

# Current Affairs MONTHLY



**December 2021**

By  
**CivilsTap Himachal**



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

**Prelims**

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### 1.1 Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Launches Knowledge App “CONSULT”

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Road Transport and Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari has launched a knowledge App and platform CONSULT. Emphasizing innovation, entrepreneurship, science technology, research and skill for knowledge transformation.
- The app is the first such global facility by which people who need information, advice, counsel, guidance can contact and call up experts in multiple sectors.
- The app will be a forum for mentors to share their life experiences. The app will allow people to learn from the wisdom which has been acquired over the lifetime.
- Each expert also gets a unique, exclusive page reflecting their contributions by way of articles and video blogs and this serves as their intellectual legacy and helps to promote interest in them.
- CONSULT uses the framework of context and convergence to instantly connect knowledge seekers and knowledge givers.

### 1.2 Ganga Utsav 2021-The River Festival

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the 5th edition of Ganga Utsav-The River Festival 2021 has begun which celebrates the glory of the National river Ganga.
- Ganga was declared as the National River of India on 4th November 2008.
- The event will also comprise, launch of the Ganga Tarang Portal, curtain raiser on Ganga Knowledge Portal and many more.

#### About:

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) celebrates the festival every year to strengthen the Public – River Connection.
- NMCG is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council, set up in 2016, which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NRGBA).
- The NMCG has been registered in the Guinness Book of World Records on the first day of Ganga Utsav 2021 for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes that were uploaded on Facebook in an hour.
- The Utsav celebrates the mystical and cultural river Ganga through storytelling, folklore, dialogues with eminent personalities, quizzes, displaying traditional artforms, dance and music performances by renowned artists, photo galleries and exhibitions and much more.
- It highlights the significance of Jan Bhagidari (People's Participation) in the revival of Ganga, with a focus on encouraging stakeholder engagement and public participation towards the rejuvenation of river Ganga.

#### Programmes Held during the Festival:

- **Continuous Learning and Activity Portal:**



- Continuous Learning and Activity Portal (CLAP) is a learning portal that will be buzzing with activities, quizzes, crosswords, discussion forums to keep children engaged throughout the year.
- The objective of all the activities will be to sensitize and motivate the children and youth for action to protect and restore our rivers.

**Ganga Mashal:**

- It is an expedition led by the Ganga Task Force (GTF) that will travel the route including 23 stations along the river Ganga which will help sensitization of the local people and bodies like Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan) and Voluntary groups such as Ganga Mitras, Ganga Praharis, Ganga Doots.
- Ganga Mitras, Ganga Praharis, Ganga Doots are dedicated voluntary groups formed at the grassroot level, whose resources are channelized for engagement of the community and public at large.
- GTF is a unit of battalion of ex-servicemen deployed in the services of the Ganga with the approval of the Ministry of Defence for the period of four years till December 2020.

**Ganga Quest:**

- It is a national online quiz on Ganga, rivers, and environment that was first conceptualized in 2019 as an educational program to sensitize children and youth towards River Ganga to strengthen the Namami Gange program.

**Government Initiatives on River Ganga:**

- Ganga Action Plan: It was the first river action plan to improve the water quality by the interception, diversion and treatment of domestic sewage.
- The National River Conservation Plan is an extension to this plan, which aims at cleaning the Ganga river under Ganga Action Plan phase-2.
- National River Ganga Basin Authority: It was formed in the year 2009 under Section-3 of the Environment Protection Act 1986.
- Clean Ganga Fund: In 2014, it was formed for cleaning up of the Ganga, setting up of waste treatment plants and conservation of biotic diversity of the river.
- Bhuvan-Ganga Web App: It ensures the involvement of the public in the monitoring of pollution entering into the river Ganga.
- Ban on Waste Disposal: In 2017, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned the disposal of any waste in the Ganga.

### 1.3 All India Judicial Service

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- The central government is preparing to give a fresh push to the establishment of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) on the lines of the central civil services.

**About:**

- The AIJS is a reform push to centralise the recruitment of judges at the level of additional district judges and district judges for all states.
- In the same way that the Union Public Service Commission conducts a central recruitment process and assigns successful candidates to cadres, judges of the lower judiciary are proposed to be recruited centrally and assigned to states.

**Previous Proposals:**

- The AIJS was first proposed by the 14th report of the Law Commission in 1958.

- A statutory or constitutional body such as the UPSC to conduct a standard, centralised exam to recruit and train judges was discussed.
- The idea was proposed again in the Law Commission Report of 1978, which discussed delays and arrears of cases in the lower courts.
- In 2006, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its 15th Report backed the idea of a pan-Indian judicial service, and also prepared a draft Bill.

**Supreme Court's Stand:**

- In 1992, the Supreme Court (SC) in *All India Judges' Association v. The Union of India* directed the Centre to set up an AIJS.
- In a 1993 review of the judgment, however, the court left the Centre at liberty to take the initiative on the issue.
- In 2017, the SC took suo motu cognizance of the issue of appointment of district judges, and mooted a Central Selection Mechanism.
- Senior advocate Arvind Datar, who was appointed amicus curiae (friend of the court) by the court, circulated a concept note to all states in which he recommended conducting a common examination instead of separate state exams.
- Based on the merit list, High Courts would then hold interviews and appoint judges. Datar submitted that this would not change the constitutional framework or take away the powers of the states or High Courts.

**Benefits of AIJS:**

- **Efficient Judiciary:** It will ensure an efficient subordinate judiciary, to address structural issues such as varying pay and remuneration across states, to fill vacancies faster, and to ensure standard training across states.
- **Ease of Doing Business:** The government has targeted the reform of lower judiciary in its effort to improve India's Ease of Doing Business ranking, as efficient dispute resolution is one of the key indices in determining the rank.
- **Addressing Judges To Population Ratio:** A Law Commission report (1987) recommended that India should have 50 judges per million population as against 10.50 judges (then).
- Now, the figure has crossed 20 judges in terms of the sanctioned strength, but it's nothing compared to the US or the UK — 107 and 51 judges per million people, respectively.
- **Higher Representation of Marginalised Sections of Society:** According to the Government, the AIJS to be an ideal solution for equal representation of the marginalised and deprived sections of society.
- **Attracting Talent Pool:** The government believes that if such a service comes up, it would help create a pool of talented people who could later become a part of the higher judiciary
- **Bottoms-Up Approach:** The bottoms-up approach in the recruitment would also address issues like corruption and nepotism in the lower judiciary.

**Criticism:**

- **Encroaching States Power:** A centralised recruitment process is seen as an affront to federalism and an encroachment on the powers of states granted by the Constitution.
- **Wont Address Unique Issues:** This is the main contention of several states, which have also argued that central recruitment would not be able to address the unique concerns that individual states may have.
- **Language and representation,** for example, are key concerns highlighted by states.

- Judicial business is conducted in regional languages, which could be affected by central recruitment.
- Not Good For Local Reservation: Also, reservations based on caste, and even for rural candidates or linguistic minorities in the state, could be diluted in a central test.
- Against Separation of Powers: The opposition is also based on the constitutional concept of the separation of powers. A central test could give the executive a foot in the door for the appointment of district judges, and dilute the say that High Courts have in the process.
- Won't Address Structural Issues: The creation of AIJS will not address the structural issues plaguing the lower judiciary.
- The issue of different scales of pay and remuneration has been addressed by the SC in the 1993 All India Judges Association case by bringing in uniformity across states.
- Experts argue that increasing pay across the board and ensuring that a fraction of High Court judges are picked from the lower judiciary, may help better than a central exam to attract quality talent.

## 1.4 Adi Shankaracharya

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Prime Minister has unveiled a 12-foot statue of Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath (Uttarakhand).

