district in Odisha.

About:

- The silk yarn production centre was inaugurated on September 24, 2021 by Chairman of KVIC, Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- This centre will ensure local availability of Tussar Silk yarn, reduce the silk production cost as well as create local employment.
- Tussar silk is one of the finest varieties of Silk. It is distinguished by its coarseness and porous weave, giving it a rugged and rustic appearance.
- This centre was set up at a cost of Rs 75 lakh.
- It is capable of producing 200 KG of silk yarn worth Rs 94 lakh annually.

Silk production in Odisha

- Odisha has been known for exquisite Silk production, particularly the Tussar variety. This industry provides livelihood to thousands of tribal people, particularly women in the state. But the Silk weavers were totally dependent on states such as West Bengal, Karnataka and Jharkhand for the Silk yarn. This in turn, increased the cost of the Silk fabric here.

Significance of the Production centre in Odisha

- Opening up of the Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre in Odisha is of great significance because Silk comprises nearly 75% of the total Khadi fabric production in the State alone. This production centre will be creating direct employment for 50 artisans including 34 women. It will also provide livelihood support to more than 300 tribal farmers engaged in cocoon farming. This centre will also create indirect employment for weavers. Every kilo of raw silk produced will create employment for 11 artisans of which 6 are women

1.56 PM MODI LAUNCHES AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION

WHY IN NEWS?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission on September 27, 2021.

About:

- Under this mission, a unique digital health ID will be provided to the people. This ID will contain all the health records of person.
- This mission was launched under the pilot project National Digital Health Mission.
- The nationwide rollout of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission coincides with the third anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). Third anniversary is being marked by the National Health Authority (NHA).

Background

- Prime Minister had announced the pilot project of National Digital Health Mission from the Red Fort on August 15, 2020.

About Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- Presently, this project is being implemented in the pilot phase across six Union Territories.
- This mission will also enable the access and exchange of longitudinal health records with their consent.
- Key components of this project include:
 1. **A Health ID** for every citizen. It will also work as their health account. Through this ID, personal health records can be linked and viewed using a mobile application.
 2. Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and
 3. Healthcare Facilities Registries (HFR) - It will act as a repository of all healthcare providers in modern as well as traditional systems of medicine.

Significance of the scheme

- This mission will also ensure ease of doing business for doctors & hospitals and healthcare service providers. It will also create interoperability within the digital health ecosystem, on the line of role played by the Unified Payments Interface in revolutionising payments

1.57 WEAVER SERVICES AND DESIGN RESOURCE CENTER TO BE SET UP IN KULLU

WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles Piyush Goyal announced to set up a “Weaver Services and Design Resource Center” in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh.

About:

- This centre will help in encouraging the attractive handicraft products of the state and provide a better platform to export these products at the international market.
- The Minister announced this while addressing at an interaction programme with handicrafts and handloom artisans.
- Programme was organized under ‘Seva & Samarpan Abhiyan’ to commemorate the golden jubilee year of statehood of Himachal Pradesh on September 27, 2021.

Weaving in Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh has the tremendous talent and potential with magical hands that weaves beautiful art products. Thus, there is a need to work proactively by State & Central Ministries in order to bring these products into the international market to get more benefits. More attention should be paid on modernizing the design, packaging, quality and marketing in order to provide weavers a better price for their products at international market.

District-wise exhibitions

- The union minister also suggested to organize district-wise exhibitions of products from the state in big cities, in five star hotels and people associated with the textile industry so that branding could be done for these products at national and international level. He also asked the weavers to get their trademark for which central government reduced the registration fee by 80 percent. He also urged the State Industries Department to focus on ways and means of improving the quality of wool used in manufacturing of handloom and handicraft products. According to the minister, there is a paramount need of focusing on standardized packaging.

1.58 IIT-D LAUNCHES CENTRE ON QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has set up a ‘Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Quantum Technologies’ in a bid to conduct research activities in the related field.

About:

- This CoE will bring synergy and coherence in the activities that are being carried out at IIT Delhi,
- It will also support the principal investigators to pitch in for several significant projects from the DST and other agencies.

Focus areas of CoE

- The centre of Excellence will focus on select thrust areas including quantum computing, quantum sensing & metrology, quantum communication and quantum materials & devices. Centre would undertake the design and development of new quantum materials. It would also undertake research activities related to the quantum processor & cryogenic controller, modelling and technology development of semiconducting qubits such as CMOS and 2D materials, quantum biophotonics, quantum sensing & metrology, development of single-photon detectors etc.

Significance of quantum physics

- Quantum physics has impacted society in an unprecedented way, in some 100 years. In order to exploit the characteristics of quantum physics in light & materials, researchers invented both laser and the transistor. Inventions ranging from the basis of information technology, computers, the internet, etc has shaped the society up to a large extent. It was the first quantum revolution.

Second quantum revolution

- Second quantum revolution is now round the corner. It is benefitting enormously from the advancements of ability to detect and manipulate single quantum objects like photons and atoms

1.59 NAGA CUCUMBER FROM NAGALAND GETS GEOGRAPHICAL IDENTIFICATION TAG

WHY IN NEWS?

- Nagaland's "sweet cucumber" was awarded a geographical identification (GI) tag as an agricultural product under provisions of The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- The cucumber is one of the most important crops in the Northeast region. Nagaland has the fifth-highest cultivation of this fruit area-wise and ranks third in production.
- Naga cucumber is recognised for its sweetness and unique green colour. It is rich in potassium and has low calories. The cucumber is not the first product from the small state to receive a vaunted GI tag. Both the regional variants of tree tomato (tamarillo) and the famed Naga king chilli are also GI tagged.

1.60 SUPREME COURT INTRODUCES FASTER SYSTEM

WHY IN NEWS?

- Supreme Court of India has approved an electronic system named FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records). The FASTER system will be used for transferring e-authenticated copies from courts to prisons.
- A three-judge bench of Chief Justice N.V. Ramana, Justice Nageswara Rao and Justice Surya Kant has instructed state governments, Union territories, prison departments and other authorities concerned to make arrangements at prisons to accept e-authenticated copies.
- Under the FASTER system, courts can send e-authenticated copies of bail orders, stay orders, interim orders and proceedings through secured electronic communication to duty officers at prisons. The apex court was hearing a suo motu case which it took up in July this year after a news report indicated that inmates at a prison in Agra continued to be lodged in jail three days after they had been granted bail.

1.61 AMRIT GRAND CHALLENGE PROGRAM- जनCARE

WHY IN NEWS?

- “Amrit Grand Challenge Programme” titled “जनCARE” was launched by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh.

About:

- This programme will identify 75 Start-Up Innovations in Telemedicine, Digital Health, Block Chain, mHealth with BIG Data, Artificial intelligence and other technologies.
- Launch of Grand Challenge coincides with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, it has become more imperative for Young Start-ups and entrepreneurs to come out with Innovative Ideas and Solutions for healthcare challenges in India.
- Under this initiative, 75 Best Chosen Start-ups will be an asset for India to lead it in the next 25 years.

10. Biotech Innovators Meet

- 10th Biotech Innovators Meet was organised by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) in New Delhi under the theme- “Vigyan se Vikash”. While addressing the event, Dr Jitendra Singh pledged to provide full support to Start-ups from ideation to deployment stage. He directed the BIRAC to proactively reach out to Young Start-ups to help and support them. According to him, Young promising Innovations will get priority with respect to help, support and hand-holding than the established industrial hubs.

India’s Bio-Economy

- The Bio-Economy in India is on its way to achieve a 150-billion-dollar target and will contribute effectively to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of a 5 trillion-dollar economy by 2024-25. The Sunshine Biotech Sector is also set to more than double from the current 70 billion dollar to 150 billion dollar by 2025.

Contribution of BIRAC in Bio-Economy

- BIRAC has established 60 world class Bio-incubators in India. It currently engages with more than 5000 Start-ups and young entrepreneurs.

1.62 AMIT SHAH ADDRESSES FIRST ‘NATIONAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE’

WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has inaugurated and addressed the first-ever National Cooperative Conference (Sehkarita Sammelan) at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. The minister outlined the government’s vision and roadmap for the development of the Cooperative sector.
- This conference was India’s first such cooperative conference, to provide a platform for accelerating and strengthening Indian cooperatives on the global stage.
- The conference was organised jointly by the IFFCO, National Cooperative Federation of India, Amul, Sahakar Bharti, NAFED, KRIBHCO and all cooperatives together.
- Over 2,100 representatives from different states and various cooperative sectors across the country participated in the conference to contribute towards realizing the dream of a self-reliant India.

1.63 SOJAT MEHNDI AND JUDIMA RICE WINE GETS GI TAG

WHY IN NEWS?

- Judima, homemade rice wine from Assam and Sojat Mehndi (Henna) from Rajasthan, has been awarded the geographical indication (GI) tag. A GI tag is awarded to products associated with a specific geographical origin.
- Award of a GI sign not only helps in tracing the origins of products but also helps in confirming authenticity and marketing of indigenous specialities.
- Judima is a local fermented drink made with rice, brewed by the Dimasa community in Assam.

- Sojat Mehndi, originating from Mehendi leaves grown in Sojat, is naturally cultivated using rainwater.

1.64 GOI STARTS WORK TO DEVELOP 'PARSHURAM KUND' IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

WHY IN NEWS?

- The government of India has started work for the development of 'Parshuram Kund', a Hindu pilgrimage site on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit river in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The project costing Rs 37.88 crore was sanctioned under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.
- The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched in 2014-15 with complete financial assistance by the Government of India.
- It was targeted to develop tourism infrastructure to harness pilgrimage and heritage tourism destinations for its direct and multiplier effect upon employment generation and economic development.

1.65 CYCLONIC STORM 'GULAB' HITS ANDRA AND ODISHA

WHY IN NEWS?

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Odisha and Andhra Pradesh after the 'Cyclone Gulab' made landfall over Northwest and adjoining West-central Bay of Bengal.
- Cyclone Gulab was named by Pakistan. The word "Gulab" refers to Rose in English. During the landfall, the wind speed could hover between 90 kmph and 100 kmph.
- The name Gulab is from the list of cyclone names that is maintained by the World Meteorological Organisation/United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (WMO/ESCAP) Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC).

MCQS

QUESTION 1: World's highest movie theatre has recently been inaugurated in-

- A. Ladakh
- B. Sikkim
- C. Tawang
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 2: First phase of POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched in-

- A. 2016
- B. 2017
- C. 2018
- D. 2019

QUESTION 3: The Eastern Economic Forum Summit takes place every year in-

- A. Tokyo
- B. Seoul

- C. Beijing
- D. Vladivostok

QUESTION 4: India's first International Financial Services Centre called Gujarat International Financial Tec-city (GIFT) is located in-

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. Ahmedabad
- C. Surat
- D. Anand

QUESTION 5: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has recently inaugurated a project called 'My Pad, My Right' in which state?

- A. Assam
- B. Bihar

- C. Chattisgarh
- D. Tripura

QUESTION 6: Which state/UT is going to launch 'MeraKaamMeraMaan' Scheme for unemployed youth?

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Punjab
- C. Haryana
- D. Uttrakhand

QUESTION 7: Tamil Nadu Governor BanwarilalPurohit has been recently given the additional charge of-

- A. Punjab
- B. Chandigarh
- C. Haryana
- D. Both A and B

QUESTION 8: Teacher's Day is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of-

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru
- B. NarendraModi
- C. Dr SarvepalliRadhakrishnan
- D. Jagdish Chandra Bose

QUESTION 9: Ladakh recently adopted which bird as State bird?

- A. Himalayan vulture
- B. Black-necked crane
- C. Tibetan sandgrouse
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 10: A 5-star 'Eat Right Station' certification to the Chandigarh Railway Station has been recently awarded by-

- A. Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation
- B. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- C. Codex Alimentarius Commission
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 11: The NUTRI GARDEN initiative was recently inaugurated by-

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B. Ministry of AYUSH
- C. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 12: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has decided to form a committee to review the existing guidelines of the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS). It will be headed by-

- A. VartikaShukla
- B. RakeshAsthana
- C. NakulRastogi
- D. Ashok Kumar Tandon

QUESTION 13: The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) commonly known as the 'Hare Krishna movement' was founded in

- A. 1956
- B. 1966
- C. 1976
- D. 1986

QUESTION 14: Ministry of AYUSH has launched a campaign titled 'AYUSH AAPKE DWAR', which aims to distribute-

- A. Free traditional medicines
- B. Traditional recipes for common illness
- C. Medicinal plants
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 15: Which is the largest ghat in Varanasi?

- A. Assighat
- B. Ravidasghat
- C. Raj ghat
- D. Bachrajghat

QUESTION 16: Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes was recently released by-

- A. World Meteorological Organization
- B. United Nations Environment Programme
- C. International Monetary Fund
- D. World Bank

QUESTION 17: Who is known as the 'Father of the Dravidian movement'?

- A. K Kamaraj
- B. C N Annadurai
- C. E V Ramasamy
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 18: India's 1st Emergency Landing Facility on National Highway has been inaugurated in-

- A. Haryana
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh

QUESTION 19: Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$112 million loan in order to develop water supply infrastructure in which state?

- A. Goa
- B. Odisha
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Chhattisgarh

QUESTION 20: Tamil Nadu has planned to create an energy island in Gulf of Mannar with the help of-

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

QUESTION 21: Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all the mandated crops is approved by-

- A. Commission for Agricultural Costs & Price
- B. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- C. Cabinet Secretariat
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 22: In the NIRF India Ranking 2021, which institute has topped the list in overall category?

- A. IIT Ahmedabad
- B. IIT Madras
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. AIIMS Delhi

QUESTION 23: India's first building made of bio-bricks from agro-waste has been inaugurated at-

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Hyderabad
- C. IIT Madras
- D. IIT Roorkee

QUESTION 24: Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) scheme is implemented by-

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Rural Development
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Tribal Affairs

QUESTION 25: SwachhSurvekshanGramin 2021 has been launched by-

- A. Ministry of Rural Development
- B. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- C. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

QUESTION 26: Central Government has recently signed a ceasefire agreement with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) Imphal (K). It is led by

- A. IsakChishiSwu
- B. Nikki Sumi
- C. ThuingalengMuivah
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 27: Digital Population Clock was inaugurated recently at-

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

QUESTION 28: India's first indigenously designed High Ash Coal Gasification Based Methanol Production Plant has been recently inaugurated at-

- A. Digboi
- B. Kanpur
- C. Nasik
- D. Hyderabad

QUESTION 29: Which state has topped in the country in terms of installation of off-grid solar pumps under PradhanMantriKisanUrjaSurakshaEvamUtthanMahaabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM)?

- A. Punjab
- B. Haryana
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Telangana

QUESTION 30: NuakhaiJuhar is the harvest festival of-

- A. West Bengal
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Assam
- D. Odisha

QUESTION 31: "Medicine from the Sky" project, aimed at transporting vaccines and other essential products to remote areas using drones is launched in-

- A. Telangana
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

QUESTION 32: Which state has launched 'Millet Mission' to become Millet Hub of India?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Punjab
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Telangana

QUESTION 33: India's largest open-air fernery has been inaugurated in-

- A. Dehradun
- B. Ranikhet
- C. Nainital
- D. Kangra

QUESTION 34: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Sardardham Bhavan in-

- A. Ahmedabad
- B. Bhopal
- C. Chandigarh
- D. Dahej

QUESTION 35: Shoonya campaign seen recently in news is associated with-

- A. Minimising child labour cases
- B. Promote evs for delivery services
- C. Minimising emissions from agriculture
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 36: Under Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana, how many candidates will be provided training in a period of 3 years?

- A. 5000
- B. 10000
- C. 50000
- D. 500000

QUESTION 37: Swachhta Pakhwada, with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on issues and practices of the Swachhta by engaging all the government ministries & departments, was started in-

- A. 2015
- B. 2016
- C. 2017
- D. 2018

QUESTION 38: Recently three National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) centres were inaugurated. NIELIT come under the ambit of-

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology

QUESTION 39: Ek Pahal Campaign seen recently in news is an initiative of-

- A. Ministry of Law and Justice
- B. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- C. Ministry of Coal
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 40: SPIN (Strengthening the Potential of India) scheme to make potters self-sustainable, was recently launched by-

- A. Khadi and Village Industries Commission
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Coir Board of India
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 41: The demand for Geographical Indications tag for Choppu Samaan has been made by Ambasamudram town. It is located in-

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

QUESTION 42: Digital commerce platform Equinox has been launched by-

- A. Wipro
- B. Microsoft
- C. TCS

D. Infosys

QUESTION 43: The First-Ever Global Buddhist Conference in November 2021 will be held in-

- A. Nalanda
- B. Gaya
- C. Sarnath
- D. New Delhi

QUESTION 44: India's first indigenous cruise liner has been launched by-

- A. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation
- B. Shipping Corporation of India
- C. Ministry of Tourism
- D. none of the above

QUESTION 45: Hathei chilli, which recently got GI Tag, is found in which state?

- A. Telangana
- B. Manipur
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

QUESTION 46: Cooper Mahseer, locally named as 'Katley', has been declared as the state fish of-

- A. Telangana
- B. Manipur
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

QUESTION 47: Who has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of Punjab?

- A. Charanjit Singh Channi
- B. Navjot Singh Sidhu
- C. AmbikaSoni
- D. Sunil Jakhar

QUESTION 48: A tea park has been set up recently at Kamrup in-

- A. West Bengal
- B. Assam
- C. Kerala
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 49: GeetaSamota who became the "fastest Indian" to summit two peaks

located in Africa and Russia belongs to which organisation?

- A. Border Security Force
- B. Central Reserve Police Force
- C. Indo-Tibetan Border Police
- D. Central Industrial Security Force

QUESTION 50: According to FSSAI, India targets to become industrial trans-fat-free by-

- A. 2022
- B. 2023
- C. 2025
- D. 2030

QUESTION 51: The first edition of the Himalayan Film Festival will take place in-

- A. Leh
- B. Gangtok
- C. Spiti
- D. Itanagar

QUESTION 52: Eden beach which got Blue Flag certification recently is in-

- A. Puducherry
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Odisha
- D. West Bengal

QUESTION 53: A proposal to develop an 'Electronic Park' has been cleared recently by which state government?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Punjab
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Haryana

QUESTION 54: World's highest EV charging station was recently opened at-

- A. Kaza
- B. Ladakh
- C. Tawang
- D. Nainital

QUESTION 55: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has started to set up first ever Tussar Silk Yarn Production Centre of Odisha in which district ?

- A. Angul
- B. Bhadrak

- C. Bhubaneswar
- D. Cuttack

QUESTION 56: Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will provide for-

- A. A Health ID for every citizen
- B. Healthcare Professionals Registry
- C. Healthcare Facilities Registries
- D. All of the above

QUESTION 57: A “Weaver Services and Design Resource Center” has been set up in _____ district of Himachal Pradesh.

- A. Kullu
- B. Hamirpur
- C. Chamba
- D. Bilaspur

QUESTION 58: A ‘Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Quantum Technologies’ has been setup at-

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Ropar
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. IISER Mohali

QUESTION 59: Which of the following products from Nagaland have GI tag?

- A. Sweet cucumber
- B. Tree tomato
- C. Naga king chilli
- D. All of the above

QUESTION 60: An electronic system named FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) has been introduced by-

- A. Reserve Bank of India
- B. Central Bureau of Investigation
- C. Supreme court
- D. Prime Minister Office

QUESTION 61: Amrit Grand Challenge Programme” titled “JAN-CARE” was launched by-

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Education
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 62: Who is the Minister of Cooperation?

- A. Narendra Singh Tomar

- B. Amit Shah
- C. Giriraj Singh
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 63: SojatMehndi has recently been awarded GI tag from-

- A. Haryana
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Punjab
- D. Gujarat

Answers:

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. A
5. D
6. B
7. D
8. C
9. B
10. B
11. A
12. D
13. B
14. C
15. B
16. A
17. C
18. B
19. C
20. D
21. B
22. B
23. B
24. D
25. B
26. B
27. C
28. D
29. B
30. D
31. A
32. C
33. B
34. A
35. B
36. C
37. B
38. C

- 39. A
- 40. A
- 41. B
- 42. D
- 43. A
- 44. A
- 45. B
- 46. C
- 47. A
- 48. B
- 49. D
- 50. A
- 51. A

- 52. A
- 53. A
- 54. A
- 55. D
- 56. D
- 57. A
- 58. C
- 59. D
- 60. C
- 61. A
- 62. B
- 63. B



1.66 INDIA ELECTED TO CA AND POC OF UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

WHY IN NEWS?

- India has won the elections for membership of two key bodies of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), HQ at Bern, Switzerland, during the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- India got elected to the Council of Administration (CA) with 134 votes, out of 156 countries. The country received the highest votes in CA elections from South Asia and the Oceania region.
- Apart from this, India has also been elected to the Postal Operations Council (POC) with 106 votes. India will now work with all to strengthen cooperation in the Universal Postal Union

1.67 CHINA OPENS FIRST ROAD-RAIL TRANSPORT LINK TO INDIAN OCEAN

WHY IN NEWS?

- Firstly, the first shipments on a newly-launched railway line from the Myanmar border to the key commercial hub of Chengdu in western China were delivered last week. A "test cargo" through what is being called the China-Myanmar New Passage arrived at the Chengdu rail port in Sichuan province.
- Secondly, red flags are going up in India over China's fresh attempts to expand its footprint in northern Sri Lanka in the garb of infrastructure projects, with Beijing even making efforts to woo the ethnic Tamil community there.

China-Myanmar New Passage

- The transport corridor involves a sea-road-rail link.
- Goods from Singapore reached Yangon Port, arriving by ship through the Andaman Sea of the northeastern Indian Ocean, and were then transported by road to Lincang on the Chinese side of the Myanmar-China border in Yunnan province.
- The new railway line that runs from the border town of Lincang to Chengdu, a key trade hub in western China, completes the corridor.