### About:

- Known as Adi Shankara, born 11th May 788 AD, at Kaladi near Kochi, Kerala.
- Took Samadhi at the age of 33, at Kedar tirth.
- He was a devotee of Shiva.
- Propounded the Doctrine of Advaita (Monism) and wrote many commentaries on the Vedic canon (Upanishads, Brahma Sutras and Bhagavad Gita) in Sanskrit.
- He was opposed to Buddhist philosophers.

### Major Work:

- Brahmasutrabhasya (Bhashya or commentary on the Brahma Sutra).
- Bhajagovinda Stotra.
- Nirvana Shatakam.
- Prakaran Granths.

### Other Contributions:

- Was responsible for reviving Hinduism in India to a great extent when Buddhism was gaining popularity.
- Established four Mathas in the four corners of India at Shingeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath— for propagation of Sanathana Dharma.

### Advaita Vedanta:

- It articulates a philosophical position of radical nondualism, a revisionary worldview which it derives from the ancient Upanishadic texts.
- According to Advaita Vedantins, the Upanishads reveal a fundamental principle of nonduality termed 'brahman', which is the reality of all things.
- Advaitins understand brahman as transcending individuality and empirical plurality. They seek to establish that the essential core of one's self (atman) is brahman.
- The fundamental thrust of Advaita Vedanta is that the atman is pure non-intentional consciousness.
- It is one without a second, nondual, infinite existence, and numerically identical with brahman.

## 1.5 Gujarati New Year – Bestu Varas celebrated

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Gujarati New Year, dubbed as Bestu Varas, was observed on November 5.
- This day is observed on Pratipada Tithi of the Kartik month of Hindu calendar.
- Shukla Paksha marks the beginning of Gujarati New Year.

### About Bestu Varas

- Bestu Varas is related to lord Shri Krishna.
- As per mythology, Lord Krishna spent his early years in Braj and raised questions regarding offerings made to Lord Indra.
- Lord Krishna always detested appeasement, while encouraging people to do what was approved by Dharma and was right. As a result, Local discontinued the offerings to Lord Indra.
- But to avenge this insult, Lord Indra lashed the Braj region with torrential rains and thunderstorms. This led to the loss of property and livestock.
- To end this sufferings, Lord Krishna lifted the Govardhan hill on his little finger to provide shelter to cattle and livestock.
- Indra continued this for seven days and on the eighth day, he conceded defeat and bow before Lord Krishna.
- This way, started the tradition of praying to the Govardhan mountain.

### How this day is celebrated?

- To mark this day, traders close their old account books & open new ones, a day before this. They paint the sacred Swastika symbol and write shubh labh on it. People worship Devi Lakshmi, who is the Goddess of wealth and Devi Saraswati, who is the Goddess of learning.

### Significance of the day

- It is believed that, the day brings luck and profit throughout the year. During this day, no tithi is observed to pray and perform the rituals. Gujarati New Year coincides with Govardhan Puja. Thus, the whole day is considered promising and auspicious. On this day, Chopda Puja is also performed. It is devoted to Goddess Laxmi.

## 1.6 Union Minister Amit Shah Launches The “Dairy Sahakar” Scheme

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has launched the “Dairy Sahakar” scheme at Anand, Gujarat during a function organised by Amul to celebrate the 75th Foundation Year of Amul.
- The total outlay of the Dairy Sahakar scheme is Rs 5000 crore. The scheme will be implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under the Ministry of Cooperation.
- The scheme will supplement the existing efforts of strengthening the dairy sector in the country, doubling the farmer’s income as well as realizing the vision of ‘from cooperation to prosperity’.
- Under the scheme, NCDC will extend financial support to eligible cooperatives for activities like bovine development, milk procurement, processing, quality assurance, value addition, branding, packaging, marketing, transportation and storage of milk and milk products, exports of dairy products among others.



## 1.7 Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Haryana Government has said that the Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020 will be implemented in the state from 15th January 2022.

### About the Law:

- It requires **firms with 10 or more employees to reserve 75% of all jobs** offering a salary of less than Rs. 30,000 a month for eligible candidates of State domicile.
- Jobs will be provided in various** companies, societies, trusts, and limited liability partnership firms situated in the state.
- The move is **aimed at disallowing the influx of talent from other parts of the country** even in sectors like **IT and IT-enabled services (ITes)**, which the State does not have enough captive supply of.
- The law will be applicable for a **period of 10 years**.
- The state government also **relaxed the residency (domicile) requirement from 15 to 5 years** for a person to get a bona fide resident certificate in the state to provide some flexibility to the private companies in hiring.
- It will be **mandatory for all these employers** to register all their employees drawing gross monthly salary or wages not more than Rs 30,000 on the designated portal available on the official website of the Labour Department, Haryana.
- Violation of any provision of this Act** will be a punishable offence.

### Concerns:

- Can Trigger Exodus of Investors:**
- It could trigger an exodus of large domestic and multinational investors across sectors such as auto, IT that rely on highly skilled manpower.
- Affect Existing Industries:**
- Raising the son of the soil issue and preventing free movement of manpower resources in the State from other regions can have an adverse effect on the existing industries in the State.
- This may force those tech giants and other industries to shift their base from Haryana to other States and drain out the State's monetary resources to that extent.

### Can Cause Extreme Talent Crunch:

- Moreover, imposing the reservations on gig and platform companies could create a crippling talent crunch.

### Against the Constitution:

- The Constitution of India guarantees freedom of movement and consequently employment within India through several provisions.
- Article 14 provides for equality before law irrespective of place of birth.
- Article 15 guards against discrimination based on place of birth.
- Article 16 guarantees no birthplace-based discrimination in public employment.
- Article 19 ensures that citizens can move freely throughout the territory of India.

### Other Such Attempts:

- AAP (Political Party) chief has promised 80% reservations for locals in private jobs in poll-bound Goa and he made a similar promise for Uttarakhand too.

- This follows in the footsteps of states like Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Andhra and Madhya Pradesh that have already implemented or tried to implement similar populist policies.

**Reasons Behind Such Legislations:**

- **Vote Bank Politics:** Inter-state migrant workers (ISMW) constitute a sizeable “under-used or un-used” electorate as they often do not exercise voting rights. If these workers and potential migrants could be retained through Job For Locals Legislations (JRFL) and provided with jobs, the parties’ electoral causes will be served.
- **Economic Sluggishness:** The native unemployment issue assumes relevance as joblessness has intensified in the context of shrinking government employment.
- **Increased Incomes and Talent:** Job For Locals Legislations will not only retain talent but also incomes which otherwise will go to “other regions”.
- **Precondition for Land Acquisition:** Farmers and villagers, who lose their land in the process of land acquisition for industries, keep such preconditions in which industries have to provide jobs to local youth.

**Way Forward**

- The Haryana government should consider lowering the original salary ceiling of Rs. 30,000 a month to Rs. 15,000 a month on a 'cost to company' basis and raise it in tandem with efforts to improve skill sets in the State. The reservation, if any, should begin from 20%-25% as technical and specialised skill sets will take time to inculcate among the State's youth.

## 1.8 Logos of Darjeeling Toy Train as Intellectual Property

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, India has finally registered the logos (two) of the iconic ‘Toy Train’ internationally as its intellectual property.
- The claim for registration was sent to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) with the procedure laid down in WIPO’s Vienna Classification (VCL). There is a six-month window to register any counter-claims, following which the Indian government’s claim will receive international approval.

**About:**

- The use of these logos anywhere in the world will now require written permission from India and the payment of a fee.
- The DHR has two logos, both of which have been patented. The process of registering the logo with the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry was initiated in August 2021. It was then sent to the WIPO.
- Both logos are over a century old, and popular in world heritage circuits.
- They are used randomly on merchandise and communications materials by various commercial organisations in Europe, the UK and the US; even the West Bengal government has used it in communications and on merchandise in the past.
- **Significance:** This will put the Darjeeling Toy Train’s ‘Iron Sherpa’ blue steam locomotives on the same pedestal as the legendary transalpine Rhaetian Railway in Switzerland, and is likely to boost its recognition and prominence around the world.

**DHR:**

- DHR was built in the British era between 1879 and 1881.
- It is located in the foothills of the Himalayas in West Bengal.
- It is the most outstanding example of a hill passenger railway. Its design applies bold and ingenious engineering solutions to the problem of establishing an effective rail link across a mountainous terrain of great beauty.
- It was declared a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Site in 1999.

#### **Other Mountain Railways Declared as World Heritage Sites:**

- Nilgiri Mountain Railways located in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu (South India) (2005)
- Kalka Shimla Railway located in the Himalayan foothills of Himachal Pradesh (Northwest India) (2008).

### **1.9 Kaho Village: Arunachal Pradesh**

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

- Arunachal Pradesh is planning to make a documentary on Kaho, a village on the China border to mark the 75th year of Independence.

#### **About:**

- Kaho is the first village from the China border in Anjaw district.
- Anjaw is one of the 11 districts of Arunachal Pradesh that share their border with China.
- According to the 2011 census, Kaho has only 65 residents and a literacy rate of 64.15%.
- A documentary on the village and the locals who belong to the Meyor tribe will be made.
- Meyor is a small tribe constituting a small population that dwells in Kibithoo and Walong circles of the district.
- Meyors are also animists like the Mishmis but they have also adopted Mahayana Buddhism.
- All tribes of Arunachal Pradesh include: Abor, Aka, Apatani, Dafla, Galong, Khampti, Khowa, Mishmi, Monpa, Momba, Any Naga tribes, Sherdukpen, Singpho".
- One of seven villages in the Kibithoo block bisected by the Lohit river, Kaho had weathered the Chinese attack in 1962. Its people had assisted the Indian soldiers who had been outnumbered.

#### **Lohit River:**

- It is a tributary to the Brahmaputra River.
- Brahmaputra River originates under the name of Siang or Dihang, from the Chemayungdung glacier of the Kailash range near the Mansarovar lake (Tibet). It enters India west of Sadiya town in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It originates in eastern Tibet, in the Zayal Chu range and surges through Arunachal Pradesh for 200 km, before reaching in the plains of Assam.

### **1.10 Goddess Annapurna Idol**

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

- Recently, an ancient idol of Goddess Annapurna was brought back to India after over a century from Canada.
- The Idol was received by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). It will be placed in its original location - the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

- This idol was smuggled out of the country somewhere around 1913.

**About:**

- **Goddess Annapurna:** She is the goddess of food. She is also known as the manifestation of the goddess Parvati, partner to Lord Shiva.
- The idol holds a bowl of kheer in one hand and a spoon in the other.
- **Benares Style:** The 18<sup>th</sup>-century idol, carved in the Benares style, was part of the collection at the MacKenzie Art Gallery at the University of Regina, Canada.
- Varanasi, also known as Benares, Banaras, or Benaras or Kashi or Kasi, is a famous Hindu holy city situated on the banks of the river Ganges in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is the rich cultural tradition of Varanasi that makes it the cultural capital of India.
- **Kashi Vishwanath Temple:** It is one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- It is located in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The temple stands on the western bank of the river Ganga, and is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest of Shiva temples.
- It was constructed in the year 1780 by the Maratha monarch, Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore.

### 1.11 Centre: 18 lakh children in India severely malnourished

**WHY IN NEWS**

- According to Women and Child Ministry, there are more than 33 lakh malnourished children in India. This figure was reported from Poshan tracker, on which numbers are directly entered by anganwadis and are accessed by the Central government.

**About:**

- Ministry further notes that, more than half of the children are in the severely malnourished category.
- Maharashtra, Bihar and Gujarat are topping the list.
- As per estimate, there are 17,76,902 severely acute malnourished (SAM) children and 15,46,420 moderately acute malnourished (MAM) children in India, as of October 14, 2021. These numbers were registered on Poshan tracker app, which was developed in 2020 as a governance tool for monitoring the nutritional outcomes in real-time.
- In between November 2020 and October 14, 2021, 91 per cent increase was seen in the number of Severely acute malnourished children. The number has increased from 9,27,606 to 17.76 lakh now.

**Definition of SAM and MAM**

- As per World Health Organisation, SAM is defined as very low weight-for-height or the mid-upper arm circumference lesser than 115 mm, or presence of nutritional oedema while MAM is defined as moderate wasting or mid-upper-arm circumference (MUAC) greater than 115 mm but less than 125 mm.

**Impact of SAM and MAM**

- Children suffering from SAM have low weight for their height. They are nine times more likely to die due to diseases because of their weakened immune system. Children suffering from MAM are at increased risk of mortality and morbidity during childhood.



## 1.12 Union Power Minister inaugurated the “Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project” in J&K

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Power Minister R K Singh virtually inaugurated the diversion of the Marusudar River of Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project in Kishtwar, J&K.
- Pakal Dul HE Project (1,000 MW) is being constructed by Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Limited (CVPPPL) and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation. Marusudar River is a major tributary of the Chenab River.
- Pakal Dul H.E. Project will help in fulfilling the target of 450 GW Renewable energy by 2030.
- Through this project, an investment of Rs 8212 crores is being made in this region. The investment will in turn provide direct & indirect employment opportunities. It will help in the overall development of local inhabitants

## 1.13 How Srinagar Earned UNESCO Creative Tag

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, UNESCO has selected Srinagar as part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) under the Crafts and Folk Arts category. Srinagar became one of 49 cities worldwide to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

### About the inclusion of Srinagar in UCCN

- The Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO had recommended Srinagar and Gwalior for inclusion in the list of UCCN. Only Srinagar got included in the list.
- Note: Srinagar had applied in 2018 too, but that application got rejected.

### About the Art & craft of Srinagar

- Entire central Kashmir is known for its varied craft traditions. Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam districts of Kashmir are known for ages in making handicrafts products. Such as textiles, carpets and rugs, crewel embroidery, silverware, woodwork and papier-mâché (moulded a repulped paper that has been mixed with glue or paste).

### Wooden Crafts:

- The wood comes from walnut trees, which grow at 7,000 feet above sea level. These woods are used to make tables, jewellery boxes and trays.

### Pashmina shawl:

- It is one of the best-quality shawls in the world, made up of wild Asian mountain goats. Srinagar region is the epicentre of high-quality, intricately woven woollen material like shawls, carpets and rugs.

### Papier-mâché:

- It is said to have been brought to Kashmir by saint Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani from Persia in the 14th century. It is based primarily on creating colourful utility and decorative objects using paper pulp — vases, bowls, cups, boxes, trays and lamp bases. The art is concentrated mainly around downtown Srinagar and employs around 35,000 artisans.

### Benefits of the UCCN tag to Srinagar

- The crafts have been struggling ever since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 put artisans in an indefinite lockdown, followed by the Covid-19 lockdown. Besides, frequent Internet shutdowns have cut artisans off from the rest of the country.

- The UCCN tag would not only give global recognition to Srinagar but also help it in getting international funding, making tie-ups with craft universities, and pitching crafts as products.