Other port dev plans by China

- China also has plans to develop another port in Kyaukphyu in the Rakhine state, including a proposed railway line from Yunnan directly to the port, but the progress there has been stalled by unrest in Myanmar.
- Gwadar port: China has also looked at the Gwadar port in Pakistan as another key outlet to the Indian Ocean that will bypass the Malacca Straits. The costs and logistics through CPEC are also less favorable than the Myanmar route to Chengdu. Transportation time on the railway line from the Myanmar border to Chengdu takes just three days.

1.68 BRICS BANK ADMITS UAE, BANGLADESH, URUGUAY AS NEW MEMBERS

WHY IN NEWS?

- New Development Bank (NDB) by BRICS group of nations has added United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Bangladesh as the new members on September 2, 2021.

About:

- This first batch of new members was added to the bank as part of its expansion drive.

New Development Bank

- New Development Bank was launched in 2015 by the BRICS Members- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. It was formerly referred as "BRICS development bank". It is headquartered in

Shanghai. The first regional office of the NDB was set up in Johannesburg, South Africa while second regional office was established in 2019 in Brazil, followed by in Russia.

Function of the Bank

- The bank mobilises resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the member countries as well as in other developing nations. It complements the existing efforts made by multilateral and regional financial institutions towards global growth and development.

Membership expansion

- NDB started its membership expansion and started formal negotiations with prospective members in 2020. Admission of the UAE, Uruguay and Bangladesh as Bank's first new member countries, was approved after a round of successful negotiations.

NDB's capital and projects

- The Bank has an authorised capital of USD 100 billion. It is open for subscription by members of the United Nations. NDB has approved about 80 projects in all of its member countries which amount to portfolio of USD 30 billion. Projects in areas of transport, water & sanitation, digital infrastructure, clean energy, social infrastructure and urban development are within the scope of NDB.

1.69 September 8: International Literacy Day

WHY IN NEWS?

- International Literacy Day is observed on September 8 every year in a bid to remind the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies.

About:

- The day was proclaimed by UNESCO on October 26, 1966 at the 14th session of UNESCO's General Conference. First International Literacy Day was celebrated in 1967. This tradition is being held annually for more than 50 years now.

Objective of the day

- The day was proclaimed with the objective of reminding international community about the importance of literacy for individuals, communities & societies and the need of intensified efforts to make more literate societies.

International Literacy Day 2021

- International Literacy Day 2021 was celebrated to explore how literacy can contribute in building a solid foundation for a human-centred recovery. It specially focused on interplay of literacy and digital skills needed by non-literate youth and adults. It also explored what makes technology-enabled literacy learning inclusive and meaningful in order to not leave anyone behind. It provided an opportunity to reimagine future literacy teaching and learning, keeping covid-19 pandemic in mind.

Theme 2021

- The theme of the day for 2021 is "Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide".

Literacy and SDGs

- Literacy goals are a significant part of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as well as its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Target 4 of the SDGs seeks to ensure that all youth and substantial proportion of adults including men and women, achieve literacy & numeracy by 2030.

Literacy in India

- According to census 2011, a total of 74.04 per cent are literate in India. It increased by 9.2 per cent as compared to last decade (2001-11). UNESCO highlights that, India will take another 50 years to achieve universal literacy that is by 2060

1.70 MEXICO SUPREME COURT DECRIMINALISES ABORTION

WHY IN NEWS?

- Supreme Court of Mexico has decriminalised abortion and has ruled that criminal penalties on terminating pregnancies are unconstitutional, in the state of Coahuila.

About:

- This ruling was meant for northern state of Coahuila. It now prevents women from being prosecuted for abortion.
- Currently, abortion is severely restricted in four of the states in Mexico. It is also legal in cases of rape or where mother's life is in danger.
- Thus, this decision could pave way to decriminalise abortion across Mexico.
- Under Mexican law, this ruling will now apply to all the other states in the country.
- With this ruling, women who were jailed for having abortions will now be released, with immediate effect.

Campaign for abortion rights

- Information Group on Reproductive Choice (GIRE) was campaigning for abortion rights in the country. High profile protests by feminist and women's rights campaigners have highlighted the need for greater reproductive rights.

Background

- Before this ruling, the state of Coahuila used to punish women, who have illegal abortions, with jail terms of up to three years.

Abortion in Mexico

- Abortion was a legal demand in country. Its legal status varied with respective state. However, Mexican Supreme court ruled on September 7, 2021 that penalizing abortion is unconstitutional and ordered to decriminalize it across the entire country. Procedure of abortion is available on request to any woman up to twelve weeks into a pregnancy in Mexico City as well as in states of Oaxaca, Veracruz and Hidalgo.

1.71 US-INDIA STRATEGIC CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP (SCEP)

WHY IN NEWS?

- Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri and U.S. Secretary of Energy Ms. Jennifer Granholm, co-chaired a virtual Ministerial meeting and launched the revamped U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP).

About:

- In the meeting, both the sides reviewed progress & major accomplishments and prioritized new areas for cooperation across several pillars.
- Indian side noted that, this revamped clean energy partnership will intensify the efforts to take advantage of complementarities that exists between both the countries.
- They also announced addition of a fifth Pillar on Emerging Fuels as both the countries seek to promote clean energy fuels.
- On the occasion, a new India-US Task Force on Biofuels was also announced in order to build the scope of work on cooperation in biofuels sector.

Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)

- SCEP was launched in line with U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership that was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden in April 2021 at the Leaders' Summit on Climate.
- It organizes inter-governmental engagement on the basis of five pillars of cooperation:
 1. Power and Energy Efficiency
 2. Responsible Oil and Gas

3. Renewable Energy
4. Sustainable Growth and
5. Emerging Fuels.

India-US cooperation on renewable energy fuel

- Both sides will put emphasis on upscaling cooperation under renewable energy pillar by working on various projects and system-friendly practices in the renewable energy sector. They also seek to strengthen electric grid in India to extend support to large-scale integration of renewables including smart grids, flexible resources, energy storage, and distributed energy resources.

Gas Task Force

- They also announced renaming the Gas Task Force to India-US Low Emissions Gas Task Force. This task force will continue to forge collaboration between Indian and US companies on innovative projects to provide support to India's vision of gas-based economy.

1.72 WORLD'S LARGEST PLANT TO SUCK CO₂ FROM AIR STARTS IN ICELAND

WHY IN NEWS?

- World's largest plant that has been designed to suck carbon dioxide (CO₂) from air and turn it into rock was started recently in Iceland.

About:

- This plant has been named as Orca, after the Icelandic word "orka", meaning energy.
- The plant comprises of four units. Each of the units are made up of two metal boxes. They are similar to the containers used for maritime transport, in appearance.

Who constructed the plant?

- Orca plant has been constructed by Switzerland's Clime works and Iceland's Carbfix.

Plant's capacity

- When the plant will operate at its full capacity, it will draw 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from air every year. As per US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this amount is equal to the emissions from about 870 cars.

How CO₂ will be collected?

- In order to collect the CO₂, Orca plant uses fans to draw air into the collector comprising of filter material inside. Once the filter material is filled with carbon dioxide, collector is closed and temperature is raised to release the carbon dioxide from the material. Following this process, highly concentrated gas can be collected. Collected CO₂ is mixed with water and are injected at a depth of 1,000 metres into nearby basalt rock where it is petrified.

Significance of the plant

- As per the proponents of carbon capture and storage (CCS), these technologies can become a major tool towards the fight against climate change.

What are the concerns?

- This technology is still prohibitively expensive and will take decades to operate at larger scale.

1.73 SEPTEMBER 10: WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

WHY IN NEWS?

- World Suicide Prevention Day was observed on September 10, 2021.

About:

- The day is observed annually to highlight several ways by which suicide can be prevented.
- It was first marked on September 10, 2003, as an initiative by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).
- IASP and WHO collaborated to create this day to spread an important message that "suicides are preventable".

- Following the first successful year, WHO formally agreed in 2004 to co-sponsor the event again and made it an annually recognized day.
- In 2011, around 40 countries organised the awareness events to mark this occasion.
- IASP organizes several events or programs across 60 countries to mark this day.

Cases of Suicide

- Suicide is an act of intentionally taking one's life. It has become a major public health issue in the time of Covid-19 pandemic and periods of lockdowns. As per report, every 40 seconds someone take their life in world. Around 75% of the cases are reported from low and middle-income countries. In 2019, 1.3% of deaths were due to suicide. According to the World Health Organization, suicide is a global phenomenon, which was the 17th leading cause of death in 2019.

International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP)

- IASP is an international suicide prevention organization, which was founded by Erwin Ringel and Norman Farberow in 1960. The organization is dedicated to prevent suicidal behaviour and provide a forum for mental health professionals, suicide survivors, crisis workers and other people affected by suicidal behaviour. It comprises of professionals and volunteers from 50 countries.

1.74 EL SALVADOR BECOMES 1ST COUNTRY TO ADOPT BITCOIN AS NATIONAL CURRENCY

WHY IN NEWS?

- El Salvador has become the first country in the world to accept Bitcoin as legal tender. The government of El Salvador claimed that the move will give many citizens of the country access to bank services for the first time.
- In addition, trading in cryptocurrency will help the country save around \$400 million in fees that is levied by banks and financial institutions on the money sent home by expats.
- The acceptance of Bitcoin as a legal currency by El Salvador follows a law approved by the country's parliament in June. At the time, the country allowed Bitcoin to be accepted as tender for all goods and services. The bill was approved within 24 hours of being presented to Congress by President Nayib Bukele.

1.75 CUBA BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY IN WORLD TO BEGIN VACCINATING TODDLERS

WHY IN NEWS?

- Cuba became the first country in the world to vaccinate children from the age of two against COVID-19, using home-grown jabs not recognised by the World Health Organisation.
- The communist island of 11.2 million people aims to inoculate all its children before reopening schools that have been closed for the most part since March 2020.
- Countries such as China, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela have announced they plan to vaccinate younger children, but Cuba is the first to do so. The Cuban vaccines, the first developed in Latin America, have not undergone international, scientific peer review.

1.76 SEPTEMBER 12: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

WHY IN NEWS?

- The International Day for South-South Cooperation is observed on September 12, every year by the United Nations.

About:

- The day highlights the efforts made by United Nations for cooperation among the developing countries.

- It is an initiative for the economic, social and political developments of the countries located in Southern region.

What is South-South Cooperation?

- Basically, the South-South cooperation refers to “technical cooperation” between developing countries in the Global South.
- Technical cooperation among countries of Global South started as a pioneering effort to strengthen diplomatic and international negotiating power among the nations, with the help of political dialogue.
- South-South collaboration helps the developing nations to share knowledge, expertise, skills, and resources in order to meet their development goals by concerted efforts.

Significance of the day

- According to United Nations, for South-South Cooperation, this initiative clearly shows the solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes for well-being the wellbeing of the nation. It also shows the national & collective self-reliance of the people and attainment of internationally agreed development goals as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA)

- The day also commemorates the adoption of “Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA). BAPA was adopted in 1978 to promote and implement technical cooperation among developing countries by 138 member states.

Objectives of South-South Cooperation

- South-South Cooperation was started with the objective of:
 1. Enhancing self-reliance among developing countries and finding out creative solutions for their development problems.
 2. Promoting self-reliance by exchanging experiences.
 3. Recognising and responding to the problems and requirements of the least developed countries in order to enable them to achieve a greater degree of participation in international economic activities.

1.77 COLEXION: LARGEST LICENCED NFT PLATFORM

WHY IN NEWS?

- Colexion, largest licenced NFT (non-fungible tokens) platform, announced the formal public launch.

About

- Colexion is a NFT platform for Sports, Entertainment & Art.
- NFTs are the next billion-dollar evolution that clearly states that digital ecosystem of sport, entertainment & art is perhaps the biggest thing to happen in upcoming years.
- Collectors and investors worldwide own collections of varied set of memorabilia which have been appreciated much over decades.
- This platform will soon enable the users to buy, sell and trade NFTs of their favourite superstars. It has also started a user pre-registration program.

What is Colexion?

- Colexion is an NFT trading and community platform. It provides users with trade, purchase, and interactive activities. It will feature NFT collections of global stars. Through this platform, users would be able to buy different tiers of blind boxes and own celebrity’s limited NFT collections. Each NFT collectible comprise of a unique record on the blockchain. Users will obtain ownership of this unique NFT collectible by purchasing it on the platform or trading on the Colexion marketplace. Colexion will accept general payment methods like credit cards in order to make it easy for mainstream consumers to participate.

Feature on Colexion

- Colexion will feature stars from field like sports, arts, entertainment, and other industries celebrities. Global sports stars will be the main partners in initial phase of the launch.

Aim of the Colexion

- Colexion has been launched with the aim of creating a significant entrance to virtual reality by means of NFT collections, trading, and community platforms. It will bring the Novel technology world through NFT.

1.78 AUKUS: NEW SECURITY PARTNERSHIP FOR INDO-PACIFIC

WHY IN NEWS?

- US President Joe Biden administration has announced a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-pacific. Security partnership was done between Australia, United Kingdom and United States.
- **About:**
This security grouping called AUKUS, will focus towards advancing strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Officials noted that, the trilateral grouping was security focused and is different but complementary to arrangements like the Quad.

Features of the partnership

- The central feature of this partnership comprises of a trilateral 18-month effort in order to help Australia in acquiring nuclear powered submarines which are quieter, more capable as compared to their conventional counterparts.
- Such submarines can be deployed for longer periods and needing to surface less frequently.
- These are nuclear powered submarines and not armed with nuclear weapons.
- AUKUS will also involve a new architecture of meeting and engagements between three countries.
- It also involves the cooperation across emerging technologies like AI, quantum technologies as well as undersea capabilities.

Why this partnership came into picture?

- Australia has felt increasing pressure from assertive China, like other countries in the region felt. So, Australia has sought to strengthen its partnerships with India, the U.S., the U.K. and Japan as well as through other plurilateral forums.
- Though QUAD is there but according to the officials, QUAD is not a response to China.
- However, this initiative was launched in response of Australia wanting to strengthen its feet with regard to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.

Background

- AUKUS partnership is a very rare because U.S. shared this kind of technology on nuclear powered submarines only once to UK, before sharing it with Australia.

1.79 SEPTEMBER 16: WORLD OZONE DAY

WHY IN NEWS?

- World Ozone Day or the International Day for preservation of Ozone Layer was observed.

About

- This day is celebrated every year and is dedicated to a cause which might not be visibly relevant but is important for the protection of the ozone layer.

History

- World Ozone Day was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly in 1994, after signing of the Montreal Protocol.
- Montreal Protocol on Substances depleting the ozone layer was signed by almost every country in 1987.

Significance of the day

- This day is significant in the light of depleting Ozone Layer. Ozone is the fragile layer of gas that protects people from harmful cosmic rays. But people have itself become a threat to the natural paradigm of the Earth. Thus, this day is celebrated with the objective of curbing all human-led ozone-depleting substances.

Theme of the Day

- Theme of the day in year 2021 is “Montreal Protocol – Keeping us, our food, and vaccines cool”. This theme is selected to highlight the long-term results of 35-year-old Montreal protocol, which is the first ever protocol to be ratified by all the 197 members of the United Nations.

India’s efforts

- Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change initiated “India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)” in 2019. This action plan aims to provide an integrated vision towards reducing refrigerant transition, curbing cooling demand and enhancing energy efficiency. The ICAP aligns with the international theme of the day in 2021.

About Montreal Protocol

- It was a deal for countries to curb the existence of all ozone-depleting substances like chlorofluorocarbon aerosols, halons, etc. that are widely used for cooling and refrigeration purposes. The usage of these harmful substances had resulted in a hole in the ozone layers in Antarctica. This hole was discovered in 1970 and led to acute global warming in the past 20 years.

1.80 INDIA-EL SALVADOR: THIRD FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS HELD

WHY IN NEWS?

- India and El Salvador held their Third Foreign Office Consultations in San Salvador.

About:

- Indian side was led by Secretary (East), Riva Ganguly Das while and El Salvadoran side was led by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Integration & Economic Promotion, Ambassador Adriana Maria Mira.
- During the consultations, both of them noted the warm and friendly relations between India and El Salvador.
- They also reviewed the bilateral relations in all the fields including health, trade & investment, tourism, energy, aquaculture, transport, aviation & infrastructure, consular & development partnership and culture.
- Both the countries decided to exchange their best practices in the area of public diplomacy.
- They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest such as cooperation in the United Nations and finally agreed to work closely across the multilateral arena.

El Salvador–India relations

- Diplomatic relations between both the countries were established on February 12, 1979. Embassy of El Salvador in London was accredited to India until June 2008 when El Salvador established its embassy in New Delhi. El Salvador currently maintains its embassy in New Delhi as well as an honorary consulate in Bangalore. Embassy of India in Guatemala is accredited to El Salvador. India has also an honorary consulate in San Salvador.

Consultations between both the countries

- Both the countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding in February 2004 to hold regular consultations between the respective foreign ministries. First Foreign Office Consultations were held in August 2012. In 2012 itself, they also signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of science, technology & innovation

1.81 36TH INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY

WHY IN NEWS?

- The 36th International Coastal Clean-up Day was celebrated on September 18, 2021, for the tenth consecutive year.

About:

- The day was celebrated by the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) at Visakhapatnam.
- As part of the day, ENC carried the Coastal Clean-up Drive at Yarada Beach, Bheemili Beach and other sea fronts in the premises of Naval units of Visakhapatnam.
- About 500 Naval personnel, Defence Civilians and their families overtook the clean-up drive by complying to the COVID19 protocols.

Aim of the drive

- The clean-up drive was launched with the aim of creating awareness among people to keep beaches clean, safeguarding our environment and inculcating the habit of respecting the coastlines which ultimately nurtures the marine biodiversity.

International Coastal Clean-up Day

- The day is traditionally held on the third Saturday of September. In 2021, this day is being observed on September 18th.

Theme of the day

- International Coastal Clean-Up Day 2021 is being celebrated under the theme: "Keep trash in the bin and not in the ocean".

History of the day

- The International Coastal Clean-up started by the Ocean Conservancy, in 1986. During that time, communities rallied together with a common goal of collecting and documenting the trash lying on their coastline. Since then, International Coastal Clean-up Community encourages people across the world to remove trash and debris from waterways, beaches & other water bodies, on the third Saturday of September, each year. People are also encouraged to identify the sources of litter, to bring in behavioural changes that cause pollution and to raise awareness regarding the marine debris problem.

1.82 15TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT ENERGY MINISTERS MEETING

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Power attended the 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting.
- **The theme of the meeting was "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper".**

About the Meeting:

- The meeting was aimed at coordinating efforts of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries in pursuing the goal of energy security and energy transition that will benefit the people of the region.
- India confirmed that ASEAN is a region of great importance and engagement with ASEAN has been, and will remain, a critical element of India's 'Act East' policy and strategy.
- Acting East is now a central element in India's Indo-Pacific vision.
- A brief status of the Indian energy transition plans, policies, challenges and efforts towards decarbonisation was also provided.
- Some of India's initiatives include National Solar Mission (NSM), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA), Smart City Mission (SCM), etc.

East Asia Summit:

About:

- Established in 2005, it is a forum of 18 regional leaders for strategic dialogue and cooperation on the key political, security, and economic challenges facing the Indo-Pacific region.

- The concept of an East Asia Grouping was first promoted in 1991 by the then Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad.
- There are six priority areas of regional cooperation within the framework of the EAS. These are – Environment and Energy, Education, Finance, Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases, Natural Disaster Management, and ASEAN Connectivity.

Membership:

- It comprises the ten member states of the ASEAN which are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, along with 8 other countries namely Australia, China, Japan, India, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the USA.
- It is an ASEAN-centred forum so it can only be chaired by an ASEAN member.
- Brunei Darussalam is the chair for 2021.

1.83 UNITED IN SCIENCE 2021: WMO

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released a report named United in Science 2021.
- It is a multi-organization high-level compilation of the latest climate science information.
- The report is coordinated by the WMO, with inputs from the United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization, and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Global Carbon Project, World Climate Research Programme and the Met Office (UK).

Climate Change:

- The pace of climate change has not been slowed by the global Covid-19 pandemic and the world remains behind in its battle to cut carbon emissions.
- It has caused only a temporary downturn in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in 2020.
- High latitude regions and the Sahel are likely to be wetter over 2021–2025, than the recent past.
- Reduction targets are not being met and there is a rising likelihood the world will miss its Paris Agreement target of reducing global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- There is an increasing likelihood that temperatures would temporarily breach the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial era, in the next five years.

Temperature:

- Average global temperature for the past five years was among the highest on record.
- Rising global temperatures are fuelling devastating extreme weather throughout the world, with spiralling impacts on economies and societies.
- Climate hazards such as heatwaves, wildfires and poor air quality combine to threaten human health worldwide, putting vulnerable populations at particular risk.

Greenhouse Gases:

- Concentrations of major greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continued to increase last year and during the first half of 2021.

Fossil Fuel Emissions:

- Fossil fuel emissions from coal, gas, cement, etc were back to 2019 levels or even higher in 2021.

Sea Level:

- Global mean sea levels rose 20 cm from 1900 to 2018. Even if emissions are reduced to limit warming to well below 2°C, global mean sea level would likely rise by 0.3-0.6 m by 2100, and could rise 0.3-3.1 m by 2300.

Loss of Work Hours:

- An excess of 103 billion potential work hours were lost globally in 2019, compared to 2000.
- It was due to heat-related mortality and work impairment, caused by rising temperatures.

Suggestions:

- More countries should develop long-term strategies that are consistent with the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- Net-zero commitments needed to be translated into strong near-term policies and action.
- Adaptation strategies are needed where they do not exist – especially in low-lying coasts, small islands, deltas and coastal cities.
- Covid-19 recovery efforts should be aligned with national climate change and air quality strategies to reduce risks from compounding and cascading climate hazards, and gain health co-benefits.

Way Forward

- World needs a breakthrough on protecting people and their livelihoods, with at least half of all public climate finance committed to building resilience and helping people adapt.
- And it needs much greater solidarity, including full delivery of the long-standing climate finance pledge to help developing countries take climate action.