### 1.14 Char Dham Project

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) has spoken of the need to balance national security concerns with environmental issues in the context of the Army's request to expand the CharDham Project (CDP) roads leading to the Indo-China border.
- The request came in the context of construction being carried out by China across the border. However, expansion of roads has been opposed by an NGO citing environmental concerns

#### About Chardham Project:

- **Objective:** CharDham Pariyojana aims to "improve the connectivity to the Chardham pilgrimage centres (Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri) in the Himalayas, making journeys to these centres safer, faster and more convenient.
- It will widen almost 900 km of highways connecting the pilgrimage sites and the Tanakpur-Pithoragarh stretch of National Highway (NH) 125, a part of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra route.
- **Role in National Security:** This project can act as the strategic feeder roads which connect the India-China border with the Army camps in Dehradun and Meerut where missile bases and heavy machinery are located.
- **Implementing Agencies:** Uttarakhand State Public Works Department (PWD), Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the National Highway & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).
- NHIDCL is a fully owned company of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

#### Environmental Concerns About the Project:

- The project may destroy about 690 hectares of forests with 55,000 trees and evacuate an estimated 20 million cubic metres of soil.
- Ruthless harvesting or uprooting of vegetation in the widening of roads can prove to be perilous for the biodiversity and regional ecology.
- Birds like Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelanos*, Schedule-I), Tragopans (*Tragopan melanocephalus* & *Tragopan satyra*, Schedule-I), and various species of Vultures (Schedule-I) along with endangered fish Golden Mahseer (*Tor putitora*) are among the wonderful species found there.
- While there is no link between the CharDham project and the recent glacier broken tragedy of Chamoli, indiscriminate blasting during road construction makes cracks in soil and rocks that may enhance the possibility of flash-flood in the future.

### 1.15 MPLAD Scheme

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union Cabinet has approved the restoration of the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for the remaining part of Financial Year 2021-22 till 2025-26.

- It will be co-terminus with the period of the 15th Finance Commission.
- The scheme was suspended for two financial years (2020-21 and 2021-22).

**About:**

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** which was announced in December 1993.

**Objective:**

- To enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. primarily in their Constituencies.
- Since June 2016, the MPLAD funds can also be used for implementation of the schemes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan), conservation of water through rain water harvesting and Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana, etc.

**Implementation:**

- The process under MPLADS starts with the Members of Parliament recommending works to the Nodal District Authority.
- The Nodal District concerned is responsible for implementing the eligible works recommended by the Members of Parliament and maintaining the details of individual works executed and amount spent under the Scheme.

**Functioning:**

- Each year, MPs receive Rs. 5 crore in two instalments of Rs. 2.5 crore each. Funds under MPLADS are non-lapsable.
- Lok Sabha MPs have to recommend the district authorities projects in their Lok Sabha constituencies, while Rajya Sabha MPs have to spend it in the state that has elected them to the House.
- Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.

**Significance of Restoration of the Scheme:**

- It will restart fulfilling the aspirations and developmental requirements of the local community and creation of durable assets, which is the primary objective of the MPLADS.
- It will also help in reviving the local economy.

**Issues with MPLADS:**

- Implementation Lapses: The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) has flagged instances of financial mismanagement and artificial inflation of amounts spent.
- No Statutory Backing: The scheme is not governed by any statutory law and is subject to the whims and fancies of the government of the day.
- Monitoring and Regulation: The scheme was launched for promoting participatory development but there is no indicator available to measure level of participation.
- Breach of Federalism: MPLADS encroaches upon the domain of local self-governing institutions and thereby violates Part IX and IX-A of the Constitution.
- Conflict with Doctrine of Separation of Powers: MPs are getting involved in executive functions.

**1.16 November 15 declared as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas'****WHY IN NEWS?**

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- On November 10, 2021, Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved declaration of November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.
- The day was declared as a part of year-long celebration of 75 years of India's independence, in a bid to commemorate brave tribal freedom fighters.
- November 15 also marks the birth anniversary date of Birsa Munda who is considered as God by tribal communities across India.
- Birsa Munda had made significant contributions in India's Independence by fighting against exploitative system of British colonial system.
- He belonged to the Munda tribe and spearheaded an Indian tribal religious Millenarian movement in late 19th century across the tribal belt of present-day Bihar and Jharkhand.

#### **The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**

- The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas will be observed to commemorate tribal freedom fighters. It will make the coming generations aware of sacrifices made by tribal freedom fighters during India's independence movement. The day will be celebrated every year to recognize the efforts made by tribals in preserving cultural heritage and promoting Indian values of national pride & hospitality.

#### **Significance of the Day**

- The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas will acknowledge the cultural heritage and glorious history of tribal communities.

#### **How this day will be celebrated?**

- To mark this day, Indian government will launch a week-long celebration to commemorate 75 years of history of tribal people. It will start from November 15 and will conclude on November 22, 2021.
- Central and State government will organize several activities as a part of celebration.
- The theme of each activity will showcase achievements of tribals in Indian Freedom Struggle.
- Government will undertake several initiatives in health, education, skill development, livelihood, and infrastructure.

### **1.17 Punjab became 1st Indian state to approve Tissue Culture-Based Seed Potato Rules**

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

- The Punjab Cabinet headed by chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi approved the 'Punjab Tissue Culture Based Seed Potato Rules-2021' to develop Punjab as a standard potato seed centre.
- With this decision, Punjab has become the first Indian state to have the facility of tissue culture-based certification, which will develop the Jalandhar-Kapurthala belt of Punjab as the export hub of potatoes.
- The Cabinet also approved to introduce the 'Punjab Horticulture Nursery Bill-2021' by amending 'Punjab Fruit Nursery Act-1961'.

### **1.18 National Education Day: 11 November**

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

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- In India, the National Education Day is celebrated on 11 November every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India.
- The day was announced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 11 September 2008. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad served as education minister from 15 August 1947 to 2 February 1958.
- On 11 September 2008, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has announced to commemorate the birthday of the great person by recalling the contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in the field of education by celebrating 11 November as National Education Day.
- Since 2008, every year in India, National Education Day is celebrated without declaring it a holiday.

### 1.19 Punjab Assembly adopts resolution against Farm laws

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Punjab Assembly adopted a resolution against Centre's three contentious farm laws on November 11, 2021.

#### About:

- This resolution was passed after claiming that farm laws had unlawfully ventured into state government's domain.
- This is the second resolution adopted by Vidhan Sabha against three agriculture laws.
- First resolution was passed in October 2020.
- New resolution was moved by state Agriculture Minister Randeep Singh Nabha.

#### About the resolution

- As per resolution, Vidhan Sabha of Punjab strongly deprecates and condemns the efforts of Union government. It was aimed at systematic dismantling of regulated mandis and replacing mandis with trader-friendly unregulated mandis.
- Resolution showed concerned about unfair concessions which was extended to the traders and corporations to allow purchases from unregulated markets without paying market fee and rural development fee etc.
- Resolution will lead to shifting of trade from APMC mandis to private mandis apart from causing fiscal loss to state government.

#### What are those three farm laws?

##### 1. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020

- This act was launched with the aim of opening agricultural sale and marketing outside notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis for farmers. The act removes barriers to inter-State trade as well as provides a framework for electronic trading of agricultural produce. It also expands the scope of trade areas of farmers' produce from select areas. It seeks to break monopoly of government-regulated mandis and allows farmers to sell directly to private buyers.

##### 2. Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020

- This act creates a national framework for contract farming. It provides a legal framework for farmers to enter into written contracts with companies and produce for them.

##### 3. Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020

- The act removes pulses, cereals, edible oils, oilseeds, onions and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. It seeks to deregulate the production, movement, storage, and distribution of these food commodities.

## 1.20 Punjabi made compulsory in Punjab schools

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Chief Minister of Punjab, Charanjit Singh Channi, announced that Punjabi will now be a compulsory subject for all students in the state of Punjab.

### About:

- Punjabi language will be made compulsory from classes 1-10.
- Apart from that, it will be made mandatory in offices as well.
- It has been made compulsory to promote mother tongue.
- If any school violates the norm, it will be fined up to Rs 2 lakh for violation.
- As per norms, Punjabi will be written on top of all the boards in Punjab.

### What are those bills?

- This announcement was made by CM, a day after the state legislative assembly passed 15 bills on November 11, 2021. Two bills were related to the Punjabi language namely, Punjab State Language Amendment Bill, 2021 and Punjabi & Other Languages Education (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

### Punjabi & Other Languages Education (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- Under this bill, Punjabi language will be made a compulsory subject in schools. In case of violation, it has set a fine of ₹2 lakh.

### Punjab State Language Amendment Bill, 2021

- The bill directs that all official business shall be conducted in Punjabi. In case of violation, a penalty of Rs 500, Rs 2000 and Rs 5000 will be imposed respectively for first, second and third violations.

### Background

- State government announced this move in the backdrop of recent announcement by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to move status of Punjabi language from 'major subject' to 'minor subject'. CBSE had classified all the regional languages as 'minor subjects' for first-term exams of 10th and 12th classes.

## 1.21 75 Nutrition smart villages will strengthen India's campaign against malnutrition

### WHY IN NEWS?

- As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Government of India has said that a programme on "Nutrition Smart Village" will be initiated to strengthen the Poshan Abhiyan.

### About Nutrition Smart Village Programme

- As part of the programme, a total of 75 villages will be adopted by All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) centres and Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICAR-CIWA).
- The Programme is in line with the Prime Minister's call to adopt and transform 75 villages.

### Objectives of the Programme

- To promote nutritional awareness.
- To promote Education and behavioral change in rural areas involving farm women and school children
- To harness traditional knowledge through the local recipe to overcome malnutrition and

- To implement nutrition-sensitive agriculture through homestead agriculture and Nutri-garden.

## 1.22 World's largest solar power park in Bhadla

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Bhadla Solar Park, located in Rajasthan, is the World's largest solar power park.

#### About:

- The solar park is located in Bhadla, a dry & sandy region in Rajasthan.
- It spans over 14,000 acres.
- The Park comprises of 10 million solar panels at the park. These solar panels contribute to an operational capacity of 2245 MW.

#### Bhadla Solar Park

- As of 2020, Bhadla solar park is largest solar park worldwide. It is spread over an area of 5,700 hectares in Bhadla, Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. Park has a total capacity of 2245 MW. It had witnessed the lowest bid for solar power in India at Rs 2.44 per kilowatt-hour.

#### About Bhadla region

- Bhadla region of the jodhpur district is officially recognized as sandy, dry, and arid region with an area of around 45 km<sup>2</sup>. It is located around 200 km north of Jodhpur and 320 km west of Jaipur. Because of its climate, this region is described as "almost unlivable". Normal temperatures of the region are between 46-48 °C while, hot winds & sand storms occur frequently.

#### Commissioning of the project

- NTPC had announced the commissioning of the 115 MW of capacity at this solar park on February 22, 2017. Currently, its full capacity is of 2,245 MW, making it world's largest solar park, with its investment rising to Rs 100 billion.

## 1.23 44th Wangala festival begins in Meghalaya

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Meghalaya state observed the 44th edition of 'Wangala', the festival of 100 Drums Festival begins. It is a post-harvest festival of the Garos tribe which is being held every year to honour 'Saljong', the Sun God of Garos, which also marks the end of the harvest season.
- Celebrated since 1976, it's the most important festival of the Garo tribe and attracts a lot of tourists. During the Wangala, tribals offer sacrifices to please their deity Saljong, the Sun God.
- The first day of the festival is celebrated with a ceremony called Ragula which is performed in the house of the village's chief. People dress up in colourful costumes with feathered headgears and dance to the rhythms of long oval-shaped drums on the second day of celebration, Kakkat.

## 1.24 Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara Corridor

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- The Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara Corridor will be reopened on Wednesday.
- The announcement comes ahead of the birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak on 19th November.

#### The Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara Corridor

- The corridor, inaugurated in 2019, links two important shrines — Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district of Punjab and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan.
- The pilgrims can travel visa-free to the shrine.
- The corridor was built to commemorate 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev.
- The operations at the corridor were suspended due to the pandemic.

**Who is Guru Nanak?**

- Guru Nanak Dev is known as the founder of Sikh religion (1469-1539).
- He advocated the 'Nirguna' form of bhakti.
- He rejected sacrifices, ritual baths, image worship, austerities and the scriptures of both Hindus and Muslims.
- The fifth preceptor, Guru Arjan, compiled Baba Guru Nanak's hymns in the Adi Granth Sahib.
- Kartarpur gurudwara is the revered shrine about 4km across the border where Guru Nanak Dev spent the last 18 years of his life.

## 1.25 World Bank's STARS project

**WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- The performance of the World Bank aided project STARS was reviewed recently.

**About:**

- STARS stands for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS).
- STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- It is a project to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states.
- Six states are- Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.
- Some 250 million students (between the age of 6 and 17) in 1.5 million schools and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the program.

**Reform initiatives under the project include:**

- Focusing more directly on the delivery of education services at the state, district and sub district levels by providing customized local-level solutions towards school improvement.
- Addressing demands from stakeholders, especially parents, for greater accountability and inclusion by producing better data to assess the quality of learning; giving special attention to students from vulnerable section.
- Equipping teachers to manage this transformation by recognizing that teachers are central to achieving better learning outcomes.
- Investing more in developing India's human capital needs by strengthening foundational learning for children in classes 1 to 3 and preparing them with the cognitive, socio-behavioural and language skills to meet future labour market needs.

**Unique components of the project:****Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC):**

- The project includes a Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) under the National Component which would enable it to be more responsive to any natural, man-made and health disasters.



- It will help the government respond to situations leading to loss of learning such as school closures/infrastructure damage, inadequate facilities and use of technology for facilitating remote learning etc.
- The CERC component would facilitate the rapid re-categorization of financing and the utilization of streamlined financing request procedures.

**PARAKH:**

- A major component of the project is the establishment of PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) as a National Assessment Centre.
- Included in the National Education Policy 2020, this autonomous institution under the Union Education Ministry will set norms for student assessment and evaluation for all school boards across the country, most of which currently follow norms set by State governments.
- It will also guide standardised testing to monitor learning outcomes at the State and national levels, according to the NEP.

## 1.26 Pochampally is one of the Best Tourism Villages: UNWTO

**WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- Recently, Pochampally village in Telangana was selected as one of the Best Tourism Villages by United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).
- The award will be given on the occasion of the 24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly in December 2021 in Madrid, Spain.
- The Union Ministry of Tourism has also drafted a Rural Tourism Policy which will not only promote tourism within our villages but also revitalise local arts and crafts and promote rural economy.
- Earlier, Rudreswara Temple, (also known as the Ramappa Temple) at Mulugu district, Telangana was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

**About:****Pochampally Village:**

- Pochampally in Nalgonda district is often referred to as the silk city of India for the exquisite sarees that are woven through a unique style called Ikat.
- This style, Pochampally Ikat, received a Geographical Indicator (GI Status) in 2004.
- Pochampally's unique weaving styles and patterns received special focus through the Prime Minister's mantra of Vocal 4 Local as a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- In 2015, to recognise the diversity of weaving techniques and our rich handloom tradition, the Prime Minister inaugurated the first National Handloom Day on 7th August as a tribute to the formal proclamation of the Swadeshi Movement that was made in a meeting at the Calcutta Town hall on the same day in 1905.
- Pochampally is also known as Bhoodan Pochampally to commemorate the Bhoodan Movement that was launched by Acharya Vinobha Bhave from this village on 18th April, 1951.
- Vinoba Bhave was the first international figure to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1958. He was awarded Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1983.
- The Ministry of Tourism recommended three villages for the UNWTO Best Tourism Village entry from India. However Pochampally, was awarded as one of the best Tourism Villages by UNWTO.
- These were Kongthong in Meghalaya, Ladhpura Khas, Madhya Pradesh and Pochampally in Telangana.