1.84 WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING TWINS ARE 107-YEAR-OLD JAPANESE SISTERS

WHY IN NEWS?

- Guinness World Records has certified two Japanese sisters as the world's oldest living identical twins at 107.
- Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama were born the third and fourth of 11 siblings on Shodoshima island in western Japan on Nov. 5, 1913.
- Sumiyama and Kodama were 107 years and 300 days old as of Sept 1, breaking the previous record set by famous Japanese sisters Kin Narita and Gin Kanie at 107 years and 175 days.

1.85 IRAN BECOMES 9TH MEMBER OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION

WHY IN NEWS?

- Iran was officially admitted as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The decision to admit Iran as a full member was declared in the 21st summit of the SCO leaders in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- At the end of the 21st Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the leaders of the eight main members of the organisation agreed to change the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran from an observer member to a full member and signed the relevant documents.
- Accordingly, the technical process of Iran becoming one of the main members of the organisation has begun and Iran will henceforth cooperate and interact with member countries as the main member of the important regional organisation.

1.86 SEPTEMBER 27: WORLD TOURISM DAY

WHY IN NEWS?

- World Tourism Day is observed by the United Nations Organisations (UNO) on September 27, every year.

About:

Theme of the day

- In the year 2021, world tourism day was observed under the theme- 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth'. This theme was designated by World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic had a massive social and economic impact on the developed as well as the developing economies. So, the organisation believes that, tourism will help in the recovery and growth of the economies.

Significance of tourism sector

- As per the official website of United Nations Organisations (UNO), tourism is the most important economic sectors that employs and provide livelihood to one in every tenth person on Earth. In several countries, tourism represents more than 20 per cent of their GDP. The constant growth of the tourism sector in the last six decades reflects more progressive access towards tourism because of declining cost of transport and growth of middle classes worldwide.

Background

- UNWTO had instituted World Tourism Day during a meeting that took place in Spain. This meeting commenced the first celebration of the day in the year 1980. September 27 was chosen as the date to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the UNWTO Statutes. UNWTO statutes were adopted on September 27, 1970.

Tourism amid covid-19

- As per UNO, biggest crisis in the history of tourism was witnessed during 2020-2021. The international tourist arrivals were 85 per cent lesser as compared to tourism in 2019. It witnessed a drop of 65 per cent in 2020, in between January and May. However, despite a small revival in May 2021, emergence of new COVID-19 variants & continued restrictions are slowing the recovery of international travel. Though, domestic tourism has rebounded in many parts of the globe.

1.87 SWITZERLAND LEGALISES SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Voters in Switzerland decided to legalize same-sex marriage on September 26, 2021. It makes Switzerland one of the last countries in Western Europe to do so.

About:

- Apart from opening up the option of marriage to all couples, government also approved an amendment to Switzerland's marriage law which was put to voters in a referendum.
- This law also grants lesbian couples to get access to sperm banks as well as allows same-sex couples to adopt children.
- Under the amended law, same-sex couples will be able to have a civil wedding. They will be granted the same institutional and legal rights as heterosexual couples.
- They will be granted simplified naturalization for foreign partner.
- Law was approved through a referendum, in which polls predicted widespread approval for same-sex marriage in the country.
- The legislation change was accepted by 64.1 percent of voters. It also received strong support in urban as well as rural areas.

Background

- Federal government has approved the marriage laws in 2020 and in the line, parliament had also approved them, granting all couples the same rights. However, opponents were seeking to limit marriages to unions between a man and a woman. Thus, they collected signatures to force a referendum.

Same sex couple in Switzerland

- Same-sex couples in Switzerland have been able to enter into a civil partnership since 2007. It grants them some legal rights. However, it is not equal to a marriage.

Country not allowing same sex marriage

- Italy is the only country in Western Europe which does not allow marriage between same-sex couples. It only allows civil unions

1.88 GOI HOSTED FIRST INDIA-UK CONSULAR DIALOGUE

WHY IN NEWS?

- The government of India has hosted the first India-United Kingdom Consular Dialogue in the virtual medium.
- Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Devesh Uttam led the Indian delegation while the UK delegation was led by Jennifer Anderson. Both sides discussed the ways to strengthen people-to-people contacts as part of the India-UK 2030 roadmap.
- At this inaugural Consular Dialogue, the two sides discussed ways to further strengthen people-to-people contacts between the two countries as part of the India-UK 2030 roadmap.

1.89 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS OF INFORMATION

WHY IN NEWS?

- International day for Universal Access of Information is observed on September 28 every year by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

About:

- This day is observed because; torrential flow of information is the result of dominant paradigm considering the availability of information assign of the development. As a result, common perspective is that information is power.
- Thus, UNESCO realized the phenomenon induced by information and announced on November 17, 2015 that the International Day for Universal Access of Information will be observed on September 28.
- Various organizations and governmental bodies adhered to the declaration by UNESCO. Hence, UN General Assembly (UNGA) also decided to observe September 28 as the

Theme of the day in 2021

- In the year 2021, the day was observed under the theme- “The Right to Know – Building Back Better with Access to Information.” This theme highlights the fact that need of public for accurate and reliable information has never been stronger than now, amidst the struggle by countries to overcome COVID-19 pandemic rebuild communities and institutions.

Focus of the day

- The International day for Universal Access of Information (IDUAI) mainly focuses on making information accessible to all, in order to develop a robust structure of sustainable policies in society. The day also ensures that “access to information is continuous” at times of crisis in a bid to make a collectively informed decision to find a solution to it.

Background

- IDUAI was proclaimed on October 15, 2019 at the 74th UN General Assembly. Initially it was designated by the UNESCO General Conference. The day was inaugurated in November 2015 and was first observed on September 28, 2016. This day has been recognised as “International Right to Know Day” since 2002.

1.90 WORLD HEART DAY OBSERVED ON SEPTEMBER 29

WHY IN NEWS?

- World Heart Day is celebrated on 29 September annually to draw people’s attention to heart illness and the range of associated health issues.
- The day which is celebrated annually creates awareness of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) including heart disease & stroke and highlights the preventive and control measures.
- The day was created by the World Heart Federation, to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke. This year, the theme of World Heart Day is “Use Heart to Connect”.

1.91 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS OF FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

WHY IN NEWS?

- International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is celebrated on September 29, since 2020, to promote and implement global efforts to resolve the issue of food wastage.
- The United Nations General Assembly designated 29 September as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste in 2019. The theme for 2021 is Stop food loss and waste. For the people. For the planet.
- The main objective of this day is to take steps towards responsible consumption and production as well as zero hunger, along with working towards addressing the problem of climate change through sustainable food habits

1.92 INDIA TO BAG IAEA EXTERNAL AUDITOR JOB

WHY IN NEWS?

- India has been elected as the external auditor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a prestigious institution that promotes peaceful use of nuclear energy, for a period of six years from 2022 to 2027 after beating Germany and the United Kingdom among other countries.
- India's comptroller and auditor general GC Murmu was selected as the external auditor of IAEA and the ministry of external affairs (MEA).
- In the first round of voting for the post, Germany got 36 votes, India 30, the UK eight, Russia 11, Turkey 9, Egypt 20, Republic of Korea 2 and the Philippines 7 votes. The second round boiled down to the race between India and Germany with India managing to beat the European country.

CivilsTap Hlmachal

MCQS

QUESTION 1: Who is the current comptroller and auditor general (CAG) of India?

- A. Shashi Kant Sharma
- B. Rajiv Mehrishi
- C. GC Murmu
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 2: International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is celebrated on-

- A. September 27
- B. September 28
- C. September 29
- D. September 30

QUESTION 3: World Heart Day is celebrated on-

- A. September 26
- B. September 27
- C. September 28
- D. September 29

QUESTION 4: International day for Universal Access of Information is observed on-

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

QUESTION 5: India recently hosted first ever consular dialogue with-

- A. USA
- B. UK
- C. Israel
- D. Pakistan

QUESTION 6: Which country has recently legalised same sex marriage?

- A. India
- B. Switzerland
- C. Papua New Guinea
- D. Fiji

QUESTION 7: World Tourism Day is observed every year on-

- A. September 25
- B. September 26
- C. September 27

D. September 28

QUESTION 8: Which country has been recently admitted as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization?

- A. Iran
- B. Afghanistan
- C. Belarus
- D. Croatia

QUESTION 9: World's oldest living twins who are 107-year-old belong to-

- A. Japan
- B. Netherlands
- C. China
- D. Denmark

QUESTION 10: A report named United in Science 2021 has been released by-

- A. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- B. Indian Space Research Organisation
- C. International Union for Conservation of Nature
- D. World Meteorological Organization

QUESTION 11: Which of the following is not a member of East Asia Summit?

- A. China
- B. Australia
- C. India
- D. Bangladesh

QUESTION 12: International Coastal Clean-Up Day 2021 is being celebrated under the theme-

- A. Plastic is choking our oceans
- B. Keep trash in the bin and not in the ocean
- C. Think about our oceans
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 13: What is the capital of El Salvador?

- A. San Miguel
- B. San José
- C. Guatemala
- D. San Salvador

QUESTION 14: World Ozone Day or the International Day for preservation of Ozone Layer is celebrated on-

- A. September 13
- B. September 14
- C. September 15
- D. September 16

QUESTION 15: A security partnership between Australia, United Kingdom and United States AUKUS has been announced for-

- A. Indo-pacific
- B. Iran nuclear programme
- C. North Korean threat
- D. Afghanistan policy

QUESTION 16: Which is the largest licenced NFT (non-fungible tokens) platform?

- A. Colexion
- B. Rarible
- C. NFT Stars
- D. VeVe

QUESTION 17: The International Day for South-South Cooperation is observed on-

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

QUESTION 18: Which country in the world is the first to vaccinate children from the age of two against COVID-19?

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

QUESTION 19: Which country has become the first in the world to accept Bitcoin as legal tender?

- A. China
- B. El Salvador
- C. Bulgaria
- D. Czech Republic

QUESTION 20: World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on-

- A. September 8
- B. September 9
- C. September 10

D. September 11

QUESTION 21: World's largest plant that is designed to suck carbon dioxide (CO₂) from air and turn it into rock is unveiled in-

- A. Iceland
- B. Denmark
- C. Russia
- D. Sweden

QUESTION 22: India has recently launched a revamped Strategic Clean Energy Partnership with-

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

QUESTION 23: Supreme Court of which country has recently decriminalised abortion?

- A. Algeria
- B. Ireland
- C. Spain
- D. Mexico

QUESTION 24: International Literacy Day is celebrated every year on-

- A. September 6
- B. September 7
- C. September 8
- D. September 9

QUESTION 25: New Development Bank, headquartered in _____, was launched in _____ by the BRICS Members- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

- A. Shanghai, 2015
- B. Brasilia, 2015
- C. Shanghai, 2016
- D. Johannesburg, 2015

QUESTION 26: Yangon port is located in which country?

- A. China
- B. Myanmar
- C. Laos
- D. Cambodia

QUESTION 27: Universal Postal Union is headquartered at-

- A. Frankfurt
- B. Bern
- C. Paris
- D. London

Answers:

- 1. C
- 2. C
- 3. D
- 4. D
- 5. B
- 6. B
- 7. C
- 8. A
- 9. A
- 10. D
- 11. D
- 12. B
- 13. D
- 14. D
- 15. A
- 16. A
- 17. C
- 18. B
- 19. B
- 20. C
- 21. A
- 22. A
- 23. D
- 24. C
- 25. A
- 26. B
- 27. B



1.93 WORLD'S FIRST 'PLANT BASED' SMART AIR-PURIFIER "UBREATHE LIFE"

WHY IN NEWS?

- World's first Plant-based smart air-purifiers called "Ubreathe Life" by the scientists of Indian Institutes of Technology, Ropar & Kanpur, and Faculty of Management Studies of Delhi University.

About:

- Ubreathe Life amplifies the air purification process in indoor spaces like schools, hospitals, offices, and homes.
- This product is being developed by Urban Air Laboratory which is a start-up company of IIT Ropar.
- Product is being claimed as world's first, state-of-the-art 'Smart Bio-Filter', which can make breathing fresh.
- It has been incubated at IIT Ropar.
- IIT Ropar is a designated iHub – AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) by the Department of Science and Technology of government.

How Ubreathe Life works?

- The Ubreathe Life technology works by air-purifying natural leafy plant. In it, air of the room interacts with leaves and goes towards soil-root zone where maximum pollutants are purified. Technology used in this product is called as 'Urban Munnar Effect' and patent-pending "Breathing Roots". These technologies amplify the phytoremediation process of the plants.

Phytoremediation Process

- It is the process by which plants effectively remove pollutants from the air.

Features of Ubreathe Life

- This technology effectively improves indoor air quality by removing particulate, gaseous and biological contaminants. It also increases the oxygen levels in indoor space with the help of specific plants, UV disinfection and a stack of pre-filter, charcoal filter and HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filter. It also comprises of a centrifugal fan which creates a suction pressure inside the purifier and releases purified air.

1.94 NASA'S MARS ROVER COLLECTED ITS FIRST ROCK SAMPLE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Newest Mars rover of the American Space Agency, NASA has successfully collected the first rock sample for return to the Earth.

About:

- Rock sample was termed as the perfect core sample by the Perseverance rover's chief engineer, Adam Steltzner.
- In an earlier attempt, Perseverance drilled into much softer rock to crumble the sample, but it didn't get inside the titanium tube. Then the rover drove a half-mile for a better sampling spot to drill again.
- Perseverance arrived at the Jezero Crater of Mars in February 2021.
- The Jezero Crater is believed to be the home of a lush lake-bed and river delta billions of years ago.
- Thus, this mission was launched in search of rocks that could reveal about ancient life.
- NASA has planned to launch more spacecraft to get samples collected by Perseverance.

About Mars 2020

- Mars 2020 is a 'Mars rover mission' under NASA's Mars Exploration Program. It comprises rover Perseverance and a small robotic, coaxial helicopter Ingenuity. This mission was launched from Earth on July 30, 2020 on an Atlas V launch vehicle. It touched down the Martian crater Jezero on February 18, 2021. NASA named the landing site of the rover as Octavia E. Butler Landing on March 5, 2021. Perseverance and Ingenuity have been on Mars for 191 sols (196 total days) as of now.

What is Sol?

- Sol is a solar day on Mars. It is the apparent interval between two successive returns of the Sun to the same meridian as witnessed by observer on Mars. Sol is longer than the Earth day by 24 hours, 39 minutes, 35 seconds.

1.95 WHAT IS SCRUB TYPHUS?

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, a mystery fever was reported from parts of Uttar Pradesh. It claimed about 40 lives, mostly children in one week. This viral fever was identified as Scrub typhus.

About:

- Scrub typhus was reported mainly from Firozabad, Agra, Mainpuri, Etah and Kasganj districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the affected region and said a team of experts from King George's Medical University of Lucknow would probe the deaths of children.
- A team from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was also called to look after the situation.

What is scrub typhus?

- Scrub typhus is a re-emerging Rickettsial infection. This vector-borne disease has been earlier reported in India and other South Asian countries. This disease is marked by fever and rashes. It also affects the central nervous system, cardiovascular system, respiratory system, renal system and gastrointestinal systems. In complicated cases, it could lead to pneumonia, meningo-encephalitis, gastro-intestinal bleeding, acute renal failure, and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

Background

- This disease has been named "scrub" after the type of vegetation that harbours the vector. Typhus is a Greek word with meaning "fever with stupor" or smoke. This disease took the form of an epidemic during World War II in some countries while during the Second World War, it emerged as the most dreaded disease among soldiers of the Far East. In India, this fever out in an epidemic form during Second World War in Assam and West Bengal.

How does it cause?

- Scrub typhus fever is caused by a bacterium called Orientia tsutsugamushi. The name of the bacterium is of Japanese origin. The word "tsutsuga" means illness and "mushi" means insect. This disease spreads through bites of infected chiggers or larval mites. Bite marks are found on the armpit, genitalia or neck.

1.96 CHANDRAYAAN-2 SPACECRAFT COMPLETES 9,000 ORBITS AROUND MOON

WHY IN NEWS?

- Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft of India has completed more than 9,000 orbits around the Moon. Imaging and other scientific instruments on the aircraft have been providing excellent useful data since then

Lunar Science Workshop 2021

- Lunar Science Workshop 2021 is a two-day workshop, organised by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The workshop started on September 6, 2021. It was organised to commemorate the completion of two years of operation of Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft across the moon's orbit. The

workshop was live-streamed on ISRO's website and Facebook page to effectively reach the students, academia and institutes.

Two Years of Chandrayaan-2

- According to Chairman of ISRO, K Sivan, Chandrayaan-2 comprises of eight payloads and are conducting remote sensing and in-situ observations of the Moon at 100 km altitude from the lunar surface.
- On the occasion, K Sivan also released data product and science documents besides the data from Chandrayaan-2 orbiter payloads.
- Science data are being made available to academia and institutes in order to analyse them. It will also help in bringing more science from Chandrayaan-2 mission.

Chandrayaan-2 Mission

- It is the second lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), after Chandrayaan-1. It comprises of indigenously developed lunar orbiter, Vikram lander and Pragyan lunar rover. Mission was launched with the objective of mapping and study the variations in lunar surface composition, location and abundance of lunar water.

Launch of Chandrayaan-2

- Chandrayaan-2 was launched to the Moon on July 22, 2019 by a GSLV Mark III-M1. It reached to the Moon's orbit on August 20, 2019. It started the orbital positioning manoeuvres to land the Vikram lander. The lander and rover were scheduled to land on near side of the Moon, in the south polar region and conduct research for one lunar day. However, lander crashed after deviating from its intended trajectory. Its successful soft landing would have made India the fourth country to do so following the successful launch of Luna 9 by Soviet Union, Surveyor 1 by United States and Chang'e 3 by China.

1.97 CHINA SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES NEW EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE "GAOFEN-5 02"

WHY IN NEWS?

- China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite, Gaofen-5 02, into space, aboard a Long March-4C rocket, from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi Province.
- The Gaofen-5 02 satellite is the 24th in the series of Gaofen Earth-observation satellites of China, to monitor environmental protection efforts and boost its natural resources surveillance.
- Gaofen-5 02 is a hyperspectral satellite that will be used for comprehensive environmental monitoring, to improve the country's hyperspectral observation capacity of the atmosphere, water and land.

1.98 SKYROOT AEROSPACE BECOMES FIRST SPACETECH STARTUP TO FORMALLY TIE-UP WITH ISRO

WHY IN NEWS?

- A Hyderabad-based Space technology startup, Skyroot Aerospace has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The Framework MoU will allow the company to undertake multiple tests and access facilities at various ISRO centres and avail the technical expertise of ISRO for testing and qualifying their space launch vehicle systems and subsystems.
- Skyroot, founded by former ISRO scientists, is building the Vikram series of rockets to carry small satellites into space.
- The startup has already test fired its solid propulsion rocket engine named Kalam-5, whose bigger version will power its rockets.
- Skyroot Aerospace is building the Vikram series of rockets to carry small satellites into space. The first launch vehicle in the series, Vikram-1 is scheduled to be launch in 2022.

1.99 SPACEX LAUNCHED 4 AMATEURS ON PRIVATE EARTH-CIRCLING TRIP

WHY IN NEWS?

- SpaceX launched four amateurs on its first ever private flight.

About:

- SpaceX first ever “Earth-circling trip” was started onboarding two contest winners, a health care worker as well as their rich sponsor.
- This is the most ambitious leap in space tourism.
- This was the first time any rocket blasted off toward orbit with an all-amateur crew and no professional astronauts.
- Two men and two women are looking forward to spend three days on Dragon capsule circling the world.
- They will be circling the Earth on an unusually high orbit at 160 km higher than the International Space Station.
- Their flight will splash down off the Florida coast by September 19.
- Dragon capsule aimed for an altitude of 575 km, beyond the Hubble Space Telescope.

Who is leading the flight?

- Jared Isaacman is leading the flight, who made his fortune with the payment-processing company. Isaacman is the third billionaire to launch so far, following the brief space-skimming flights of Virgin Galactic’s Richard Branson and Blue Origin’s Jeff Bezos in July 2021. Apart from this, Arceneaux is flying who is set to become the youngest American in space as well as the first person with a prosthesis, a titanium rod in her left leg, to travel space.

Space Tourism

- This flight is the first entry in the competition for space tourism dollars by SpaceX founder Elon Musk.

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX)

- SpaceX is an American aerospace manufacturer, space transportation services & communications company. It is headquartered in Hawthorne, California. The company was founded in 2002 by Elon Musk with the objective of reducing space transportation costs and enable the colonization of Mars. SpaceX manufactures Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launch vehicles, rocket engines, crew spacecraft, Dragon cargo, and Starlink communications satellites.

1.100 ISRO TO DEVELOP REUSABLE GSLV MK-III LAUNCH VEHICLE

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working on technologies in order to develop reusable GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle.

About:

- This new technology will help ISRO to land its GSLV Mk-III launch vehicles vertically.
- It will be similar to what Elon Musk’s SpaceX is doing.
- With this technology, ISRO also seeks to recover the first and second stages of the launch vehicle.
- Development of reusable GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle will help ISRO is saving money as well.

How reusable vehicle is being developed?

- To develop reusable GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle, a “wholesale change or augmentation” has been made. One of the ways of bringing change is that, vehicle would have to rework its three stages. Second liquid stage will be replaced with a semi-cryo stage, while the terminal cryo stage C-25, will be converted into C-32. Apart from this, inert mass for the terminal stage will be optimised.

About GSLV Mk-III

- This launch vehicle, chosen as launch vehicle for Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft, is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle. It was developed by ISRO. It comprises of two solid strap-ons, a core liquid

booster as well as a cryogenic upper stage. It was designed to carry 4-tons of satellites into the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) as well as 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO). First developmental flight of GSLV Mk III called GSLV-Mk III-D1 had successfully placed GSAT-19 satellite into the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) on June 05, 2017. GSLV MkIII-M1 had successfully placed the Chandrayaan-2 into Earth Parking Orbit on July 22, 2019

1.101 LUNAR CRATER NAMED AFTER MATTHEW HENSON

WHY IN NEWS?