**Best Tourism Villages Initiative:**

- It is a Pilot initiative by UNWTO to highlight those villages where tourism preserves cultures and traditions, celebrates diversity, provides opportunities and safeguards biodiversity.
- It aims to award those villages which are outstanding examples of rural destinations and showcase good practises in line with its specified nine evaluation areas.
- It also aims to support villages to enhance their rural tourism potential through training and access to opportunities for improvement.

**1.27 Campaign on SafaiMitra Suraksha Challenge****WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched a week-long awareness campaign on SafaiMitra Suraksha Challenge (SSC) as part of the 'World Toilet Day' (19th November) celebrations, to run up to the 'Swachh Amrit Diwas'.
- The Swachh Amrit Diwas is an award ceremony to recognize the role and efforts of the states, cities, ULBs (Urban Local Bodies) and Cantonment Board in Swachh Survekshan 2021, and Garbage Free Star Rating certification on 20th November 2021.

**About:**

- A total of 246 cities are participating in SSC which is being conducted across the country. The state capitals, urban local bodies and smart cities will be eligible to participate.
- Cities will be awarded in three sub-categories – with a population of more than 10 lakhs, 3-10 lakhs and upto 3 lakhs, with a total prize money of Rs. 52 crore.
- It is one of the government efforts to combat manual scavenging.

**SafaiMitra Suraksha Challenge (SSC):**

- SSC was launched on 19th November 2020 on the occasion of World Toilet Day.
- SSC is aimed to encourage cities to mechanise their sewer and septic tank cleaning operations in order to prevent deaths and fatalities of sanitation workers from 'hazardous entry'.
- The Government launched this "challenge" for all states to make sewer-cleaning mechanised by April 2021 — if any human needs to enter a sewer line in case of unavoidable emergency, proper gear and oxygen tanks, etc., are to be provided.

**Initiatives Taken:**

- Under SSC, National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, supported by MoHUA are organizing Loan Melas across the country.
- The aim is to help Safaimitras avail loans under the Swachhata Udyami Yojana (SUY) for procurement of sewer/ septic tank cleaning machine/ equipment for mechanized cleaning.
- Skill development training of Safaimitras have also been conducted through the support of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment via NSKFDC in 115 cities.
- Call Centre and Helpline number have been operationalized in 345 cities for safe cleaning of septic tanks/sewers and registering complaints on hazardous cleaning.
- 31 states/UTs have established a Responsible Sanitation Authority (RSA) and 210 cities are having the Sanitation Response Units (SRU).
- All 246 participating cities have already notified a ban on single-use plastic (SUP).

## 1.28 Jal Shakti Ministry to launch 'Water Heroes' contest

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- 'Water Heroes – Share Your Stories' Contest will be launched by Jal Shakti Ministry from December 1, 2021.

### About:

- This contest is organised with the aim of encouraging and collecting best practices in water conservation and management from the entire of India.
- It also aims to encourage such efforts in India, in a bid to boost transformational action in the water sector.

### Entries to the contest

- Following the launch of the contest, entries will be invited for consideration of awards per month. A maximum of 10 entries will be considered for the awards. All the selected entries will be awarded a cash prize of 10 thousand rupees, along with a certificate.

### How one can participate in the contest?

- The participants will require to post their success stories in video format regarding water conservation and management, in order to take part in this contest. The video should be of duration between one to 5 minutes along with a write-up in around 300 words. The participants can share videos with the link of their YouTube video on the "MyGov portal".

### Water Heroes – Share Your Stories' Contest

- The "Water Heroes – Share Your Stories" Contest is organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, working under the parent head of the Ministry of Jal Shakti. This contest seeks to promote the value of water in general as well as to support efforts made across India on water conservation and the sustainable development of water resources. Its objective is to make water conservation a "people's movement".

## 1.29 Mumbai: Indian Railways opens first Pod retiring rooms

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Indian Railways has opened the first Pod retiring rooms for passengers of Indian Railways as well as common people, at the Mumbai Central station.

### About:

- As per a senior Western Railway (WR) official, one is required to pay Rs 999 for 12 hours and Rs 1,999 for 24 hours to stay in this pod hotel.
- It will also provide facilities like Wi-Fi, TV, adjustable mirror, small locker, and reading lights.
- The pod hotel was inaugurated virtually by the Union minister of state for Railways Raosaheb Danve.

### What is a pod hotel?

- Pod hotel or capsule hotel comprises of small bed-sized capsules and provide affordable overnight accommodation.
- Total cost of the projects and facilities is worth Rs 230 crore.

### Key Features of the pod hotel

- Pod hotels are a significant feature of international tourism in Japan. It allows travellers to find accommodation at cheaper rates as compared to conventional hotels.
- Japanese-style pod hotel in Mumbai comprises of building with multiple small capsules, which will offer overnight stay for the passengers.

- These pods will provide facilities like Wi-Fi, key card access, air conditioning, CCTV surveillance, washrooms and other basic amenities.
- Waiting rooms have been constructed on the first floor of the station. The cheapest pod will cost Rs 999 for 12 hours. For 24 hours, it will cost Rs 1,999.
- For private pod, passengers will require to pay Rs 1249 for 12 hours, and Rs 2499 for 24 hours.

### 1.30 Piyush Goyal Launched India's 1st Digital Food Museum In Tamil Nadu

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Union Minister, Piyush Goyal virtually launched India's first Digital Food Museum in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. It is a 1,860-sqft museum co-developed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museums, Bengaluru (Karnataka) with an estimated outlay of Rs 1.1 crore.
- The museum is the first one-of-its-kind effort to depict India's food story from the beginning to India becoming the largest food grain exporter in the country.
- This museum showcases the Indian food evolution from nomadic hunter-gatherers into settled agriculture producers. The measures of the government will make the country top the list of largest agricultural exporters in the world.
- The museum will showcase the history of people from being foragers to producers, the story of the first harvest, the rise of villages and the preparation of demand days. The museum will display the grains of India and explain the food culture in different parts of the world.

### 1.31 Project Samhati: Odisha

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- The new National Education Policy 2020 lays emphasis on imparting teaching in the mother tongue in primary classes. However, when seen from the context of the diverse language base of tribal people, the task appears to be quite onerous.
- In this scenario, Odisha's decade-long experiment in multilingual education may come in handy to take up the challenge.
- The most important aspect of Mother-Tongue Based Multi-Lingual Education (MTBMLE) is that it helps save endangered tribal languages.

#### About:

- The ST and SC Development Department of the Odisha government have started a project called 'Samhati'.
- It intends to address the language issues faced by tribal students in early grades or elementary classes.
- Under this, the department plans to cover approximately 2.5 lakh students in 1,450 primary schools in the State.
- Implementing Agency: The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) along with the Academy of Tribal Language and Culture (ATLC), Bhubaneswar is implementing the project.
- Multilingual Learning: Under Samhati, it has been decided that all teachers of primary level would be provided functional knowledge of tribal languages and ways of communicating with tribal students.



- Odisha's Adivasi communities are as diverse as 21 spoken languages. Out of the 21 languages, Santhali, the only language which has been included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.
- It is taught in its own Ol Chiki script while the rest of tribal languages have Odia scripts.
- Only six tribal languages — Santali, Ho, Soura, Munda and Kui — have a written script.
- These students are a multilingual group unlike monolingual groups in regular schools.

### 1.32 Allahabad High Court Decision on Uniform Civil Code

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Recently, the Allahabad High Court has called upon the Central government to initiate the process for implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
- The court's direction came in the context of a bunch of 17 petitions filed by interfaith couples, who contracted marriage upon conversion, seeking protection of their life, liberty and privacy guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

#### About:

- **Background - New Anti-Conversion Law:** The Government of Uttar Pradesh has recently passed an anti-conversion law called the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021.
- The marriage cannot be registered without the district authority making an enquiry as to whether the conversion is voluntary and not induced by coercion, allurement and threat.
- The Act mandates that the approval of the District Magistrate (DM) is necessary to be obtained before conversion or marriage.
- The Act makes religious conversion for marriage a non-bailable offence.