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named a Lunar crater at the south pole of the moon after the Arctic explorer Matthew Henson.

About:

- Matthew Henson was a Black man who was one of the first people who stand at the very top of the world, in 1909.
- Proposal to name the crater after Henson was put forward by Jordan Bretzfelder who is an Exploration Science summer intern with Lunar & Planetary Institute, in Houston.

Artemis Programme

- Artemis Programme was launched by NASA which aims to land the next slate of lunar explorers on the Henson Crater. They will be selected from NASA's increasingly diverse astronaut pool. Henson Crater is located between Sverdrup and de Gerlache craters at the south pole of the Moon. This program provides a cornerstone to study planetary processes as well as to create the infrastructure to advance the human exploration at the Moon and on Mars.

Who was Matthew Henson?

- Henson was an experienced explorer and skilled carpenter & craftsman. He stood at the front lines of almost a dozen Arctic expeditions that were organized by Robert Peary over the period of 18 years, including the one that reached the North Pole. Final push of that expedition was made by Henson. He was born in Maryland in 1866.

International Astronomical Union (IAU)

- IAU is a non-governmental organisation set up with the objective of advancing astronomy in all aspects such as promoting astronomical research, outreach, education, and development. IAU was founded in 1919 with its headquarter in Paris, France.

1.102 APPLE CO-FOUNDER STEVE WOZNIAK LAUNCHES SPACE START-UP PRIVATEER

WHY IN NEWS?

- Apple's co-creator Steve Wozniak has launched a new space start-up called Privateer Space, bringing potential competition to a field dominated by billionaires Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson.
- Privateer will be represented at the Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance Technologies Conference, scheduled to run from September 14-17 in Hawaii.
- The global space economy, which has attracted many top companies such as Tesla and Amazon, involves various activities such as research and development, space tourism and the utilisation of space.
- Bank of America predicts the space economy will have more than tripled in size by 2030, with a \$1.4 trillion market value.

MCQS

QUESTION 1: A new space start-up called Privateer Space has been launched by-

- A. Larry Page
- B. Steve Wozniak
- C. Richard Branson
- D. Ratan Tata

QUESTION 2: The headquarters of International Astronomical Union (IAU) are located at-

- A. London
- B. Paris
- C. Montreal
- D. Amsterdam

QUESTION 3: GSLV Mk-III chosen as launch vehicle for Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft is a _____ stage heavy lift launch vehicle.

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 4: Which private company has launched 4 amateurs on a private Earth-circling trip?

- A. SpaceX
- B. Blue Origins
- C. Virgin Galactic
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 5: Which company has become the first private company to formally enter into an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation?

- A. SpaceX
- B. Virgin Galactic
- C. Skyroot Aerospace
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 6: Gaofen-5 02, a new Earth observation satellite has been launched recently by-

- A. Japan
- B. South Korea

- C. Philippines
- D. China

QUESTION 7: Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft which completed 9,000 orbits around moon recently, was launched in-

- A. 2019
- B. 2018
- C. 2017
- D. 2020

QUESTION 8: Scrub typhus fever is caused by-

- A. Fungi
- B. Bacteria
- C. Protozoa
- D. Virus

QUESTION 9: Which rover of NASA has successfully collected the first rock sample from Mars for return to the Earth?

- A. Perseverance
- B. Ingenuity
- C. Freedom
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 10: The process by which plants effectively remove pollutants from the surroundings-

- A. Photosynthesis
- B. Phytoremediation
- C. Respiration
- D. Transpiration

Answers:

1. B
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. D
7. A
8. D
9. A
10. B

PERSON IN NEWS

1.103 LADAKH BASED DORJE ANGCHUK TO BE INDUCTED AS HONORARY MEMBER OF THE IAU

WHY IN NEWS?

- Dorje Angchuk, an Engineer in charge at the Indian Astronomical Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) at Hanle in the Ladakh region, has been admitted as an Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU).
- Angchuk is the **first and only Indian** to bag the position in the prestigious body. Angchuk has been selected for 'his passionate promotion of astronomy in the Ladakh region, through his excellent astrophotography'. He will be joining ten other Honorary Members from around the world, selected by IAU to join a select list of 20 international experts.

1.104 IRS OFFICER JB MOHAPATRA APPOINTED AS CBDT CHAIRMAN

WHY IN NEWS?

- IRS officer JB Mohapatra was appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. His appointment was approved today by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He has already served as the acting chairman of the CBDT.
- A 1985-batch IRS officer, Mohapatra was given the additional charge as CBDT chairman after the tenure of incumbent PC Mody ended this year in May.
- Earlier, Mohapatra had served as the principal chief commissioner of Income Tax for the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana region.

1.105 PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH TAKES OVER AS NEW DG OF BSF

WHY IN NEWS?

- Pankaj Kumar Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer from the Rajasthan cadre, has taken charge as the new Director General (DG) of the Border Security Force (BSF). Prior to this, he was serving as the special DG at the BSF headquarters in Delhi.
- The 58-year-old Pankaj Singh replaces IPS officer and Indo-Tibetan Border Police Director General (DG) SS Deswal who was holding the additional charge of BSF DG since July 2021.
- Apart from this, Sanjay Arora, a 1988-batch IPS officers from Tamil Nadu cadre, has taken over as the new DG of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

1.106 CENTRE APPOINTS ATUL BHATT AS CMD OF RINL

WHY IN NEWS?

- Atul Bhatt has been appointed as chairman and managing director (CMD) of disinvestment-owned steel company Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL).
- He was the CMD of state-owned consultancy firm MECON, which offers a full range of services required to set up a project from concept to commissioning including turnkey execution.
- PK Rath retired as CMD RINL on May 31, after serving the company for 38 years. RINL is a special steel-making player based in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The company, without any captive iron ore mines, owns and operates a 7.3-million tonne (MT) steel plant in the state

1.107 PPK RAMACHARYULU APPOINTED RAJYA SABHA SECRETARY-GENERAL

WHY IN NEWS?

- Rajya Sabha Chairman, M Venkaiah Naidu has appointed Dr PPK Ramacharyulu, who is the secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat since 2018, as the secretary general. He succeeds Desh Dipak Verma, who demitted office as secretary-general after serving the top post for four years.
- Ramacharyulu is the first insider to have risen from the ranks of the secretariat to the top post in the about 70 years of the Rajya Sabha.

1.108 ALEJANDRO PRIETO WINS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- Mexican photographer Alejandro Prieto has emerged as the winner of the Bird Photographer of the Year (BPOTY) 2021. He has won for capturing a photograph of a greater roadrunner staring up at the barbed-wire-clad border wall between the USA and Mexico, with what almost looks like a sense of bewilderment. The image has been given the title as 'Blocked'.
- The Bird Photographer of the Year comes with a cash prize of £5,000. He was chosen from among 22,000 entries from 73 countries.

1.109 SENIOR JOURNALIST AND FORMER RAJYA SABHA MP CHANDAN MITRA PASSES AWAY

WHY IN NEWS?

- Former Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist Chandan Mitra has passed away. He was the Editor and Managing Director of The Pioneer newspaper in New Delhi. Mitra was nominated as a member of the Rajya Sabha from August 2003 to 2009.
- In June 2010, Mitra was elected to another term in the Rajya Sabha by BJP from Madhya Pradesh. His term ended in 2016. In July 2018, he resigned from the BJP and joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

1.110 VARTIKA SHUKLA BECOMES FIRST WOMAN CMD OF ENGINEERS INDIA LTD

WHY IN NEWS?

- Vartika Shukla took charge as the first woman Chairperson and Managing Director of public sector enterprise Engineers India Ltd. She spearheaded the company's innovative energy programmes, including biofuels, coal gasification, waste to fuel and hydrogen energy, among others.
- A graduate in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Shukla joined EIL in 1988 and has extensive consulting experience comprising design, engineering, and implementation of complexes in refining, gas processing, petrochemicals and fertilisers.

1.111 CENTRE APPOINTS G.S PANNU AS OFFICIATING ITAT PRESIDENT

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Central Government has appointed G.S. Pannu as President of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. G. S. Pannu is presently a Vice-President, ITAT, New Delhi and will be Officiating President of ITAT with effect from September 6, 2021, till the appointment of regular President.

- Mr. Pannu was born on 01 Aug 1962 at Hoshiarpur (Punjab), he is a C.A and joined Government Service 14 September 2000. Presently posted as Vice-President at ITAT, New Delhi. Before joining ITAT, practised as a Chartered Accountant at New Delhi from 1986-2000.

1.112 IQBAL SINGH LALPURA NAMED CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES

WHY IN NEWS?

- Former IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura has been appointed chairman of the National Commission for Minorities. He hails from Punjab and has authored several books on Sikh philosophy.
- He has also won several awards such as the president's police medal, police medal for meritorious services, Shiromani Sikh Sahitkar Award and Sikh scholar award.
- Lalpura, during his tenure as IPS officer, served as SSP Amritsar, SSP Tarantaran, and Additional inspector general CID Amritsar.
- He joined BJP in 2012 after retirement. Lalpura has written nearly 14 books on Sikh philosophy and history, such as 'Japji Sahib ek vichar', 'Gurbaani ek vichar', and 'Raj Karega Khalsa'.

1.113 NIRLEP SINGH RAI IS NEW CMD OF NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LTD

WHY IN NEWS?

- State-owned fertiliser firm National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL) has Nirlep Singh Rai has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of the company.
- In a regulatory filing, NFL informed that Nirlep Singh Rai, Director (Technical), has been appointed as Chairman & Managing Director, on the Board of the company with effect from the date of his assumption of charge.

1.114 PM PAYS TRIBUTE TO SUBRAMANIA BHARATI ON HIS 100TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

WHY IN NEWS?

- Prime Minister has paid homage to Mahakavi Subramania Bharati on his 100th Death Anniversary.

About Subramania Bharati

- Subramania Bharati was a poet, freedom fighter and social reformer from Tamil Nadu. He was known as Mahakavi Bharathiyar which means a great poet.
- His songs on nationalism and freedom of India helped to rally the masses to support the Indian Independence Movement in Tamil Nadu.

Examples:

- "Kannan Pattu" "Nilavum Vanminum Katrum" "Panchali Sabatham" "Kuyil Pattu" are examples of Bharathi's great poetic output. He also published the sensational "Sudesa Geethangal" in 1908.

Bharati as a Journalist

- He began his career as a journalist and as a sub-editor in "Swadesamitran" in 1904.
- He edited and published the weekly journal "India", which was the first paper in Tamil Nadu to publish political cartoons. He also published and edited a few other journals like "Vijaya".

Bharthi as a social reformer

- Bharati was against the caste system. He declared that there were only two castes-men and women and nothing more than that.
- He condemned certain Shastras that denigrate women. Furthermore, he believed in the equality of humankind and criticised many preachers for mixing their personal prejudices while teaching the Gita and the Vedas.

- He also opposed child marriage, dowry and supported widow remarriage.

1.115 BHUPENDRA PATEL: NEW CM OF GUJARAT

WHY IN NEWS?

- Bhupendra Patel sworn in as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

About:

- He was sworn in by Governor Acharya Devvrat at the Raj Bhavan, Gandhinagar.
- He took oath a day after he was elected as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislature party leader.
- Cabinet members will be sworn in later after party will decide the names.
- In the Cabinet, it is likely that larger representation will be given to the legislators from Saurashtra and north Gujarat where BJP expects to improve its prospects in the Assembly election of the state.

Who is Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel?

- He is an Indian politician, chief minister of Gujarat and a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He is also a member of Gujarat Legislative Assembly and represents Ghatlodia constituency. He was born in July 1962 to a Gujarati Kadava Patidar family of Ahmedabad. He completed his Diploma in Civil Engineering from Government Polytechnic, Ahmedabad. He has also been associated with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. He is a builder by profession and a trustee of Sardardham Vishwa Patidar Kendra. He is also the chairman of the standing committee of Vishwa Umiya Foundation. He follows Akram Vignan Movement, which was founded by Dada Bhagwan.

Chief Minister of Gujarat

- Bhupendra Patel became chief minister of Gujarat on September 13 after Vijay Rupani resigned from the post on September 11, 2021. He was elected as the BJP legislative party leader as well as Chief Minister elect of Gujarat

1.116 JUSTICE VENUGOPAL APPOINTED AS ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF NCLAT

WHY IN NEWS?

- Justice M. Venugopal has been named as the new Acting Chairperson of the appellate tribunal, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). This is the third time in a row that an Acting Chairperson is at the helm of the NCLAT, after the retirement of permanent Chairperson Justice S J . Mukhopadhaya on March 14, 2020.
- The NCLAT was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- It is also an appellate tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), and by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- It is also the appellate tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

1.117 PAWAN GOENKA APPOINTED CHAIRPERSON OF IN-SPACE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Former managing director of Mahindra & Mahindra Pawan Kumar Goenka has been appointed as the chairperson of the Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-SPACe). During his R&D tenure in M&M, he led the development of the Scorpio SUV.
- IN-SPACe functions as an independent nodal agency under the Department of Space, Government of India. Goenka, an IIT alumnus, had been associated with two major automobile companies – General Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra – in his professional career that spanned over four decades.

He retired as the MD of the company on April 1, 2021, after spending 27 years with the Mahindra Group.

1.118 RAJA RANDHIR SINGH APPOINTED ACTING PRESIDENT OF OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF ASIA

WHY IN NEWS?

- India's Raja Randhir Singh has taken over as acting president of the Olympic Council of Asia as Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah appeals a guilty verdict in a Swiss forgery trial. A five-time Olympic shooter and an Asian Games gold medallist in 1978, Singh was promoted to the role from his position as an honorary life vice president.
- During the interim period, Raja Randhir Singh will carry out the duties and responsibilities of the OCA President, starting with the OCA Executive Board Meeting scheduled to be held on 13th September 2021."
- Singh had been part of OCA as secretary-general for 24 years since 1991 and is the longest-serving executive board member. He is also an honorary member of the International Olympic Committee.

1.119 ALKA NANGIA ARORA APPOINTS AS CMD OF NSIC

WHY IN NEWS?

- Alka Nangia Arora has been appointed as the Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC). She has taken the additional charge of the post on September 14, 2021.
- She is a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises. The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) is a Mini Ratna company established in 1955. It falls under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises of India and serves as a nodal agency for several schemes of the Ministry of MSME.

1.120 EMINENT KASHMIRI WRITER AZIZ HAJINI PASSES AWAY

WHY IN NEWS?

- Noted writer and former secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Aziz Hajini passed away. Hajini, born as Abdul Aziz Parray in north Kashmir's Bandipora, was appointed Secretary J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages in 2015.
- He has over twenty books in Kashmiri to his credit including poetry and criticism. Hajini won the Sahitya Akademi Award (criticism) in 2016 for his book 'Aane Khane' written in Kashmiri. He has also won the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award in 2013 for Za Gaz Zameen, Kashmiri translation of Abdul Samad's Urdu novel Do Gaz Zameen.

1.121 ODIA LITTERATEUR, SOCIAL WORKER AND JOURNALIST MANORAMA MOHAPATRA PASSES AWAY

WHY IN NEWS?

- Eminent Odia litterateur, social worker and journalist Manorama Mohapatra passed away. She was a former editor of Odia daily 'The Samaja'.
- She had won the Sahitya Academy Award in 1984, Soviet Nehru Award in 1988, Critic Circle of India Award in 1990, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Samman in 1991 and Rupambara Award in 1994.

1.122 RENOWNED PADMA SHRI AWARDEE ASTROPHYSICIST THANU PADMANABHAN PASSES AWAY

WHY IN NEWS?

- Renowned Theoretical physicist and cosmologist Professor Thanu Padmanabhan passed away. He was a distinguished professor at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA).
- He had authored over 300 research papers and several books, with important contributions in areas of gravitation, quantum gravity, and structure and formation of the universe.

1.123 AIR MARSHAL VR CHAUDHARI APPOINTED AS NEW IAF CHIEF

WHY IN NEWS?

- Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force Air Marshal, Vivek Ram Chaudhari has been appointed the next Chief of Air Staff.
- The current Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria is set to retire on September 30. Chaudhari had taken over as the vice chief on July 1 this year, after Air Marshal HS Arora retired.
- He is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Vayu Sena Medals.

1.124 FORMER ISRO CHIEF K KASTURIRANGAN TO HEAD EDUCATION MINISTRY'S PANEL

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union education ministry has formed a 12-member committee to develop new curriculums for school, early childhood, teacher and adult education.
- The panel tasked with developing four national curriculum frameworks (NCFs) will be headed by National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) drafting committee chairperson K Kasturirangan.
- The committee will discuss "position papers" finalised by national focus groups on different aspects of the four areas drawing inputs from state curriculum frameworks. The NCFs serve as a guideline for syllabus, textbook and teaching practices for schools in India.

1.125 AIR INDIA CHIEF RAJIV BANSAL APPOINTED CIVIL AVIATION SECRETARY

WHY IN NEWS?

- Rajiv Bansal appointed as Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Bansal is currently Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Air India. He is a 1988-batch IAS Nagaland cadre, Bansal was serving as additional secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas before Air India.
- He will replace the current Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola, who retires on 30 September. Last year in February, Bansal was appointed as the chairman and managing director of Air India for a second time.
- His appointment came just days after the government announced 100% stake sale of the debt-ridden Air India.

1.126 NOTED WOMEN'S RIGHT ACTIVIST AND AUTHOR KAMLA BHASIN PASSES AWAY

WHY IN NEWS?

- Women's rights activist and noted author, Kamla Bhasin, has passed away battling cancer. She started working on developmental issues in the 1970s and her work focused on gender, education, human development and the media.

- The noted poet and author has authored several books, especially on gender theory and feminism, many of which have been translated into more than 30 languages.

1.127 DEBABRATA MUKHERJEE ELECTED CHIEF OF AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

WHY IN NEWS?

- The chief marketing officer of United Breweries, Debabrata Mukherjee, was unanimously elected chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2021-2022.
- Mukherjee, who has over 27 years of experience, was responsible for managing brands such as Kingfisher, Heineken and Amstel. A publisher member on the council, Pratap G. Pawar of Sakal Papers, was unanimously elected deputy chairman for the year.
- ABC is a non-profit circulation-auditing organisation. It certifies and audits the circulations of major publications, including newspapers and magazines in India.

1.128 LT GEN GURBIRPAL SINGH TAKES CHARGE AS DG OF NCC

WHY IN NEWS?

- Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh has taken charge as the 34th Director-General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC). He succeeds Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Aich. He was commissioned into the PARACHUTE REGIMENT in 1987.
- An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Indian Military Academy, Dehradun as well as NCC, he attended the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington and the National Defence College Course in New Delhi.
- Lt Gen Singh has been a Company Commander in the counter-insurgency environment in Nagaland and the Siachen Glacier.

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MCQS

QUESTION 1: Who has been recently admitted as an Honorary Member of the International Astronomical Union?

- A. Diksha Shinde
- B. G C Murmu
- C. Dorje Angchuk
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 2: Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes?

- A. Atul Bhatt
- B. JB Mohapatra
- C. Rakesh Asthana
- D. Pankaj Kumar Singh

QUESTION 3: Who has been appointed as new Director General (DG) of the Border Security Force (BSF)?

- A. Rakesh Asthana
- B. Pankaj Kumar Singh
- C. Ashok Kumar Tandon
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 4: Who has been appointed as chairman and managing director (CMD) of disinvestment-owned steel company Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd?

- A. Pankaj Kumar Singh
- B. Ashok Kumar Tandon
- C. Atul Bhatt
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 5: Who has been recently appointed as Rajya Sabha secretary-general?

- A. PPK Ramacharyulu
- B. Desh Dipak Verma
- C. Nakul Rastogi
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 6: Alejandro Prieto has emerged as the winner of the Bird Photographer of the Year (BPOTY) 2021. He belongs to which country?

- A. USA
- B. Spain
- C. Portugal

D. Mexico

QUESTION 7: Senior Journalist and former Rajya Sabha MP Chandan Mitra who passed away recently, was a member of Rajya Sabha from-

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Punjab
- C. Haryana
- D. Bihar

QUESTION 8: Who has recently become the Chairperson and Managing Director of Engineers India Ltd?

- A. Atul Bhatt
- B. Nakul Rastogi
- C. Vartika Shukla
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 9: Who has been appointed as President of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal?

- A. G. S. Pannu
- B. Anand Radhakrishnan
- C. Kaushik Basu
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 10: Who has been appointed chairman of the National Commission for Minorities?

- A. Iqbal Singh Lalpura
- B. Shahid Akhtar
- C. Jaspal Singh
- D. N K Jain

QUESTION 11: Who has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of the National Fertilizers Ltd?

- A. Pawan Goenka
- B. Nirlep Singh Rai
- C. Vijay Goel
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 12: Prime Minister has paid homage to Mahakavi Subramania Bharati on his 100th Death Anniversary. He belonged to which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala

D. Andhra Pradesh

QUESTION 13: Who has sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat?

- A. Vijay Rupani
- B. Bhupendra Patel
- C. Nitin Patel
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 14: Who has been named as the new Acting Chairperson of the appellate tribunal, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) ?

- A. Justice M. Venugopal
- B. Justice S J . Mukhopadhaya
- C. Justice Khehar Singh
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 15: Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-SPACe)?

- A. Cyrus Mistry
- B. Atul Nanda
- C. Pawan Goenka
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 16: Who has been appointed as acting president of the Olympic Council of Asia?

- A. Raja Randhir Singh
- B. Pramod Khanna
- C. Malav Shroff
- D. Nita Ambani

QUESTION 17: Who has been appointed as the Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC)?

- A. Alka Nangia Arora
- B. Subhash Kumar
- C. Mallika Srinivasan
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 18: Aziz Hajini who passed away recently was a noted-

- A. writer
- B. painter
- C. actor
- D. cricketer

QUESTION 20: Manorama Mohapatra, who passed away recently, was a writer in which language?

- A. Bengali
- B. Maithili
- C. Marathi
- D. Odia

QUESTION 21: Thanu Padmanabhan who passed away recently was a famous-

- A. Odia writer
- B. Astrophysicist
- C. Cricketer
- D. Painter

QUESTION 22: Who will take over charge as new IAF Chief?

- A. RKS Bhaduria
- B. HS Arora
- C. Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 23: A 12-member committee to develop new curriculums for school, early childhood, teacher and adult education has been formed which will be headed by-

- A. TSR Subramaniam
- B. Radha Mohan Singh
- C. K Kasturirangan
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 24: Who has been appointed Civil Aviation Secretary recently?

- A. Rajiv Bansal
- B. Pradeep Singh Kharola
- C. Baba Kalyani Singh
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 25: Kamla Bhasin who passed away recently was-

- A. Author
- B. Painter
- C. Women's rights activist
- D. Both a and c

QUESTION 26: Who has been elected as chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations?

- A. Debabrata Mukherjee
- B. Alok Gupta
- C. Nakul Aggarwal
- D. None of the above

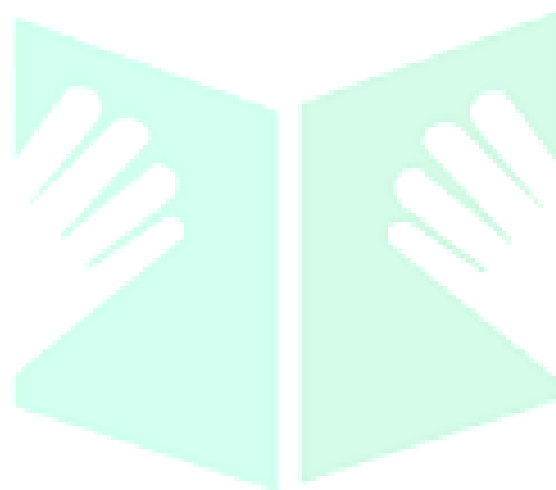
QUESTION 27: Who has taken charge as the Director-General of the National Cadet Corps?

- A. Hitendra Dave
- B. Gurbirpal Singh
- C. Nakul Chopra
- D. None of the above

Answers:

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

- 7. A
- 8. C
- 9. A
- 10. A
- 11. B
- 12. A
- 13. B
- 14. A
- 15. C
- 16. A
- 17. A
- 18. A
- 19. D
- 20. B
- 21. C
- 22. C
- 23. A
- 24. D
- 25. A
- 26. B



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ENVIRONMENT

1.129 ODISHA'S KENDRAPARA NOW INDIA'S ONLY DISTRICT TO HAVE ALL 3 SPECIES OF CROCODILIANS

WHY IN NEWS?

- Odisha's Kendrapara became the only district in India to be home to all three species of crocodilians found in the country.

Crocodiles:

- The crocodilian family** consists of 27 different species that are subdivided into three families: True crocodiles, alligators and caimans and gharials.

Which are those three crocodiles found in Odisha's Kendrapara District?

- Gharials (IUCN Status: Critically Endangered)
- Mugger crocodile
- Saltwater crocodile

About Mugger Crocodile:

- Mugger Crocodile is also called marsh crocodile or broad-snouted crocodile. It is an egg-laying and hole-nesting species.
- It is native to freshwater habitats from southern Iran and Pakistan to the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka.
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable
- Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1
- CITES: Appendix I.
- Threats: a) Habitat destruction, b) Entanglement and drowning in fishing equipment, and c) Increasing incidents of conflict with humans.

About Saltwater Crocodile:

- It is considered the Earth's largest living crocodile species native to saltwater habitats and brackish wetlands.
- Habitat: It is found throughout the east coast of India, Southeast Asia and northern Australia.
- Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha houses 70% of India's estuarine crocodiles or saltwater crocodiles.
- IUCN Status: Least Concern
- Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1
- Threats: a) Illegal hunting b) habitat loss and c) antipathy toward the species because of its reputation as a man-eater

1.130 INDIA BECOMES FIRST ASIAN NATION TO LAUNCH 'PLASTICS PACT'

WHY IN NEWS?

- India has become the first country in Asia to launch a Plastics Pact, a new platform to promote a circular system for plastics.
- The India Plastic Pact platform was launched on September 03, 2021, by the British High Commissioner to India, Alexander Ellis, at the 16th Sustainability Summit hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The new platform 'India Plastic Pact' is a joint effort of the World-Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and envisions to create a world where plastic is valued and does not pollute the environment.

- The Pact targets the businesses to transition towards a circular economy for plastics by 2030.
- The initiative is supported by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) and WRAP, a global NGO based in the UK, and endorsed by the British High Commission in India.

1.131 TAMIL NADU TO SET UP INDIA'S FIRST DUGONG CONSERVATION RESERVE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Government of Tamil Nadu recently announced its plan to set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in the Palk Bay on the southeast coast.

About:

- Dugong or sea cow is an **endangered** marine mammal. It is facing extinction because of habitat loss, sea pollution, and loss of seagrass.
- Dugong is found in Gulf of Mannar and at Palk Bay in Tamil Nadu.
- Gulf of Mannar is a shallow bay area between south eastern end of Tamil Nadu and western Sri Lanka.
- With the help of community participation, Government will also construct a Dugong Marine Conservation Reserve in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay area to protect the species.
- Marine Conservation Reserve will be established over an area of 500km in Palk Bay.
- It is believed that, an estimated 200 individuals live in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar area which would largely benefit from Tamil Nadu government's recent decision to establish conservation reserve.

About Dugong

- Dugong is a sea mammal and is the only living species of the order Sirenia. The mammal is restricted to coastal habitat because of seagrass, which is a major part of its diet. They have a distinct dolphin-like tail, different skull form and teeth pattern. Its closest relative is Steller's Sea cow, which got extinction in eighteenth century. The IUCN has listed dugong as a "vulnerable to extinction species". On the other hand, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species has limited or banned the trade of derived products.

1.132 CHANDIGARH'S FIRST POLLEN CALENDAR CAN HELP IDENTIFY POTENTIAL ALLERGY TRIGGERS AND GUARD SENSITIVE PEOPLE FROM EXPOSURE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Chandigarh has got its first pollen calendar. This can identify potential allergy triggers and provide a clear understanding for clinicians as well as allergy sufferers about their causes to help limit their exposure during high pollen loads.

What is Pollen?

- Pollen is a fine yellowish powder released by plants. They are essential for the sexual reproduction of flowering plants and plants that produce cones. Each pollen grain contains male gametes necessary for fertilisation.

Pollen and Allergies

- Pollen produced by plants are considered major outdoor airborne allergens responsible for allergic rhinitis, asthma, and atopic dermatitis in humans.
- In India, about 20-30% of the population suffers from allergic rhinitis/hay fever and approximately 15% develop asthma.

What are Pollen Calendars?

- Pollen calendars represent the time dynamics of airborne pollen taxa in graphical form in a particular geographical area.

- They yield readily accessible visual details about various airborne pollen taxa present throughout the year, with their seasonality in a single picture. They are also location-specific, with concentrations closely related to locally distributed flora.

What is the significance of Pollen Calendars?

- Pollen Calendars will help prepare early advisories and disseminate them through media channels to the citizens so that they can use protective gear during the period when the concentration of allergic pollen will be high.
- It is also a preventive tool for sensitive people to diminish exposure when the levels of aero-pollen are high during specific periods

1.133 IUCN: 37% OF SHARKS AND RAYS THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION

WHY IN NEWS?

- According to a new red list by IUCN, world's sharks and rays have been witnessing declines in their populations since 2014 and are now threatened with extinction.

About:

- New red list was released by IUCN at global conference with the aim of protecting dwindling species.
- It notes that, there are signs of hope as fishing quotas have allowed several tuna species to be put on their path to recovery.
- About 37% of sharks and rays across the world are considered endangered as of 2021. In 2014, this amounted to 33%.
- This upward trend was the result of overfishing, loss of habitat and climate change,
- Oceanic shark populations have also decreased by 71% since 1970.

Can we recover their population?

- IUCN highlighted that, progress can be made towards reviving tuna populations and other species, if states and other actors take right actions.

IUCN Red List Unit

- The red list by IUCN reassesses hundreds of species each year. Out of 138,000 species that were tracked, more than 38,000 are threatened with extinction. Many of the planet's ecosystems are mainly strained by global warming, deforestation, pollution, habitat degradation and other threats.

Declining bird population

- More than half of the bird of prey species are reducing in population worldwide. 18 species are critically endangered. Warming temperatures and melting ice will reduce the emperor penguin colonies by 70 % by 2050 and 98% by 2100.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

- IUCN is an international organization that works in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland. It is involved in data gathering and analysis, field projects research, advocacy, field projects, and education. It was established in 1948.

1.134 UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, BHUPENDRA YADAV, LAUNCHED A PORTAL CALLED PRANA

WHY IN NEWS?

- PRANA Portal will be used to track the progress of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in order to comply with India's commitment to ensure clean air and blue skies to everybody.
- This portal was launched on the occasion of 'International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies' in non-attainment cities (NAC).

- Non-attainment cities are those cities that failed to meet the National air quality standards in a five-year period.
- With India's efforts, 86 cities showed a better air quality in 2019 and it increased to 104 cities in 2020.

India's target

- Environment ministry and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) seeks to achieve 20-30 percent reduction in particulate matter (PM10 as well as PM2.5) concentrations in India by 2024.

How India will achieve its target?

- In order to achieve the target, India has prepared and is implementing city-specific action plans to improve air quality in 132 NACs/Million Plus Cities. It targets city-specific air polluting sources like soil & road dust, vehicles, MSW burning, domestic fuel, construction material and industries.

About PRANA Portal

- PRANA portal will help in tracking physical and financial status of city air action plan implementation. It will also disseminate information on air quality to the public.

India-Japan High Level Policy Dialogue

- Indian Environment minister and Japanese Environment Minister Koizumi Shinjiro also held first ever India-Japan High level policy dialogue. They discussed issues related to air pollution, climate change, sustainable technologies & transport, marine litter, fluorocarbons and COP-26. India and Japan are also strengthening bilateral cooperation on circular economy & resource efficiency, green hydrogen, low carbon technology etc.

1.135 PIYUSH GOYAL APPOINTED AS INDIA'S SHERPA FOR G20

WHY IN NEWS?

- Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, has been appointed as India's Sherpa for G20.

About:

- G20 is an influential grouping which brings together the major economies of world.
- Next G20 Summit is scheduled to take place from October 30 to 31, 2021 under Italian Presidency.
- India will hold the G20 Presidency from December 1 2022 and will also convene G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.
- India will also be part of the G20 Troika (preceding, current, and incoming G20 Presidencies) from December 1, 2021 to November 30, 2024.
- Since 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been leading India's representation at G20 Summits.

G20 (or Group of Twenty)

- G20 is an intergovernmental forum consisting of 19 countries and the European Union (EU). This grouping works to address major issues related to the global economy like international financial stability, sustainable development and climate change mitigation. G20 comprises of largest economies, including industrialised & developing nations, of the world. It collectively accounts for 90 percent of gross world product, 75-80 percent of international trade, half of world's land area and two-thirds of the global population.

Background

- This grouping was founded in 1999 following a several world economic crises. Since 2008, it organises summits at least once a year, involving each member's head of government or state, foreign ministers, finance minister, and other high-ranking officials. EU is represented by European Commission and European Central Bank.

Who is a Sherpa?

- Sherpa is the personal representative of the head of state or government who prepares an international summit, specially the annual G7 and G20 summits. Sherpa is generally influential, but they do not have any authority to make final decision regarding any given agreement.

1.136 INDIAN BIOLOGIST SHAILENDRA SINGH WINS GLOBAL AWARD IN TURTLE CONSERVATION

WHY IN NEWS?

- Indian biologist Shailendra Singh has been awarded the Behler Turtle Conservation Award for bringing three critically endangered turtle conservation species back from the brink of extinction.
- Shailendra Singh was named to lead the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA)/ Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India turtle programme.
- The award has been bestowed by several global bodies involved in turtle conservation such as Turtle Survival Alliance, IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, Turtle Conservancy, and Turtle Conservation Fund.
- The Behler Turtle Conservation Award was established in 2006 to recognise outstanding achievements, contributions and leadership excellence in international turtle conservation and biology.

1.137 INDIA-DENMARK LAUNCH 'CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON OFFSHORE WIND'

WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, R. K. Singh met Minister for Climate, Energy & Utilities of Denmark, Dan Jorgensen in New Delhi.

About:

- During the meeting, it was highlighted that energy transition towards green is an important part of India's policy.
- India has set a target of 450 Giga Watt of Renewable Energy capacity by 2030.
- Currently, India's whole renewable energy portfolio is at 146 GW.
- Minister noted that, among G-20 countries, only India's actions are in consonance with the Paris Climate agreement with respect to global rise in temperature.
- India is also looking towards making Ladakh, Andaman Nicobar Island and Lakshadweep Island green in energy and transport.
- Both the ministers jointly launched 'Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind' under the Green Strategic Partnership.

Green Strategic Partnership

- India and Denmark launched the Green Strategic Partnership in the year 2020 to deliver the sustainable solutions in India. For this, Ministry of Commerce & Industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Intellectual Property (IP) Cooperation with Denmark. Green Strategic Partnership focuses on expanding green growth, economic ties and cooperation on global challenges like climate change.

What is green growth?

- Green growth is the path of economic growth which uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.
- Key points of Green Strategic Partnership
- Under the partnership, Danish companies with niche technologies and expertise offered to help India to meet its air pollution control targets.
- It also provided mechanism to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic and cooperation in water efficiency & water loss.

1.138 ENGLAND: FIRST COUNTRY TO MANDATE NEW HOMES TO INSTALL EV CHARGERS

WHY IN NEWS?

- British government has announced to introduce legislation in 2021, under which all the newly built homes and offices will require to feature electric vehicle chargers in England.

About:

- Under the legislation, all new homes and offices will be required to feature smart charging devices which can automatically charge vehicles during off-peak periods.
- According to it, new office blocks will require to install a charging point for every five parking spaces.
- This law will make England the first country in the world, that require all new homes to have EV chargers.
- The legislation is part of the movement that seeks to rapidly boost the number of chargers in England ahead of UK's 2030 ban of new fossil-fuel vehicles.
- Home and office EV charger proposal is expected to start in 2022.

Significance of the legislation

- This legislation will help in boosting confidence and help those who transition from gas cars in overcoming the range anxiety because many homes in England do not have off-street parking or garages.

Background

- The government originally announced a mandate that all new homes have a charge point with the parking space in 2019.

UK's 2030 ban of new fossil-fuel vehicles

- United Kingdom Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, had recently announced to ban the sale of gasoline-powered vehicles from 2030, noting the future of personal mobility on electric vehicles. The ban on gasoline vehicles had initially been proposed for 2040. But it has been brought forward by ten years under the ten-point plan of the UK of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Hybrid vehicles would be phased out by 2035.

1.139 INDIA AND US LAUNCH THE CLIMATE ACTION AND FINANCE MOBILIZATION DIALOGUE

WHY IN NEWS?

- India and the United States of America (USA) have launched the "Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)". It will strengthen India-US bilateral cooperation on climate and environment.
- The dialogue was launched by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Bhupender Yadav and Mr John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC) in New Delhi.
- "Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)" is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021. The other track is Strategic Clean Energy Partnership.
- CAFMD will demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities

1.140 WORLD'S FIRST 'FIVE-COUNTRY BIOSPHERE RESERVE'

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) was declared as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

About MDD:

- The biosphere reserve covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers and stretches across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia.
- The total area of the reserve is a million hectares - in the so-called 'Amazon of Europe', which is now the largest riverine protected area in Europe.

- The biosphere “represented an important contribution to the European Green Deal (climate action plan) and contributed to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in the Mura-Drava-Danube region.”
- The strategy’s aim is to revitalise 25,000 km of rivers and protect 30% of the European Union’s land area by 2030.

Importance of the MDD:

- The area is one of the richest in Europe in terms of species diversity.
- It is home to floodplain forests, gravel and sand banks, river islands, oxbows and meadows.
- The area is home to the highest density in Europe of breeding pairs of white-tailed eagle and endangered species such as the little tern, black stork, otters, beavers and sturgeons.
- It is also an important stepping stone for more than 2,50,000 migratory waterfowls every year.

1.141 POWER FINANCE CORPORATION ISSUES INDIA’S FIRST-EVER EURO GREEN BOND

WHY IN NEWS?

- The leading power sector NBFC, Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), successfully issued its maiden Euro Green Bond. The 7-year Euro 300 million Bond has been priced at 1.841 per cent.
- This Euro Green Bond is the first-ever Euro denominated Green bond issuance from India. It is also the first-ever Euro issuance by an Indian NBFC. With the issuance, PFC has also forayed into the European market for its international fundraising.

1.142 INDIA’S CLEAN ENERGY COMMITMENTS AT UN SUMMIT

WHY IN NEWS?

- During the first leader-level meeting on energy, under the UN General Assembly, India has made commitments to increase the renewable energy installed capacity to 450 GW by 2030.

About

- India has also committed to develop and implement a National Hydrogen Energy Mission in order to boost the annual green hydrogen production to 1 MT by 2030.
- It also announced a Production Linked Incentive Scheme which will help in adding 10 GW solar PV manufacturing capacity by 2025.
- India’s commitments were the part of new multi-billion-dollar commitments that countries made in order to increase renewables and access to electricity & clean cooking technologies at the critical summit.
- The summit was aimed at boosting efforts towards reducing the ranks of about 800 million people living in energy poverty. It also seeks to set the world on a trajectory towards net-zero-emissions by 2050.

Production Capacity of Compressed Biogas

- India also announced to establish a 15 MMT production capacity of compressed biogas by 2024 and achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by the year 2025-26. It seeks to enhance energy efficiency in agriculture, industry, buildings and transport sectors besides promoting energy-efficient appliances & equipment in a bid to reduce India’s emissions intensity of GDP by 33-35 per cent by 2030.

Commitments by other countries

- About 35 countries including Small Island, Developing States and major emerging & industrialized economies have made new energy commitments in the form of Energy Compacts. They also announced partnership initiatives with the aim of providing and improving access to reliable electricity.

MCQS

QUESTION 1: India plans to boost the annual green hydrogen production to 1 MT by-

- A. 2022
- B. 2025
- C. 2030
- D. 2032

QUESTION 2: India's first-ever Euro Green Bond has been recently issued by-

- A. Rural Electrification Corporation
- B. Power Finance Corporation
- C. Powergrid Corporation India
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 3: Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD), declared as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve' by UNESCO, *does not* include-

- A. Slovakia
- B. Croatia
- C. Hungary
- D. Austria

QUESTION 4: India and which country has launched the "Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)?"

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

QUESTION 5: Which country is bringing the legislation to become the first country to mandate new homes to install EV chargers?

- A. England
- B. Norway
- C. Denmark
- D. Sweden

QUESTION 6: With respect to greening of energy sector, India has set a target of _____ Giga Watt of Renewable Energy capacity by _____.

- A. 450, 2025
- B. 550, 2030

C. 450, 2030

D. none of the above

QUESTION 7: Who has been recently awarded the Behler Turtle Conservation Award for turtle conservation?

- A. Jagdish Bhagwati
- B. Mohammad Azam
- C. Shailendra Singh
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 8: India will hold the next G20 Presidency in-

- A. 2022
- B. 2023
- C. 2024
- D. 2025

QUESTION 9: PRANA portal has been launched by environment minister to-

- A. Track forests cover in hilly areas.
- B. Tracks the progress of the national clean air programme.
- C. Promote sustainable aquaculture
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 10: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is headquartered at-

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

QUESTION 11: Which city recently released its first Pollen Calendar that can help identify potential allergy triggers and guard sensitive people from exposure?

- A. Aligarh
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Chandigarh
- D. Delhi

QUESTION 12: India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve is going to be setup in-

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh

D. Kerala

QUESTION 13: Which country has become first Asian nation to launch 'Plastics Pact'?

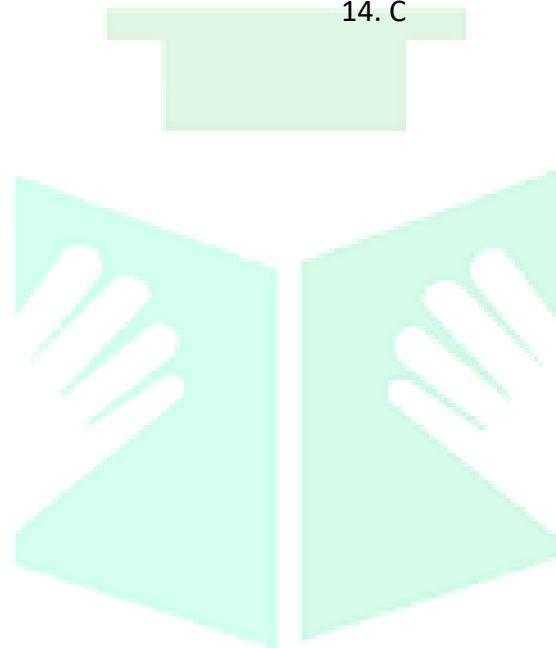
- A. India
- B. Bhutan
- C. Bangladesh
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 14: Which district in Odisha became the only district in India to be home to all three species of crocodilians found in the country?

- A. Kendujhar
- B. Kandhamal
- C. Kendrapara
- D. Kalahandi

Answers:

- 1. C
- 2. B
- 3. A
- 4. B
- 5. A
- 6. C
- 7. C
- 8. A
- 9. B
- 10. B
- 11. C
- 12. A
- 13. A
- 14. C



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1.143 RBI INCLUDES PM SVANIDHI SCHEME BENEFICIARIES UNDER PIDF SCHEME

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced to include street vendors of tier-1 and tier-2 centres, identified as part of the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) as beneficiaries under the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme.
- Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme was launched by RBI to encourage deployment of Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure (both physical and digital modes) in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and northeastern states.
- So now RBI has specifically allowed street vendors of Tier-1 and Tier-2 centres, to be part of PIDF Scheme. The street vendors in tier-3 to tier-6 centres will continue to be covered under the Scheme by default. PIDF presently has a corpus of Rs. 345 crore.