#### Observation by the Court:

- The marriage registrar lacks the power to withhold the registration of marriage merely for the reason that the parties have not obtained the necessary approval of conversion from the district authority.
- The court directed the marriage registrar to forthwith register the marriage of such couples.
- The Court observed that such an approval is a directory and not mandatory.
- The Act would not satisfy the test of reasonableness and fairness and would fail to pass the muster of Article 14 (Equality before law) and Article 21 (Protection of Life and Personal Liberty).
- It observed that the consent of the family or the community or the clan or the State or executive is not necessary, once two adult individuals agree to enter into wedlock which is lawful and legal.
- The court directed the police of the respective districts to ensure the safety of these couples.
- Further, the court urged the central government to make a law implementing the UCC, so that such atrocities are not repeated.
- This is because after implementation there will be less need for anti-conversion laws.
- Uniform Civil Code

#### Background:

- An increase in legislation dealing with personal issues in the far end of British rule forced the government to form the B N Rau Committee to codify Hindu law in 1941.
- UCC is one that would provide for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.

- Article 44 of the Constitution lays down that the state shall endeavour to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India.
- Article 44 is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
- In order to bring uniformity, the courts have often said in their judgements that the government should move towards a UCC.
- The judgement in the Shah Bano case (1985) is well known.
- The Supreme Court in Shayara Bano case (2017) had declared the practice of Triple Talaq (talaq-e-biddat) as unconstitutional.

### 1.33 Governor's Power to decide on Bills: Veto Power

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Recently, the speaker of the Tamil Nadu assembly called for setting a binding timeframe within which Bills should be assented to or returned or reserved for the consideration of the President of India by the governors.

#### Issues Highlighted by the Speaker:

- **Related to Governor:**
- The governors sometimes sat over the Bills without giving assent or returning the Bills for an indefinite period, even though the Constitution required it to be done as soon as possible.
- The governors were also taking months together to reserve the Bills for the assent of the President even though it was to be done immediately.
- This erodes the authority of the legislatures and the governors, though heads of the state executive, are appointed by the Union government.
- **Related to President:**
- The President of India should also give reasons for withholding the assent and returning the Bill.
- This would help the House to enact another bill by correcting shortfalls that caused the bill to be rejected.

#### Related Examples:

- The Speaker's comments assume significance in the backdrop of a Bill passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in September 2021 seeking exemption for students from the state from the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) required for undergraduate medical college admissions.
- The Tamil Nadu assembly passed a resolution in 2018 regarding the release of the seven prisoners convicted in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.
- The resolution was sent to the then Governor but he did not take any action for more than two years.
- In January 2021, the Supreme Court, while hearing a plea, expressed that they were unhappy with the delay.
- In February, the Governor, without taking a call, passed the buck and said that the President was the competent authority to decide on the resolution.
- Veto Power of the President and the Governor

#### About:

- Veto Power of the President of India is guided by Article 111 of the Indian Constitution.

- Article 200 of the Indian Constitution deals with the powers of the Governor with regard to assent given to bills passed by the State legislature and other powers of the Governor such as reserving the bill for the President's consideration.
- Article 201 pertains to 'Bills Reserved for Consideration'.
- The Governor of India enjoys absolute veto, suspensive veto (except on money bills) but not the pocket veto.

### Three Types of Veto Power: Absolute veto, Suspensive veto and Pocket veto.

- **Exception:** The President has no veto power when it comes to the constitutional amendment bills.
- Constitutional amendment bills cannot be introduced in the state legislature.
- **Absolute Veto:** It refers to the power of the President to withhold his assent to a bill passed by the Parliament. The bill then ends and does not become an act.
- **Suspensive Veto:** The President uses a suspensive veto when he returns the bill to the Indian Parliament for its reconsideration.
- If the Parliament resends the bill with or without amendment to the President, he has to approve the bill without using any of his veto powers.
- **Exception:** The President cannot exercise his suspensive veto in relation to the Money Bill.
- **Pocket Veto:** The bill is kept pending by the President for an indefinite period when he exercises his pocket veto.
- He neither rejects the bill nor returns the bill for reconsideration.
- Unlike the American President who has to resend the bill within 10 days, the Indian President has no such time rule.
- **Veto over State Bills:**
- The governor is empowered to reserve certain types of bills passed by the state legislature for the consideration of the President.
- Then, the Governor will not have any further role in the enactment of the bill.
- The President can withhold his assent to such bills not only in the first instance but also in the second instance.
- Thus, the President enjoys absolute veto (and not suspensive veto) over state bills.
- Further, the President can exercise a pocket veto in respect of state legislation also.

## 1.34 Repealing a Law

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India announced that the three contentious farm laws that were passed in 2020 would be repealed in the upcoming winter session of Parliament.

### About:

- Article 245 of the Constitution gives Parliament the power to make laws for the whole or any part of India, and state legislatures the power to make laws for the state.
- Parliament draws its power to repeal a law from the same provision.
- For repeal, the power of Parliament is the same as enacting a law under the Constitution.
- A law can be repealed either in its entirety, in part, or even just to the extent that it is in contravention of other laws.
- **Sunset Clause:** Legislation can also have a "sunset" clause, a particular date after which they cease to exist.

- For example, the anti-terror legislation Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act 1987, commonly known as TADA, had a sunset clause and was allowed to lapse in 1995.
- Repealing: For laws that do not have a sunset clause, Parliament has to pass another legislation to repeal the law.
- Laws can be repealed in two ways - either through an ordinance or through legislation.
- Ordinance: In case an ordinance is used, it would need to be replaced by a law passed by Parliament within six months.
- If the ordinance lapses because it is not approved by Parliament, the repealed law can be revived.
- Repealing through Legislations: The government will have to pass the legislation to repeal the farm laws in both Houses of Parliament and receive the President's assent before it comes into effect.
- All three farm laws can be repealed through single legislation.
- Usually, Bills titled Repealing and Amendment are introduced for this purpose. It is passed through the same procedure as any other Bills.
- The last time the Repealing and Amending provision was invoked was in 2019 when the Union government sought to repeal 58 obsolete laws and make minor amendments to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and The Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017.

### 1.35 USOF Scheme for Aspirational Districts in 5 states

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme for provisioning of 4G-based mobile services in uncovered villages of aspirational districts across five states — Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Odisha.
- NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts programme aims to quickly and effectively transform 112 most under-developed districts across the country.

#### About:

- It envisages providing 4G based mobile services in the 7,287 uncovered villages of 44 Aspirational Districts across five States. It would be funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- It will enhance digital connectivity useful for self-reliance, facilitate learning, dissemination of information and knowledge, skill up-gradation and development, disaster management, e-Governance initiatives, the establishment of enterprises & e-commerce facilities, etc.
- It seeks to fulfil the vision of Digital India promoting domestic manufacturing and fulfilling the objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat etc.

#### Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF):

#### About:

- USOF ensures that there is universal non-discriminatory access to quality ICT (Information and Communications Technology) services at economically efficient prices to people in rural and remote areas.
- It was created under the Ministry of Communications in 2002.
- It is a non-lapsable fund, i.e., the unspent amount under a targeted financial year does not lapse and is accrued for next years' spending.
- All credits to this fund require parliamentary approval and it has statutory support under Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003.

#### Objectives:



- Economic: Network extension & stimulate uptake of the ICT services
- Social: Mainstreaming the underserved & un-served areas/groups by bridging the Access Gap.
- Political: to enable citizens to exercise their political rights in an informed way and
- Constitutional: Equitable distribution of the fruits of the telecom/digital revolution and fair allocation of national resources (pooled USO levy) via targeted subsidies.