1.144 EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LAUNCHED DIGITAL FDS

WHY IN NEWS?

- Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) has launched a new initiative that enables Google Pay users to book fixed deposits (FDs) on Google Pay in just 2 minutes without opening a bank account.

About:

- This functionality of booking FDs will be available for Google Pay users who are using the app from Android devices.
- Collaboration between SFB and google way was done ahead of the SFB's 5th anniversary on September 5th, 2021.
- Under this functionality, principal and interest of the FD will go directly to the Google Pay user's existing bank account once the FDs are matured.

Equitas SFB's FD

- Equitas SFB's offers high FD returns as compared to other private lenders or public state lenders. Under RBI Scheduled Commercial Bank, deposits in Equitas are covered through a deposit guarantee up to Rs 5 lakhs per depositor. Customers get returns of up to 6.35% for an FD of one year.

How this will work?

- The proceeds will automatically go to Google Pay user's existing Google Pay linked bank account, on maturity. From the Equitas Bank Spot on Google Pay platform, Google Pay users can track their deposit, add new ones and place order for premature withdrawal.

What will happen on Premature withdrawal?

- If a Google Pay user go for premature withdrawal of deposits, proceeds will reach their bank account the same day.

Equitas small finance Bank FD

- This small finance bank was founded in 2016 as a microfinance lender. It became a scheduled bank in 2017. It is headquartered in Chennai, and is a subsidiary of holding company Equitas Holdings Ltd.

1.145 SBI OPENED A FLOATING ATM ON DAL LAKE IN J&K'S SRINAGAR

WHY IN NEWS?

- State Bank of India has opened a floating ATM on a Houseboat at Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar for the convenience of locals and tourists. The floating ATM was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Dinesh Khare.
- This is not the first time that SBI has launched a floating ATM as back in 2004, the bank took this initiative in Kerala. The SBI installed a floating ATM at Jhankar yacht, which operates between Ernakulam and Vaypeyan region, owned by Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC)

1.146 FM CHAIRS 24TH MEETING OF FSDC

WHY IN NEWS?

- Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, chaired the 24th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

- FSDC is an apex-level body that was set by the government of India in order to create a super regulatory body. Its establishment was first recommended by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008. Finally in 2010, Pranab Mukherjee (the then Finance Minister of India) decided to set up this autonomous body to deal with macro prudential and financial regularities of the entire financial sector in India. It is not a statutory body. No funds are allocated separately to the council to undertake its activities.

Background

- In order to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism of maintaining financial stability, to enhance inter-regulatory coordination and to promote financial sector development, FSDC was set up as the apex level forum in December 2010.

Function of the FSDC

- This council is considered as India's initiative to be better conditioned in preventing any economic crisis in future.

Members of the council

- Chairperson: Union Finance Minister of India
- Other Members:
 1. Governor of Reserve Bank of India
 2. Finance Secretary and/ or Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs
 3. Secretary of Department of Financial Services
 4. Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 5. Secretary of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 6. Chief Economic Advisor to Ministry of Finance
 7. Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India
 8. Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
 9. Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
 10. Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
 11. Additional Secretary to Ministry of Finance

1.147 RBI TO SETUP COMMITTEE ON NUE LICENSES

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will set up a committee to scrutinize applications and give recommendations on New Umbrella Entity (NUE) licenses. The 5 member committee will be headed by **Shri. P. Vasudevan**.

- The committee will be responsible for looking into several aspects of NUE, from the macroeconomic impact of such a step to the security risks. The committee's recommendations will be taken into consideration before doling out the licences.
- NUEs will establish their own payment infrastructure to compete with the National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI). The government hopes to build a settlement system similar to the unified payments interface (UPI) with the NUEs.
- The system will be focused on small and medium enterprises, merchants and consumers. The RBI had in August 2020 issued guidelines for creating "for-profit NUEs"

1.148 IMF INCREASES INDIA'S QUOTA OF SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS (SDR)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has made an allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 12.57 billion to India. (approx USD 17.86 billion). With this, the total SDR holding of India has gone upto SDR 13.66 billion (equivalent to around USD 19.41 billion).
- SDR is one of the components of the Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) of India. Hence the Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) has also increased now. IMF has allocated a total of SDR 456 billion to all its member countries out of which India has got SDR 12.57.

1.149 RBI ANNOUNCES OPENING OF THIRD COHORT UNDER THE REGULATORY SANDBOX

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced the theme for the **Third Cohort** under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) as 'MSME Lending'. The application for the Third Cohort will be kept open from October 01, 2021 to November 14, 2021.
- **Regulatory Sandbox (RS)** refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may (or may not) permit certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.
- **First Cohort:** First Cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox was launched by RBI in December 2020, with the theme as 'Retail Payments'. Six entities have completed the testing phase of the cohort.
- **Second Cohort:** Second Cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox was announced by RBI in December 2020 with the theme as 'Cross Border Payments'. Eight entities have been selected for the 'Test Phase'.

1.150 RBI ALLOWS UJJIVAN SFB TO FORM A SPECIAL COMMITTEE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Reserve Bank has given its nod to the Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) to form a special committee of directors in order to oversee the operations in absence of an MD and CEO.

About:

- Special Committee of Directors will comprise of three independent directors as its members.
- This committee will oversee the operations and administration of the bank in effect from September 16.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank had appointed Carol Furtado to take charge as officer on special duty (OSD). She will be in charge till September 30, 2021. She was appointed after the resignation of Nitin Chugh as MD and CEO.

What is the issue?

- Ujjivan SFB witnessed some top-level exits in recent days besides high level of bad assets and management issues. Its overall stressed pool stands at 15.6 per cent of the loan book. It also includes gross non-performing assets of 9.8 per cent as well as restructured loans of 5.8 per cent. Furthermore, the portfolio-at-risk has come down to 30 per cent as of June 2021. Its stock closed at Rs 20.60 apiece on BSE.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited

- It is an Indian small finance bank, with headquarter in Bangalore. Its operation was started from February 1, 2017. Ujjivan Financial Services is having a stake of 80 percent in the bank. The bank is licensed under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 in order to carry out small finance bank business. It received Scheduled Bank status in August 2017 from the Reserve Bank of India

1.151 45TH GST COUNCIL MEETING

WHY IN NEWS?

- 45th GST council Meeting was chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on September 17, 2021 in Lucknow. Discussions over bringing petrol & diesel under the GST regime was discussed and several key decisions were taken.

About

- Issue of Petrol & Diesel was discussed as Kerala High Court had questioned it. However, Council decided not to put petrol and diesel under GST. In the meeting, concessional GST rates on Covid-19 related medicines were also announced, which are applicable till September 30. Now, the date has been extended till December 31, 2021.

Key Decisions

1. Concessional GST rates on drugs used in COVID-19 treatment extended till Dec 31.
2. Tax rates on medicines used in cancer treatment was cut from 12 pc to 5 pc.
3. GST rate on biodiesel for blending it with diesel was reduced from 12 pc to 5 pc.
4. Inverted duty structure on footwear & textiles will be corrected from January 1, 2022.
5. It is not the correct time to bring petroleum products under GST regime.
6. A Group of state ministers (GoM) will be established to look after the rate rationalisation related issues. GoM will be making recommendations in 2 months.
7. E-commerce operators Swiggy & Zomato will come under GST regime. They are now required to pay GST on restaurant service supplied through them, since tax is charged at point of delivery. Earlier, restaurants used to pay the tax.
8. Another GoMs will be set up in order to look after issues of e-way bills, FASTAGs, compliances, technology, plugging of loopholes, composition schemes etc.

1.152 NEW BAD BANK STRUCTURE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the Rs 30,600 crore guarantee to back Security Receipts issued by National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) for acquiring stressed loan assets.
- The NARCL is a part of a new Bad bank structure that was announced in the Budget 2021.

About the New Bad Bank Structure:

- For resolution of huge NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) in the Indian Banking sector, the government of India has set up two new entities to acquire stressed assets from banks and then sell them in the market.
- NPA refers to a classification for loans or advances that are in default or in arrears.

- NARCL: NARCL has been incorporated under the Companies Act and has applied to the Reserve Bank of India for a license as an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).
- NARCL will acquire stressed assets worth about Rs 2 lakh crore from various commercial banks in different phases.
- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) will maintain 51% ownership in NARCL.
- IDRCL: Another entity, India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL), will then try to sell the stressed assets in the market.
- PSBs and Public Financial Institutes (FIs) will hold a maximum of 49% stake in IDRCL. The remaining 51% stake will be with private-sector lenders.
- The NARCL-IDRCL structure is the new bad bank structure.

1.153 WORLD BANK DISCONTINUES DOING BUSINESS RANKINGS

WHY IN NEWS?

- The World Bank Group has recently decided to discontinue publication of its 'Doing Business' rankings.

About the Doing Business Report

- Doing Business report measures regulations across the 190 economies in 12 business regulatory areas to assess the business environment in each economy.

What led to the decision?

- In August 2020, the World Bank paused the publication of Doing Business reports following a number of irregularities were reported regarding changes to the data. The irregularities had affected four countries: China; Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates; and Azerbaijan.
- The World Bank has later confirmed that the changes were inconsistent with the Doing Business methodology.
- An independent probe of data irregularities cited "undue pressure" by top bank officials, including the World Bank's former CEO, to boost China's ranking in 2017. This raised ethical matters involving former bank staff and board officials in calculating the rankings.

Why the report is important?

- The World Bank's annual report matters to several nations, especially developing ones. The report greatly influences investor decisions by releasing a ranking of economies based on how easy it is to open up, and operate, a business.
- On the other hand, many governments criticized the rankings for their methodology that inaccurately captured the realities on the ground.

What will be done in the future?

- The World Bank has now said that a new approach will be worked out to assess countries' business and investment climates.

1.154 CABINET APPROVES 100% FDI UNDER AUTOMATIC ROUTE IN TELECOM SECTOR

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a number of structural and process reforms in the Telecom sector, to provide relief to ailing telecom service providers, struggling with high levels of debt.
- A total of 9 structural and 5 process reforms have been approved by the Union Cabinet. Some major reforms announced are as follows:
- Change in the definition of AGR: The definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) has been changed and now all non-telecom revenue will be removed from AGR.
- Rationalised Spectrum Usage Charges: The monthly compounding of interest on spectrum usage charges is replaced by annual compounding and the interest rate will come down, based on the

formula MCLR + 2%. Penalty on payment of licence fees, spectrum user charges and all kinds of charges have been completely scrapped.

- Four-year Moratorium on dues: Moratorium has been announced on statutory dues of the telecom sector for four years. It will be applicable from October 1, 2021
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): The government has increased the FDI in the Telecom sector under the automatic route from 49% to 100%.
- Auction calendar fixed: Spectrum auctions will henceforth be held in the last quarter of every financial year.

1.155 INDIA WILL BECOME 3RD LARGEST IMPORTER BY 2050

WHY IN NEWS?

- India could become the world's third-largest importer by 2050, according to a report released by the UK's Department of International Trade.
- With a 5.9 per cent share of global imports by 2050, the country will become the third-largest importer, following China and the United States.
- At present, India occupies the **eighth spot** on the list of the largest importing countries with a 2.8 per cent share. As per the Global Trade Outlook report, the country's position on the list will jump to the fourth position by 2030 with a 3.9 per cent share.
- The Department for International Trade is a United Kingdom government department responsible for striking and extending trade agreements between the United Kingdom and foreign countries, as well as for encouraging foreign investment and export trade.

1.156 RBI PERMITS TRANSFER OF FRAUD LOANS TO ARCS.

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed lenders to sell loans that are tagged as fraud to the asset reconstruction companies (ARCs).

About:

- This permission by RBI potentially paves the way for focussed recovery efforts on loans worth trillions of rupees.
- As per RBI's annual report, banks have reported frauds of about Rs 95 trillion in between Financial Year 2019 and Financial Year 2021.
- With RBI's permission, now banks can sell stressed loans in default for more than 60 days or those classified as bad loan including the fraudulent loans. However, this permission is subject to some conditions.
- However, transfer of these exposures to an ARC does not absolve the lender from fixing staff accountability which is required under the extant instructions on frauds.
- Currently, lenders are not permitted to transfer fraudulent loans to asset turnaround companies. But the recent change in norms will allow ARCs to buy more assets as well as the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) to partake in more asset resolutions. It will thus lead to a faster clean-up.

Significance of the new norm

- The new norm has open significant opportunities for banks as well as asset reconstruction companies as it would allow them to probably buy these assets at a greater discount rather than regular bad loans.

How lenders sell stressed loans?

- Lenders sell stressed loans to ARCs at a discount, in exchange for cash or a mix of cash & security receipts. These receipts are redeemable after ARC has recovered the specific loan. ARCs charge an

asset management fee of 1.5-2% of the asset annually. Once an account is declared fraud, banks are required to set aside 100% of the outstanding loans.

1.157 CHINA DECLARES ALL CRYPTOCURRENCY TRANSACTIONS ILLEGAL

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Central Bank of China has declared all Cryptocurrency transactions illegal.
- **About:**
The global values of cryptocurrencies including Bitcoin have massively fluctuated during 2020-2021 partly due to Chinese regulations that sought to prevent speculation and money laundering.
- According to the People's Bank of China (PBOC), Virtual currency-related business activities are illegal financial activities.
- Offenders will be “investigated for criminal liability” in accordance with the law.
- Chinese notice has banned all the related financial activities involving cryptocurrencies like transactions involving virtual currency derivatives, selling tokens, trading crypto, and illegal fundraising.

Why was the ban put?

- According to the People's Bank of China, trading of Bitcoin and other virtual currencies had become widespread and is disrupting economic & financial order. It also gave rise to money laundering, fraud, illegal fund-raising, pyramid schemes and other illegal & criminal activities. These disruptions were seriously endangering the safety of assets of the people. Considering these facts, China has declared all the Cryptocurrency transactions illegal.

Significance of the ban for China

- Crypto crackdown has opened up gates for China to introduce its own digital currency. China's own digital currency is already in the pipeline. It will allow the central government of China to monitor transactions.

Background

- Crypto creation and trading have already been illegal in China since 2019.

About Cryptocurrency

- Cryptocurrency is a binary data that has been designed to work as a medium of exchange. Here, individual coin ownership records are stored in a ledger which exists in the form of a computerized database. Strong cryptography are used to secure transaction records, control the creation of additional coins as well to verify the transfer of coin ownership.

1.158 GOVERNMENT SETS UP INDIA DEBT RESOLUTION COMPANY LTD (IDRCL)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The government has set up an asset management company (AMC) named India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) with a paid-up capital of Rs. 80.5 lakh on an authorized capital of Rs 50 crore.
- IDRCL will work in tandem with the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) to clean up bad loans.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bank of India (BoI), Bank of Maharashtra, SBI, Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, Indian Bank and IDBI Bank are the shareholders of IDRCL.

1.159 RBI ALLOWS LENDERS TO SELL FRAUD LOANS TO ARC

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Reserve Bank of India has allowed lenders/banks to transfer of loans that have been classified as fraud by these lenders to Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).

- Stressed loans including fraud loans that are in default for more than 60 days or classified as NPA are permitted to be transferred to ARCs. This comes in the wake of banks reporting frauds aggregating Rs 3.95-lakh crore between FY19 and FY21.
- Under the new guidelines, **loans can be transferred only after a minimum holding period (MHP) of three months in case of loans with tenor up to 2 years, and six months for those with the tenor of more than 2 years.**
- In case of loans where the security does not exist or cannot be registered, the MHP shall be calculated from the date of the first repayment of the loan

1.160 RBI FIXES MINIMUM TICKET SIZE TO ISSUE SECURITISATION NOTES

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines regarding the Securitisation of Standard Assets. As per the guidelines, the minimum ticket size for the issuance of securitization notes will be Rs. 1 crore.
- Securitisation involves transactions where credit risk in assets are redistributed by repackaging them into tradable securities with different risk profiles which may give investors of various classes access to exposures which they otherwise might be unable to access directly. It means securities issued by the special purpose entity as a part of a securitization.

1.161 NASSCOM: CRYPTOTECH INDUSTRY CAN ADD \$184B OF ECONOMIC VALUE IN INDIA

WHY IN NEWS?

- The crypto industry in India has the potential to add \$184 billion of economic value, in the form of investments and cost savings, by 2030, according to a report from the country's premier trade body for the tech industry.
- The report, entitled "Crypto Industry in India," was published by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) in conjunction with Binance-owned crypto exchange WazirX.
- The "CryptoTech" industry – companies involved in trading, payments, remittances, retail and more – is expected to reach a size of \$241 million in India by 2030, and \$2.3 billion globally by 2026. The industry currently employs 50,000 people in India, a number which NASSCOM expects to grow to over 800,000 by the end of the decade.

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QUESTION 1: The report “Crypto Industry in India” is published by-

- A. NASSCOM
- B. Reserve Bank of India
- C. SEBI
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 2: RBI has issued guidelines that have fixed minimum ticket size for the issuance of securitization notes at-

- A. Rs 100 crore
- B. Rs 10 crore
- C. Rs 1 crore
- D. Rs 50 lacs

QUESTION 3: According to RBI new guidelines, loans with tenor up to 2 years can be transferred to ARCs after a minimum holding period (MHP) of-

- A. 3 months
- B. 6 months
- C. 9 months
- D. 1 year

QUESTION 4: An asset management company (AMC) named India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) has been set up with authorised capital of-

- A. 25 crore
- B. 50 crore
- C. 100 crore
- D. 500 crore

QUESTION 5: The fundamental technology behind crypto-currencies like bitcoin is-

- A. Artificial intelligence
- B. Machine learning
- C. Blockchain
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 6: In economic terms, ARC stands for-

- A. Asset Reconstruction Companies
- B. Asset Recovery Cost
- C. Average Recovery Cost
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 7: At present India’s rank in the global list of largest importing countries is-

- A. Second
- B. Fifth
- C. Seventh
- D. Eighth

QUESTION 8: The government has increased the FDI in the Telecom sector under the automatic route to-

- A. 49%
- B. 74%
- C. 99%
- D. 100%

QUESTION 9: ‘Doing Business’ rankings stopped recently, were published by-

- A. International Monetary Fund
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. World Bank
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 10: Public Sector Banks (PSBs) will maintain _____ ownership in NARCL- National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited.

- A. 100%
- B. 75%
- C. 51%
- D. 26%

QUESTION 11: 45th GST council Meeting was chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. It was held in-

- A. Nagpur
- B. Delhi
- C. Mumbai
- D. Lucknow

QUESTION 12: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited, which was in news recently, is headquartered at-

- A. Ahmedabad
- B. Bangalore
- C. Chennai
- D. Dehradun

QUESTION 13: Reserve Bank of India has announced the theme for the Third Cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) as-

- A. Retail Payments
- B. Cross Border Payments
- C. MSME Lending
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 14: After recent changes by IMF, the total SDR holding of India has gone up to-

- A. SDR 12.66 billion
- B. SDR 13.66 billion
- C. SDR 14.76 billion
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 15: Reserve Bank of India will set up a committee to scrutinize applications and give recommendations on New Umbrella Entity (NUE) licenses. It will be headed by-

- A. Vartika Shukla
- B. P. Vasudevan
- C. Nakul Rastogi
- D. Ashok Kumar Tandon

QUESTION 16: Who is the chairperson of the Financial Stability and Development Council?

- A. Governor RBI
- B. Prime Minister
- C. Union Finance Minister
- D. State Finance Ministers on rotation basis

QUESTION 17: Which bank has opened a floating ATM on a Houseboat at Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar?

- A. Axis Bank
- B. Bank of Baroda
- C. State Bank of India
- D. HDFC Bank

QUESTION 18: Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) has launched recently launched Digital FDs. It is headquartered in-

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

QUESTION 19: PM SVANidhi Scheme is aimed to help-

- A. Pensioners
- B. Street vendors
- C. Widowers
- D. None of the above

Answers:

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

1.162 EXERCISE ZAPAD 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- Indian Army contingent is set to participate in a two-week multinational military exercise called 'ZAPAD 2021'.

About:

- This exercise will begin from September 3, at Nizhny in Russia.
- Exercise will be held with the aim of boosting anti-terror cooperation.

About ZAPAD 2021

- ZAPAD 2021 is a 13-day exercise.
- It will be held between September 3 to September 16.
- More than a dozen nations will take part in the exercise.
- China and Pakistan are also expected to join the exercise as observers.

Indian contingent

- According to the defence ministry, a contingent of 200 personnel of the Indian Army will participate. Naga Battalion group will also be participating in the exercise and will feature an all Arms combined task force. The Indian contingent has gone through a strenuous training schedule which include conventional operations like mechanised, airborne & heliborne, counter-terrorism, combat conditioning and firing.

Aim of the exercise

- ZAPAD 2021 exercise will be organised with the aim of enhancing military and strategic ties amongst the participating nations and boosting anti-terror cooperation.

KAZIND-21

- A separate exercise called KAZIND-21 also started on September 1, 2020. It is a 13-day military exercise between the militaries of India and Kazakhstan. It commenced at training Node Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan. This year marked the fifth edition of the annual bilateral exercise between both the armies. 90 personnel from Bihar Regiment of the Indian Army are participating in the exercise.

1.163 INDIA CONDUCTS MARITIME PARTNERSHIP EXERCISE WITH ALGERIAN NAVY

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Indian Naval Ship, INS Tabar, is on her goodwill visit to the number of ports in Africa and Europe since June 2021 till September 2021.
- As a part of this visit, INS Tabar took part in the Maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise with Algerian Navy, off the Algerian coast, in the Mediterranean Sea. The Algerian Naval Ship ANS Ezzadjer participated in the exercise.
- The objective of the exercise was to enhance interoperability, understand the concept of operations followed by each other, and opened the possibility of increasing interaction and collaboration between the two navies in the future.
- INS Tabar is a Talwar-class stealth Frigate built in Russia for the Indian Navy. The ship is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet, based in Mumbai.

1.164 INDIA-US TIE UP FOR AIR-LAUNCHED UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE

WHY IN NEWS?

- India and the United States had signed a Project Agreement for the 'Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle' in the end of July 2021.

About:

- Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV) will be launched under the ambit of Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).
- The PA was signed on July 30 in between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and U.S. Department of Defence (DoD) by co-chairs of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Air Systems.
- The agreement highlights the collaboration between Indian Air Force, Air Force Research Laboratory, and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the design, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation of systems in a bid to co-develop an ALUAV prototype.

Background

- The project agreement for the ALUAV is under the Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation Memorandum of Agreement that was first signed between MoD and U.S. DoD in January 2006. Agreement was renewed in January 2015.

Significance of the project

- Project agreement is a significant step to deepen the defence technology collaboration in between India and United States by co-developing the defence equipment.

Aim of the DTTI

- The Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) was launched with the aim of bringing sustained leadership focus in a bid to promote collaborative technology exchange between both the countries. It also seeks to create opportunities for co-production and co-development of future technologies military forces of India and US. Under the initiative, a Joint Working Groups on land, naval, air, and aircraft carrier technologies have been set up to focus on mutually agreed projects in respective domains. Initiative was announced in 2012 as an ambitious initiative for the co-production and co-development of military systems.

1.165 28TH SINGAPORE-INDIA MARITIME BILATERAL EXERCISE 'SIMBEX-2021'

WHY IN NEWS?

- The 28th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) took place from September 02 to 04, 2021. The SIMBEX-2021 annual bilateral maritime exercise was hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.
- The Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay with a shipborne helicopter, ASW Corvette INS Kiltan and Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora and one P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- The exercise aimed to strengthen the bilateral defence ties between both countries. This year's edition of SIMBEX is also a special occasion as it takes place during the ongoing celebrations of the 75th year of India's independence.
- The success of SIMBEX-2021 is yet another demonstration of the mutual resolve on both sides to strengthen the bilateral partnership further in the years ahead.

1.166 ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY AND INDIAN NAVY COMMENCE BILATERAL EXERCISE – 'AUSINDEX'

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Navies from Australia and India have commenced the bilateral maritime exercise named Exercise
- AUSINDEX 2021.

About Exercise AUSINDEX

- AUSINDEX is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Australian Navies. It was started in the year 2015. This is the fourth edition of the exercise.

Aim:

- To provide an opportunity for both Navies to further bolster interoperability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.
- From India, Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt are participating in the exercise.

1.167 IAF CHIEF ATTENDS PACIFIC AIR CHIEFS SYMPOSIUM 2021 IN HAWAII

WHY IN NEWS?

- Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria attended a three-day-long Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii.
- The event themed "Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability" was attended by air chiefs from countries in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Bhadauria was nominated as the Dean for the symposium. India, the US, Australia, Japan and many other like-minded countries are working towards ensuring a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- The symposium saw deliberations through panel discussions, tabletop exercises and keynote addresses on topics ranging from aspects of regional security to cooperation amongst air forces for humanitarian and disaster relief operations.

1.168 DRDO HANDS OVER MRSAM SYSTEM TO IAF

WHY IN NEWS?

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has handed over the first deliverable Firing Unit (FU) of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) System to Indian Air Force (IAF).

About:

- In a significant boost to defence capabilities of India, MRSAM was handed over to IAF at Air Force Station, Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.
- Handing over of the system to IAF is a giant leap towards becoming "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" and it will be a game changer in the air-defence-system.

Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM)

- MRSAM is an advanced network centric combat Air Defence System. It was jointly developed by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in collaboration with Indian industry consisting of private and public sectors as well as MSMEs. It is a surface-to-air-missile, 4.5m in length. Contract for MRSAM programme was signed in February 2009. Under the contract, IAF was to buy 450 MRSAMs and 18 firing units at the value of \$2bn.

Firing Unit

- Firing unit of MRSAM comprises of Missiles, Mobile Launcher Systems (MLS), Combat Management System (CMS), Advanced Long-Range Radar, Reloader Vehicle (RV), Mobile Power System (MPS), Radar Power System (RPS), and Field Service Vehicle (FSV).

Significance of MRSAM system

- MRSAM system provides point and area air defence for ground assets against threats like fighter aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, subsonic & supersonic cruise missiles guided & unguided munitions, etc. This system is capable of engaging multiple targets at ranges up to 70 kms in severe saturation cases. It is powered by indigenously developed rocket motor and control system which helps in achieving high manoeuvrability during the terminal phase.

1.169 LCA-Mk2 TO ROLL OUT NEXT YEAR, FIRST FLIGHT IN 2023, SAYS SCIENTIST

WHY IN NEWS?

- The preliminary design for the Light Combat Aircraft(LCA)-Mk2 and the fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) has been completed.

About LCA-Mk2

- Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk2 is a single-engine multirole fighter aircraft designed by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) in collaboration with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Payload Capacity: It is a 1,350 mm longer aircraft. It can carry a payload of 6,500 kg compared to the 3,500 kg the LCA can carry.

Features:

- The aircraft features enhanced range and endurance, including an onboard oxygen generation system, which is being integrated for the first time.

About Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft(AMCA)

- The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft(AMCA) is a fifth-generation indigenous fighter aircraft designed by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).
- Payload Capacity: It will be a 25-tonne aircraft with a payload capacity of 1,500 kg internally and a 5,500-kg external payload.

Features:

- The aircraft will have stealth and non-stealth configurations. It will be developed in two phases, AMCA Mk1 with an existing GE414 engine and an AMCA Mk2 with an advanced more powerful engine to be developed later along with a foreign partner.

1.170 SWARNIM VIJAY VARSH VICTORY FLAME ARRIVED DAHUNG IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Swarnim Vijay Varsh Mashaal or victory flame arrived at Dahung in Arunachal Pradesh.

About:

- Victory flame was moved throughout the country to the 50 years of victory over Pakistan during 1971 Indo-Pak War.
- It was received at Sessa, Arunachal Pradesh with full military honours.
- During escort of the victory flame to Dahung, cavalcade was ushered by locals with enthusiasm and deep sense of gratitude towards the gallant soldiers who fought and lost their lives during the 1971 War.
- In the coming days, it will tour Rupa, Bomdi La and Tawang and will remain with the Ball of Fire Division till September 23, 2021 to participate in several events that has been planned to commemorate the 50 years of war with Pakistan as well as liberation of Bangladesh.

About Swarnim Vijay Mashaal

- The 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' or the 'victory flame' symbolises India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 Swarnim Vijay Varsh. This flame was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 16, 2020 from the National War Memorial in New Delhi. At the National War Memorial, four victory flames were lit from the eternal flame and are being carried throughout the cities and villages in India. It also moved through the villages of Param Vir Chakra (PVC) and Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) awardees of 1971 war.

1971 India-Pakistani War

- It was a military confrontation between India and Pakistan, occurred during the Bangladesh Liberation War in East Pakistan. The war was fought from December 3, 1971 till December 16, 1971, resulting into the fall of Dacca (Dhaka). It lasted for just 13 days and is the shortest wars in history.

1.171 BATTLE OF SARAGARHI

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Battle of Saragarhi is considered one of the finest last stands in the military history of the world.
- Saragarhi was the communication tower between Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan. The two forts in the rugged North West Frontier Province (NWFP), now in Pakistan, were built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh but renamed by the British.
- Saragarhi helped to link up the two important forts which housed a large number of British troops in the rugged terrain of NWFP.
- Twenty-one soldiers were pitted against over 8,000 Afridi and Orakzai tribals but they managed to hold the fort for seven hours on September 12th, 1897.
- Though Saragarhi was usually manned by a platoon of 40 soldiers, on that fateful day, it was being held by only 21 soldiers from 36th Sikh Regiment (now 4th Sikh in Indian Army) and a non-combatant called Daad, a Pashtun who did odd jobs for the troops.
- Though heavily outnumbered, the soldiers of 36- Sikhs, led by Havildar Ishar Singh, fought till their last breath, killing 200 tribals and injuring 600.
- In 2017, the Punjab government decided to observe Saragarhi Day on 12- September as a holiday.
- Even today the Khyber Scouts regiment of the Pakistani army mounts a guard and salutes the Saragarhi memorial close to Fort Lockhart.

1.172 INDIA–AFRICA DEFENCE DIALOGUE TO BE HELD BIENNIALLY AT EVERY DEFEXPO

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Government of India has proposed to institutionalise the India-Africa Defence Dialogue, as a regular event, to be held on the sidelines of the biennial DefExpo military exhibition. The first India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave (IADMC) was held at DefExpo in February 2020 in Lucknow.
- Following this, second India – Africa Defence Dialogue will be held on the sidelines of the DefExpo, scheduled to be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat in March 2022. The theme of the 2nd India Africa Defence Dialogue will be ‘India – Africa: Adopting Strategy for Synergizing and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh will host the Defence Ministers of African Nations at the upcoming India – Africa Defence Dialogue.

1.173 INDO-NEPAL JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE SURYA KIRAN-XV TO BEGIN AT PITHORAGARH

WHY IN NEWS?

- The 15th edition of Indo–Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise Surya Kiran will be held from September 20, 2021, at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.
- The previous edition of the Exercise Surya Kiran was conducted in Nepal in 2019. The exercise was called off in 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Indian Army and Nepali Army would share their experiences of various counter-insurgency operations, and familiarise themselves with each other’s weapons, equipment, tactics, techniques and procedures of operating in a counter-insurgency environment in mountainous terrain.
- The joint military training will help in improving bilateral relations and further strengthen the traditional friendship between the two nations.
-

1.174 DEFENCE MINISTRY CONSTITUTES HIGH LEVEL EXPERT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW NCC

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Defence has constituted a High-Level Expert Committee, for a comprehensive review of the National Cadet Corps (NCC). Former Member of Parliament (MP) **Baijayant Panda** will be the Chairperson of the Committee.
- The 15-member committee will also include Cricketer MS Dhoni and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra as members.
- Suggest measures to empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation building.
- Propose ways for gainful engagement of NCC Alumni for the betterment of the organisation
- Recommend best practices of similar international youth organisations for inclusion in the NCC curriculum.

1.175 INDIAN & INDONESIAN NAVY PARTICIPATE IN 3RD EDITION OF 'SAMUDRA SHAKTI'

WHY IN NEWS?

- The 3rd edition of Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' is scheduled from September 20 to Sep 22.
- Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmat had already arrived in Jakarta, Indonesia in the preparedness of this one of a kind exercise aimed at improving bilateral ties between India and Indonesia.
- The Indian navy will be participating in Samudra Shakti with the Indonesian navy to enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.

1.176 \$2.5-BN CONTRACT SIGNED FOR 56 AIRBUS C-295 MILITARY AIRCRAFT

WHY IN NEWS?

- Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a \$2.5 billion contract for the acquisition of 56 Airbus C-295 aircraft.

About:

- 56 Airbus C-295 aircraft will replace the Indian Air Force's (IAF's) legacy fleet of Avro HS-748 aircraft.
- As per contract, Airbus will deliver the first 16 aircraft in 'fly-away' condition. It will be delivered from its final assembly line in Seville, Spain.
- Other 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled in India by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL). Manufacturing will be done in India as part of an industrial partnership between Airbus and TASL.

Operator of C-295

- Indian Air Force will become the 35th operator of C-295 aircraft worldwide.

Order of C-295 aircraft

- Airbus had obtained orders for 278 of the aircraft. Out of which 200 are already in operation.

Avro replacement programme

- Under the "Avro replacement programme", a private sector firm will build an entire aircraft in India for the first time. It will be developing an entire industrial ecosystem ranging from manufacture, assembly, testing and qualification, delivery to the maintenance of aircraft's lifecycle.

Specification of C-295 aircrafts

- C-295 aircraft is powered by two Pratt & Whitney PW-127 turbo-prop engines, which is a part of the PW-100 family. It can transport up to 71 troops or 50 paratroopers along with battle loads. It can also ferry supplies to locations which are not accessible by the heavier transport aircraft of IAF. It can also be used for medical evacuation, using basic litters or mobile intensive care units (ICU) comprising of life support equipment.

1.177 INDIA ARMY TO ORGANISE 'BIJOYA SANSKRITIK MAHOTSAV' IN KOLKATA

WHY IN NEWS?

- Indian Army will organize “Bijoya Sanskritik Mahotsav” from 26 to 29 September in Kolkata. This Mahotsav will be observed to mark the golden jubilee of the India-Pak war 1971.
- The event will be inaugurated by Lieutenant General Manoj Pande, Army Commander, Eastern Command. Various cultural programs including a film screening, theatre plays, musical concerts, and band performances will be conducted during this event. It will be organized as part of the Swarnim Vijay Varsha celebrations to commemorate the golden jubilee of the India-Pak war.

MCQS

QUESTION 1: A two-week multinational military exercise called ‘ZAPAD 2021’ will be held in-

- A. Russia
- B. Kazakhstan
- C. China
- D. Algeria

QUESTION 2: INS Tabar which took part in the Maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise with Algerian Navy is a -

- A. Patrol vehicle
- B. Frigate
- C. Guided missile destroyer
- D. Aircraft carrier

QUESTION 3: The Defence Technology and Trade Initiative between India and USA was announced in-

- A. 2011
- B. 2012
- C. 2013
- D. 2014

QUESTION 4: SIMBEX-2021 annual bilateral maritime exercise was conducted between-

- A. India and Singapore
- B. Myanmar and Singapore
- C. Indonesia and Singapore
- D. India and Sri Lanka

QUESTION 5: The Navies from Australia and India have commenced the bilateral maritime exercise named Exercise AUSINDEX 2021. It was started in-

- A. 2015
- B. 2016
- C. 2017
- D. 2018

QUESTION 6: A three-day-long Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 was recently held in-

- A. Hawaii
- B. Tokyo
- C. Seoul
- D. Los Angeles

QUESTION 7: Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) is an advanced network centric combat Air Defence System jointly developed by DRDO and_____.

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

QUESTION 8: Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk2 is a single-engine multirole fighter aircraft that can carry a payload of -

- A. 3500 kg
- B. 4500 kg
- C. 5500 kg
- D. 6500 kg

QUESTION 9: Swarnim Vijay Varsh Mashaal was moved throughout the country to celebrate Indian victory in war of -

- A. 1971
- B. 1965
- C. 1947
- D. 1999

QUESTION 10: The Battle of Saragarhi is considered one of the finest last stands in the military history of the world. It was fought in-

- A. 1877
- B. 1897
- C. 1907

D. 1910

QUESTION 11: The second India – Africa Defence Dialogue will be held in March 2022 in-

- A. Delhi
- B. Gandhinagar
- C. Jaipur
- D. Jodhpur

QUESTION 12: India conducts Joint Military Training Exercise Surya Kiran with which country?

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

QUESTION 13: A High-Level Expert Committee, for a comprehensive review of the National Cadet Corps has been constituted under the chairmanship of-

- A. Bibek Debroy
- B. N C Saxena
- C. Baijayant Panda
- D. Anand Mahindra

QUESTION 14: India conducts Samudra Shakti naval exercise with which country?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Indonesia
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Vietnam

QUESTION 15: Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a \$2.5 billion contract for the acquisition of C-295s, which is a/an

- A. Submarine
- B. Aircraft
- C. Helicopter
- D. Frigate

QUESTION 16: “Bijoya Sanskritik Mahotsav” in Kolkata, to mark the golden jubilee of the India-Pak war 1971 will be organised by-

- A. Indian Army
- B. Border Security Force
- C. West Bengal government
- D. Ministry of Defence

Answers:

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

1.178 WORLD SOCIAL PROTECTION REPORT 2020-22

WHY IN NEWS?

- World Social Protection Report 2020-22 was released by International Labour Organisation (ILO) on September 1, 2021.

About:

- As per report, more than half of the world population are not getting any form of social protection. This trend of no social protection is there even after expansion of social protections amidst the global outbreak of COVID-19.
- Only 47 per cent of the global population had effective access to one social protection benefit, in 2020 while 53 per cent (4.1 billion people) had no protection at all.
- People in Europe and Central Asia are among the best covered population. 84 per cent of populations in Europe and Central Asia are having access to at least one benefit.
- In America, the rate of social protection is 64.3 per cent.
- In Asia, the Pacific and the Arab States, lesser than half of people are covered under protection.
- In Africa, only 17.4 per cent of the people are getting at least one social protection.
- Most children across the globe had no social protection.
- Just one in four children in the world get a social protection benefit.
- 45 per cent of women with new-borns receive cash maternity benefit.
- One in three people with severe disabilities receive disability benefits.
- One in five people worldwide are covered in case they lose their job.

Rich Poor divide

- This report examined the impact COVID-19 pandemic on social protection. It found, an additional spending required to ensure minimum social protection for all and reduce the financing gap has increased by 30 per cent since the start of the pandemic. On an average, countries spend approximately 13 per cent of GDP on social protection. However, high-income countries spend 16.4 per cent of GDP on social protection. On the other hand, low-income countries spend just 1.1 per cent.

Social Protection

- Social protection comprises of access to healthcare and income security in cases of unemployment, old age, inability to work, and for families with children.

1.179 FSSAI'S 3RD STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX 2021 RELEASED

WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya has released the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 3rd State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety.
- The Minister felicitated nine leading States/UTs based on the ranking for the year 2020-21 for their impressive performance.

Here is the list of nine leading States/UTs in the Index:

Larger States:

- Gujarat
- Kerala
- Tamil Nadu

Smaller States:

- Goa
- Meghalaya
- Manipur

Among UTs:

- Jammu and Kashmir,
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- New Delhi

1.180 INDIA RANKS 46TH IN GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- India has been ranked at 46th place in the Global Innovation Index 2021 released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). India has jumped 2 spots from last year’s ranking.
- Under the Lower middle-income category group, India has been ranked at the second spot after Vietnam.
- The Global Innovation Index 2021 captures the innovation ecosystem performance of 132 economies and tracks the most recent global innovation trends.

Top 5 countries in Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings:

Rank	Country	Score
1.	Switzerland	65.5
2.	Sweden	63.1
3.	United States of America	61.3
4.	United Kingdom	59.8
5.	Republic of Korea	59.3
46.	India	36.4

1.181 UNICEF’S ‘FED TO FAIL?’ REPORT- HIGHLIGHTS

WHY IN NEWS?

- UNICEF released its new report titled “Fed to fail? The crisis of children’s diets in early life”.

About:

- According to the report, Children aged under 2 are not getting the food or nutrients they need to thrive and grow well. This is leading to irreversible developmental harm.
- Report warns that rising poverty, conflict, inequality, climate-related disasters, and health emergencies like COVID-19 pandemic, are contributing to the nutrition crisis among those children.
- Poor nutritional intake in the first two years of life can harm the rapidly growing bodies and brains of the children. It also impacts their schooling, job prospects and futures. But there has been little progress towards providing the right kind of nutritious and safe foods for them.
- While conducting the analysis across 91 countries, the report finds that half of children aged 6-23 months are getting the minimum recommended number of meals in a day.
- One third of the children consume the minimum number of food groups they need to grow.

Impact of Covid-19

- COVID-19 pandemic still continues to disrupt the essential services and is driving more families into poverty. According to the report, pandemic is also affecting how families feed their children. In several countries, families have been forced to reduce the purchases of nutritious food. Because of this, the percentage of children consuming the minimum recommended number of food groups reduced by a third in 2020 as compared to 2018.

Vulnerability of Children

- Children aged under two are most vulnerable to all forms of malnutrition like wasting, stunting, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity. As per UNICEF estimates, more than half of children aged under 5 are vulnerable to wasting, globally.

MCQS

QUESTION 1: A new report titled “Fed to fail? The crisis of children’s diets in early life” has been released by-

- A. UNESCO
- B. Food and Agriculture Organisation
- C. World Health Organisation
- D. UNICEF

QUESTION 2: What is India’s rank in Global Innovation Index 2021?

- A. 42nd
- B. 43rd
- C. 45th
- D. 46th

QUESTION 3: In FSSAI’s 3rd State Food Safety Index 2021, which state topped in ‘Larger States’ Category?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Punjab

QUESTION 4: World Social Protection Report 2020-22 was released by-

- A. Food and Agriculture Organisation
- B. International Labour Organisation
- C. United Nations Environment Programme
- D. None of the above

Answers:

1. D
2. D
3. A
4. B

CivilsTap Hlmachal

1.182 RAJNATH SINGH NAMES ARMY SPORTS INSTITUTE, PUNE AS “NEERAJ CHOPRA STADIUM”

WHY IN NEWS?

- Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh visited the Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune and named the Army Sports Institute stadium as “Neeraj Chopra Stadium”. The focus of the Indian Army (in the field of sports) is to identify and train promising sportspersons in 11 disciplines.
- The Indian Army’s “Mission Olympics” programme was launched in 2001 with the intent to deliver medal-winning performances in the Olympics and other international events.
- Neeraj Chopra has won a Gold medal for India in the javelin throw event at Tokyo Olympics. With a throw of 87.03 metres in his first attempt, Neeraj killed the competition. In his second he improved it to 87.58m and that turned out to be the golden throw.
- The Athletics Federation of India has decided that javelin throw day will be on 7th August every year in honour of Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started a public awareness campaign to warn people against digital banking frauds. For the new campaign, RBI has roped in Olympic Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra.

1.183 SP SETHURAMAN WINS 2021 BARCELONA OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

WHY IN NEWS?

- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster S P Sethuraman has won the 2021 Barcelona Open chess tournament title, remaining unbeaten through the nine rounds, winning six matches and drawing three.
- Chennai-born Sethuraman collected 7.5 points after the ninth and final round to tie the score with Daniil Yuffa of Russia. However, the Indian player emerged as the winner on the basis of a better tie-break score. India’s Karthikeyan Murali finished third.

1.184 PARALYMPICS 2020: JAVELIN THROWER SUMIT ANTIL WINS GOLD FOR INDIA

WHY IN NEWS?

- India’s Sumit Antil has won the gold medal in the men’s javelin throw F64 final event at the Tokyo Paralympics, and in the process set a new world record throw of 68.55m. The 23-year-old Sumit hails from Sonapat in Haryana.
- Michal Burian of Australia won the silver medal (66.29m), while Sri Lanka’s Dulan Kodithuwakku won the bronze medal. This is the second gold medal for India at the ongoing Tokyo Games and now the total medal tally of India has reached 7.
- Earlier, the bronze medal won by Vinod Kumar in the discus throw F56 final was declared as ineligible by the classification panel.

1.185 ADIDAS ROPED MIRABAI CHANU FOR ITS ‘STAY IN PLAY’ CAMPAIGN

WHY IN NEWS?

- Adidas has roped in Tokyo Olympic Silver-medalist Mirabai Chanu as the face of its “Stay in Play” campaign for its latest product innovation designed to keep more menstruating women in sports.

- The new TechFit Period Proof tights, featuring an absorbent layer to help protect against leaks when worn with a tampon or pad.
- Such innovations showcase Adidas' commitment to encourage and support women in sport. Adidas found that teenage girls are dropping out of sport at an alarming rate, with one of the key reasons being fear of period leakage.

1.186 TOKYO PARALYMPICS: AVANI LEKHARA BECOMES FIRST INDIAN WOMAN TO WIN TWO MEDALS

WHY IN NEWS?

- Avani Lekhara won the bronze medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 event with a score of 445.9 to become the first Indian woman to win two medals at the Paralympics.
- Lekhara had also won gold in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event. India's medal tally now stands at 12 at these Paralympics. It has now won two golds, six silvers and four bronze medals.
- This is India's best tally at a single edition of the Para Games. It had won four medals at Rio 2016 and four at the 1984 Paralympics.

1.187 130TH EDITION OF DURAND CUP KICKS OFF IN KOLKATA

WHY IN NEWS?

- The 130th edition of the Durand Cup kicked off at the Vivekananda Yubabharati Krirangan in Kolkata. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee kicked the ball and inaugurated the tournament.
- 16 teams are playing in this edition of the oldest club football tournament in Asia while two clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are not participating. The final match will be held on 3rd October.
- The Durand Cup is a prestigious football tournament. It was first held in 1888, at Dagshai in Himachal Pradesh. This tournament has been named after Mortimer Durand. He was the then Foreign Secretary in charge of India.

1.188 MAX VERSTAPPEN WINS DUTCH GRAND PRIX 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the formula one Dutch Grand Prix 2021. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) came second while Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) came third.
- The Red Bull driver's leading seventh win of the season and 17th of his career moved him three points ahead of the defending champion, who finished second but softened the blow with a bonus point for fastest lap.

1.189 DANIEL RICCIARDO WINS ITALIAN GRAND PRIX 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren, Australian-Italian) has won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2021 title held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza track, Italy. This is the first victory for McLaren in 9 years.
- Lando Norris came second while Valtteri Bottas came third in the F1 race. Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen crash out of Italian Grand Prix 2021 due to collision.

1.190 INDIA'S RAJA RITHVIK BECOMES 70TH GRANDMASTER

WHY IN NEWS?

- India's R Raja Rithvik became chess Grandmaster after he crossed the ELO Rating of 2500. The 17-year-old achieved this GM title in Vezerkepzo Grandmaster Chess Tournament at Budapest, Hungary.
- He thus became the 70th Grandmaster from the country. A native of Warangal, Rithvik has been undergoing advanced coaching at RACE Chess Academy under reputed coach N.V.S. Rama Raju.

1.191 PANKAJ ADVANI WINS ASIAN SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- India's Pankaj Advani won the Asian Snooker Championship 2021 by defeating Amir Sarkhosh. He has won this title for a second consecutive time. He is the winner of the last Asian Snooker Championship held in 2019.
- In 2019, Pankaj also became the only player who won the titles in all forms of billiards, snooker, 6Reds, and 10 Reds competitions. Yasin Merchant (1989, 2001), Alok Kumar (2004), Aditya Mehta (2012) were the other Indians who won the championship.

1.192 HARMILAN KAUR BAINS SETS NEW RECORD IN 1500M RACE AT NATIONAL LEVEL

WHY IN NEWS?

- Harmilan Kaur Bains of Punjab has created a new national record in the women's 1500m race by clocking 4:05.39 to bag the gold at the 60th National Open Athletics Championships in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Hanamkonda in Telangana.
- With this achievement, the 23-year-old athlete has erased the 19-year-old record held by Sunita Rani in 1500m at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan by clocking 4:06.03.

1.193 GM D. GUKESH OF INDIA WINS NORWAY CHESS OPEN 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- India's D Gukesh won his second consecutive tournament of this month, the Norway Chess Open 2021 Masters section.
- Gukesh scored an unbeaten 8.5/10 and finished a full point ahead of the competition to win the tournament.
- Iniyar secured sole second position with 8.5/10 points, finishing a half point ahead of top seed Dmitrij Kollars (Germany) and Valentin Dragnev (Austria).

1.194 LEWIS HAMILTON: FIRST F1 DRIVER TO WIN 100 GRANDS PRIX

WHY IN NEWS?

- Lewis Hamilton has become the first ever Formula-one driver who reached to his 100 wins after finishing at first in the Russian Grand Prix on September 26, 2021.

About:

- Lewis Hamilton, the seven-time World Champion, overtook the long-time race leader Lando Norris late on.
- Norris was aiming for a maiden Grand Prix victory. He was leading for most of the race.
- Hamilton finished over 53 seconds ahead of the second-placed Max Verstappen. Max had started at back of the grid after Red Bull took a new engine.

- Hamilton also moved back to the top of the driver's championship standings ahead of Verstappen.
- Hamilton is already holding the record for most F1 wins.

Sir Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton

- He is a British racing driver and currently competes in Formula One for Mercedes. He has previously driven for McLaren from 2007 to 2012. Hamilton has won the joint-record seven World Drivers' Championship titles in Formula One. He also holds the records for the most wins, podium finishes and pole positions.

Background

- Hamilton was born and raised in Stevenage, Hertfordshire. In the year 1998, he joined the McLaren young driver programme. This led to a Formula One drive in 2007 with McLaren. In 2007 season, Hamilton set numerous records and finished runner-up to Kimi Raikkonen by one point. In the next season, he won his maiden title in dramatic fashion and became the then-youngest Formula One World Champion in history.

MCQS

QUESTION 1: Who won the Russian Grand Prix 2021?

- A. Lando Norris
- B. Max Verstappen
- C. Lewis Hamilton
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 2: Who has won the the Norway Chess Open 2021 (in Masters section)?

- A. Dmitrij Kollars
- B. D Gukesh
- C. Valentin Dragnev
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 3: Who has created a new national record in the women's 1500m race?

- A. Sunita Rani
- B. Harmilan Kaur Bains
- C. P U Chitra
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 4: Who won the Asian Snooker Championship 2021?

- A. Yasin Merchant
- B. Amir Sarkhosh
- C. Pankaj Advani
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 5: Who has recently become the 70th Grandmaster from the country?

- A. Prithu Gupta
- B. Nihal Sarin
- C. R Raja Rithvik

D. None of the above

QUESTION 6: Who has won Italian Grand Prix 2021?

- A. Valtteri Bottas
- B. Lando Norris
- C. Max Verstappen
- D. Daniel Ricciardo

QUESTION 7: Who has won the Formula one Dutch Grand Prix 2021?

- A. Valtteri Bottas
- B. Lewis Hamilton
- C. Max Verstappen
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 8: Durand cup is associated with which sport?

- A. Cricket
- B. Football
- C. Volleyball
- D. Hockey

QUESTION 9: Who has become the first Indian woman to win two medals in Tokyo Paralympics?

- A. Deepa Malik
- B. Avani Lekhara
- C. Bhavina Patel
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 10: Adidas has roped in which female sportswoman as the face of its "Stay in Play" campaign for its latest product innovation

designed to keep more menstruating women in sports?

- A. Heena Sidhu
- B. PV Sindhu
- C. Manika Batra
- D. Mirabai Chanu

QUESTION 11: India's Sumit Antil has won the gold medal in Tokyo Paralympics in which sport?

- A. Javelin throw
- B. Shot put
- C. Hammer throw
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 12: Indian Grandmaster S P Sethuraman has won the 2021 Barcelona Open chess tournament title beating Daniil Yuffa of _____

- A. USA
- B. Spain
- C. Russia
- D. Algeria

QUESTION 13: Army Sports Institute stadium has been renamed as "Neeraj Chopra Stadium".

It is situated in-

- A. Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Dehradun
- D. Pune

Answers:

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

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AWARDS

1.195 EASE REFORMS INDEX AWARD 2021 ANNOUNCED

WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the EASE 3.0 Awards. **State Bank of India** is the Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 (EASE 3.0 Awards).
- Bank of Baroda is second and Union Bank of India is third. Indian Bank won the award for the best improvement from the baseline performance.
- SBI, BoB, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank won the top awards in different themes of the PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0.

1.196 VACCINE SCIENTIST DR FIRDAUSI QADRI WINS RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD

WHY IN NEWS?

- Bangladeshi scientist, Dr Firdausi Qadri, won the Ramon Magsaysay Award.

Who is Dr Firdausi Qadri?

- Dr Qadri is an emeritus scientist at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b).
- She is also a laureate of the 2020 L'Oréal-Unesco for Women in Science Award which was presented to her for her advocacy of early diagnoses and global vaccination & her work on understanding and preventing infectious diseases affecting children across developing countries.

When did she started medical research?

- She decided early on to pursue a career in medical research. She joined icddr,b in 1988 to focus her research on communicable diseases, immunology, vaccine development and clinical trials.

Challenging assignment

- The most difficult assignments before her were in the fight against cholera and typhoid. These two major diseases are prevalent in Bangladesh as well as in Asian and African nations with limited access to adequate water, sanitation, medical treatment and education. Dr Qadri played a key role in development of a more affordable oral cholera vaccine (OCV) as well as typhoid conjugate vaccine (ViTCV) for infants, children and adults.

Institute for Developing Science and Health Initiatives

- This institute was founded by her in 2014. It conducts biomedical research and runs training courses as well as a testing center. The institute has become a hub of scientific activity by local and visiting scientists in Bangladesh.

About Ramon Magsaysay Award

- Ramon Magsaysay Award is the highest honour in Asia. It was established in April 1957 and is widely regarded as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in Asia. The award is presented to individuals who have made extraordinary contributions in eradication of poverty and development of the society in Asia.

Other recipients of award in 2021

Other recipients of award in 2021 are-

1. **Mohammad Amjad Saqib from Pakistan**
2. **Steven Muncy from South-East Asia**

1.197 NAMITA GOKHALE HONOURED WITH 7TH YAMIN HAZARIKA WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE AWARD

WHY IN NEWS?

- Writer Namita Gokhale has been chosen as the recipient of the seventh Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award. She was conferred upon the honour recently in a virtual ceremony.
- She is a co-founder and co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival, Gokhale also mentors Himalayan Echoes and the Kumaon Festival of Literature and the Arts.
- The award was organised by a collective of women professionals from the year 2015, the annual award honours Yamin Hazarika, the first woman from Northeast India to be selected for DANIPS, a federal police service that administered Delhi and the Union Territories in 1977.

1.198 TRICHY GOLDEN ROCK WORKSHOP BAGS BEST ENERGY EFFICIENT UNIT AWARD

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Golden Rock Railway Workshop (GOC), Tiruchchirappalli has bagged 22nd National Award for Excellence in Energy Management from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for having adopted and implemented various energy conservation measures.
- GOC Workshop is the only workshop of Indian Railways to have received the award this year. The National Awards for Excellence in Energy Management is instituted by CII, to catalyze significant and innovative practices in the energy efficiency sector.
- CII conducts this annual event to recognize and award excellence in energy management among the industrial sector and railway workshops across the country and facilitate sharing of information on best practices & technologies.

1.199 SUSANNA CLARKE WINS WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- Author Susanna Clarke won the Women's Prize for Fiction 2021 for her novel 'Piranesi'. Novelist and Booker-winner Bernardine Evaristo chaired the Women's Prize judging panel this year.
- 'Piranesi' is narrated by a man living in a labyrinthine, statue-filled house — alone except for a visitor known as the Other — that comprises his whole universe.
- Susanna Clarke: English author known for her debut novel Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell.

1.200 BHANUMATI GHEEWALA TO GET NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AWARD 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Florence Nightingale Award will be given to a nurse, Bhanumati Gheewala, from Sir Sayajirao General Hospital, Gujarat. She has been in charge of COVID-19 positive pregnant women's deliveries as well as infant care.
- She worked in the gynaecology department as well in the paediatric ward. In 2019, when the wards of the hospital were waterlogged due to flood. She carried her duty in the gynaecology department and the pediatric ward.
- The Florence Nightingale Award is given by the **Indian Nursing Council**. This is a statutory agency **under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, to recognise the contributions of healthcare workers

1.201 UNESCO LITERACY PRIZE AWARDED TO NIOS FOR INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

WHY IN NEWS?

- National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), run by the education ministry, has bagged global recognition from UNESCO for its innovative approach towards education.
- The recognition is for educating differently-abled people through technology-enabled inclusive learning material. The NIOS move has a specific focus on Indian sign language-based content.
- By awarding NIOS the King Sejong Literacy Prize, the jury has recognized the value of providing for the unique educational and language needs of PwD learners by developing teaching content in sign language through digital mode.
- The award-winning programme focuses on the use of digital tools and local language to help persons with disabilities the option to access Indian Sign Language (ISL)-based content.

1.202 SUPER 30 FOUNDER ANAND KUMAR CONFERRED WITH SWAMI BRAHMANAND AWARD 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- Mathematician Anand Kumar was conferred with the Swami Brahmanand Award 2021 for his contribution in the field of education through his 'Super 30' initiative, which prepares underprivileged students for the IIT entrance exam.
- He received the award from Professor Roop Kishore Shastri, the vice-chancellor of Haridwar's Gurukula Kangri deemed university, at a function in the Rath area of Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh. Super 30' is a coaching programme of Kumar's Patna-based Ramanujan School of Mathematics.
- It hunts for 30 meritorious students from among economically backward sections of the society and shapes them to clear the test to get into the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT).
- It has been instituted in the name of Swami Brahmananda, a freedom fighter, former MP and a saint known for his sacrifices and his contribution in the field of education.

1.203 ICRISAT AWARDED "AFRICA FOOD PRIZE 2021"

WHY IN NEWS?

- Hyderabad-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has been awarded the Africa Food Prize for 2021 for improving food security in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The Tropical Legumes Project developed 266 varieties of improved legumes and half a million tons of seeds for a range of legume crops, including cowpeas, pigeon peas, chickpea, common bean, groundnut, and soybean.
- The improved seeds benefitted over 25 million farmers in climate-resilient approaches and to control pest outbreaks across the region. ICRISAT is a non-profit, non-political public international research organisation that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world.

1.204 EARTHSOT PRIZE: TWO INDIAN PROJECTS TO GET THE PRIZE

WHY IN NEWS?

- On September 17, 2021 two Indian Projects have been selected to get the Environment Prize.

About:

- One of the selected projects is- Solar-Powered Ironing Cart project that has been designed by a 14-year-old Tamil Nadu schoolgirl.

- Second project is- Agricultural Waste Recycling Concept developed by an entrepreneur from Delhi.
- Total of 15 finalists have been selected out of hundreds of nominations from across the world for the Environmental Prize.

About Environment Prize

- The first-ever Environment Prize, called Earthshot Prize, was launched by Britain's Prince William (Duke of Cambridge) and David Attenborough in 2020. This prize is conferred annually from 2021 to 2030, to five winners each year. Winners are selected for their solutions or projects that substantially help the environment. It is given by the Royal Foundation, England. Award is given in five separate categories with the support of UN Sustainable Development Goals. Winners are selected by the Earthshot Prize Council which is a global team spanning six continents.

About Solar-Powered Ironing Cart project

- This project has been developed by Vinisha Umashankar. She made the cut within the "Clean Our Air" category. Her concept is about solar-powered clean alternative for charcoal-powered street irons which press clothes for millions of Indians.

About Agricultural Waste Recycling Concept

- This project has been developed by Takachar and co-founded by Vidyut Mohan. It has been nominated in "Clean Our Air Category" for its cheap, small-scale, portable technology. This project converts crop residues into sellable bio-products

1.205 AYAAN SHANKTA NAMED AS "2021 INTERNATIONAL YOUNG ECO-HERO"

WHY IN NEWS?

- A 12-year-old environmental activist from Mumbai, Maharashtra, Ayaan Shankta has been named as "2021 International Young Eco-Hero".
- He won the 3rd prize under the Age Group: 8-14 for his project "Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake" and became one of the 25 global winners of the Young Eco-Hero Award 2021.
- The award presented by "The Action for Nature", San Francisco based NGO, recognize young people (8 to 16 years old) for their environmental achievements.

1.206 CSIR INNOVATION AWARD PRESENTED

WHY IN NEWS?

- Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) innovation on September 26, 2021.

About

- Awards were presented to two Class 10 students from Udupi district in a virtual ceremony.
- Those students are Anusha and Rakshitha Naik from Charamakki Narayana Shetty Memorial Government High School in Ardi Village.
- They received the award for their project named "Gas Saving Kit".
- Award was sponsored by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, that will reach to students in a week, via post.
- It comprises of a cash prize of Rs 20,000.

Background

- Of all, 14 schools have been awarded from across the country.
- Out of 14 schools, Charamakki Narayana Shetty Memorial Government High School is the only government school to get this award.

About the project

- Both the students developed a gas saving kit. This kit would enable a family of four to source hot water for bathing as well as cooking food simultaneously. It will also allow water to flow through a

copper coiled frame which has been kept over a flaming stove. In the process, water flowing through the outlet pipe is heated.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

- CSIR was established in September 1942 by the Government of India as an autonomous body. It is the largest research and development organisation in India. It is mainly funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology. However, it operates as an autonomous body under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The research and development activities the organisation comprises of structural engineering, aerospace engineering, ocean sciences, chemicals, mining, life sciences, metallurgy, food, leather, petroleum, and environmental science.

1.207 MORD AND NIRD&PR PRESENT HUNARBAAZ AWARDS

WHY IN NEWS?

- National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) presented “Hunarbaaz Awards” to 75 diyangjan candidates.

About:

- Awards were presented to candidates from 15 states as a part of Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on September 25, 2021.
- September 25 also marked the occasion of Antyodaya Diwas which is observed on birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.
- Virtual award ceremony was organised by NIRDPR with MoRD, in collaboration with the State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) and Rural Self-employment Training Institutes.
- CEOs of SRLMs and Directors of RSETIs presented the awards at respective states to the specially-abled achievers.

DDU-GKY and RSETI ka Hunarbaaz Awards

- These awards have been instituted by the NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. These awards are presented to the candidates who were trained under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI) schemes and got placed & worked in the organizations for more than one year.

About DDU-GKY

- Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Venkaiah Naidu launched DDU-GKY on September 25, 2014 on the occasion of 98th birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. It was launched with the vision of “Transforming poor youth from rural India into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce”. It is aimed at targeting youth, in the age group of 15–35 years. This scheme is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and is tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of poor families and cater to the career aspirations of youth from rural India. A corpus of Rs 1,500 crore was dedicated for this purpose. Under it, disbursements are made through a digital voucher directly into the bank account of students

1.208 PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA BAGS GLOBAL GOALKEEPER AWARD 2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced its annual Goalkeepers ‘Global Goals Awards’ 2021, as part of its annual Goalkeepers campaign. Goalkeepers is the foundation’s campaign to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals).
- The 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award: Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former United Nations under-secretary-general and executive director of UN Women.
- The 2021 Progress Award: Jenifer Colpas from Colombia, for her work which centres around improving access to clean water and sanitation.

- The 2021 Campaign Award: Satta Sheriff of Liberia, for her work promoting gender equality.

MCQS

QUESTION 1: The 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award has been awarded to-

- A. Jenifer Colpas
- B. Satta Sheriff
- C. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 2: National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj is situated at-

- A. New Delhi
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Mumbai
- D. Gorakhpur

QUESTION 3: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research comes under the administrative supervision of-

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industries
- C. Ministry of Education
- D. Prime Minister Office

QUESTION 4: Who has been named as “2021 International Young Eco-Hero”?

- A. Ruchika Bhardwaj
- B. Ayaan Shankta
- C. Swati Mohan
- D. Sirisha Bandla

QUESTION 5: The first-ever Environment Prize, called Earthshot Prize is given by-

- A. United Nations Environment Programme
- B. International Union for Conservation of Nature
- C. Royal Foundation, England
- D. World Meteorological Organization

QUESTION 6: International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has been awarded the Africa Food Prize for 2021. It is based out of-

- A. Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Chennai
- D. Hyderabad

QUESTION 7: Who has been conferred with the Swami Brahmanand Award 2021?

- A. Anand Kumar
- B. Roop Kishore Shastri
- C. Nand Kishore Sharma
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 8: UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2021 has been awarded to-

- A. National Institute of Open Schooling
- B. Indira Gandhi National Open University
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 9: National Florence Nightingale Award 2021 is being awarded to-

- A. Aditi Talware
- B. Parvati Devi
- C. Bhanumati Gheewala
- D. None of the above

QUESTION 10: Author Susanna Clarke won the Women’s Prize for Fiction 2021 for her novel ‘Piranesi’. She belongs to which country?

- A. Israel
- B. France
- C. USA
- D. England

QUESTION 11: The Golden Rock Railway Workshop (GOC) has bagged 22nd National Award for Excellence in Energy Management from the Confederation of Indian Industry. It is based at-

- A. Delhi
- B. Kapurthala

- C. Tiruchchirappalli
- D. Jaipur

QUESTION 12: Who has been awarded 7- Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award?

- A. K K Shaileja
- B. Asha Bhosle
- C. Namita Gokhale
- D. None of the above

Answers:

QUESTION 13: Dr Firdausi Qadri, who has won the Ramon Magsaysay Award, belongs to-

- A. Afghanistan
- B. Maldives
- C. Pakistan
- D. Bangladesh

QUESTION 14: Which bank is the Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 (EASE 3.0 Awards)?

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. Union Bank of India
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. State Bank of India

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

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