**Significance:**

- The rural areas get the Village Public Telephones (VPTs), Rural Community Phones (RCPs), Rural Household Telephones (RDELs), and mobile infrastructure.
- With access to affordable telecom services in remote and rural areas, it can help stemming urban migration and ensure generating employment opportunities in the rural areas.
- The increased awareness of ICT services in the rural areas and growing participation of the rural people will help promote facilities related to health, education etc.
- It can ensure the growth of Rural Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs-Rural) and Rural Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPOs-Rural.)
- USOF is also perceived as the right tool to extend the benefits of the government schemes aimed at the social development of the rural population.

### 1.36 President Ram Nath Kovind Inaugurates Adarsh Village 'Sui' In Haryana

**WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind visited Sui village in the Bhiwani district of Haryana, to inaugurate various public facilities in the village.
- This village is being developed as Adarsh Gram (Model village) by Mahadevi Parameshwaridas Jindal Charitable Trust under the Swa-Prerit Adarsh Gram Yojana (SPAGY) scheme of the Haryana Government.
- The President and his wife Savita Kovind planted a peepal tree at Sui village.
- The Jindal trust has undertaken developmental works of over Rs 25 crore to transform Sui into an ADARSH VILLAGE.
- It must be noted that Bhiwani is the first district in India where two Presidents have visited. Prior to this President APJ Abdul Kalam visited Bhiwani in 2007.
- The village is being developed as 'Adarsh gram' by the Mahadevi Parameshwaridas Jindal Charitable Trust under the Haryana government's Swa-Prerit Adarsh Gram Yojana (SPAGY).

### 1.37 All-India Survey on Domestic Workers

**WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- The first All-India Survey on Domestic Workers was launched recently.
- **Ministry:** Labour and Employment Ministry
- The first-of-its-kind survey in India

**Key takeaways**

- The survey would be completed in a year.
- **Carried out** by Labour Bureau

**Aim:**

- Estimating the number of domestic workers at the national and state levels

- Those engaged in informal employment
- Migrant and non-migrant workers
- Domestic workers staying at their employers' homes and those who do not; their wages

**Broad parameters to be covered:**

- Household Characteristics such as HH size, Religion, Social Group.
- Demographic Characteristics such as Name, Age,
- Age of entry, Social Group, Migrant status, Vocational Training/Education
- Information on Employer Households.

### 1.38 Noida International Airport at Jewar

**WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- The Noida International Airport at Jewar is spread across an area of 5,000 acres and is being developed by Zurich International Airport AG at an estimated cost of Rs 29,560 crore
- The Swiss Airport company had won the bid in November 2019 following which a concessionaire agreement had been signed with the state government.
- The airport, which spans over a whopping 1,300 hectares of land in Gautam Buddh Nagar district, has been heralded as Asia's largest airport.
- With Jewar airport, UP to become first Indian state to have 5 international airports

### 1.39 NATIONAL CONSTITUTION DAY

- Constitution Day also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', is celebrated in our country on 26th November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.
- On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26th January 1950.
- This year the Constitution Day will be celebrated in the central hall of the Parliament as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The Union Cabinet announced in May 2015 that Constitution Day will be marked on 26 November to promote the constitutional values amongst countrymen.

### 1.40 National Family Health Survey (NFHS): More women than men in India for the first time

**Why in news?**

- Recently, the fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS) was released.

**About NFHS Survey**

- It is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.
- The survey provides state and national information for India on fertility, infant and child mortality, the practice of family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health, nutrition, anaemia, utilization and quality of health and family planning services.

- **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)** designated the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai**, as the nodal agency, responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the survey.
- NFHS-5, the most comprehensive survey on socio-economic and health indicators in the country, shows some surprising demographic transitions.
- The previous four rounds of the NFHS were conducted in 1992-93, 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2015-16.

#### **Highlights of the Report:**

- **Women outnumber men, fertility has decreased, and India is getting older:** There were 1,020 women for 1000 men in the country in 2019-2021. This is the highest sex ratio for any NFHS survey as well as since the first modern synchronous census conducted in 1881.
- **The Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** has also come down below the threshold at which the population is expected to replace itself from one generation to next. TFR was 2 in 2019-2021, just below the replacement fertility rate of 2.1.
- **Children's nutrition improved but at a slower pace:** The share of stunted (low height for age), wasted (low weight for height), and underweight (low weight for age) children have all come down since the last NFHS conducted in 2015-16. However, the share of severely wasted children has not, nor has the share of overweight (high weight for height) or anaemic children.
- **India might be food secure, but nutrition is a problem for adults too:** Though India might have achieved food security, 60% of Indians cannot afford nutritious diets.
- **Anaemia:** India's battle with anaemia also appears to have faltered. The proportion of anaemic children (5-59 months) increased from 58% to 67%. Women aged 15-49 who were anaemic increased from 53% to 57% and men of the same age increased from 29% to 31% between both editions of the NFHS.
- **Obesity:** Nutritionally deficient diet likely explained the rise in obesity. Very challenging findings on waist-hip ratio. 56.7% women and 47.7% men have a high-risk waist-to-hip ratio.

### **1.41 MP will be first state to create Cyber Tehsil**

#### **Why in news?**

- Recently, Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approved the proposal to create cyber tehsils. This was informed by Home Minister Narottam Mishra, adding that the state will be the first across the country to do so.

#### **About Cyber Tehsils:**

- Cyber Tehsil will help in making the property mutation process easy and people will be able to take the benefit of the system from anywhere in the state.
- In addition, the Cyber Tehsil will make the process of conversion convenient in the cases of undisputed land through this service.

### **1.42 Chamba best in Health according to MDI**

#### **Why in news?**

- Recently, National Multidimensional Index of India (MPI) report issued by the Niti Aayog

#### **About Multidimensional Index of India (MPI) report and Himachal Pradesh**

- **Himachal Pradesh** has bagged the **23rd position** in the National Multidimensional Index of India (MPI) report issued by the Niti Aayog, with 7.62 per cent of its population being multi-dimensionally poor.
- **Chamba tops the state** with 11.27 per cent MPI, while **Sirmaur and Solan district were at the second and third position** with MPI of 10.88 and 9.24 per cent, respectively.
- Smaller district of **Kullu was at the fourth position** with 8.97 per cent MPI while **Mandi** is ahead of tribal districts **Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur**, registering MPI of 8.3 per cent as against 7.7 per cent registered by **Lahaul-Spiti**, which occupies the sixth position among districts. Presence of industrial clusters appears to have failed to alleviate poverty in Solan and Sirmaur. **Bilaspur** secured MPI of 7.54 per cent and occupied the seventh position while **Shimla** is marginally better at eight position with MPI of 7.5 per cent.
- The state's biggest district of **Kangra** has MPI of 5.88 per cent where **Una** stood next with MPI of 5.12 per cent, followed by **Kinnaur** at 5.10 per cent and **Hamirpur** has the lowest MPI score of 4.60 per cent. The MPI was found to be more pronounced in rural areas.
- **On parameters of nutrition**, there are 27.2 per cent households where a child between the age of 0 to 59 months or women between the ages of 0 to 49 years or men between the ages of 15 to 54 years have been found to be undernourished.
- As many as 3.8 per cent households have a **school-aged child not attending school**. The school attendance is deficient from 0.9 to 1.1 per cent for varying school-going aged children.

#### PRACTISE MCQS

**QUESTION 1: What is the name of World's first instant advice and knowledge App.?**

- A. Help
- B. Advice
- C. Consult
- D. Handholding

**QUESTION 2: National River Ganga Basin Authority was formed in the year-**

- A. 1970
- B. 1986
- C. 2002
- D. 2009

**QUESTION 3: Consider the following statements:**

1. As per Article 312 of the Indian Constitution, the Parliament is entitled to create one or more All India services.

2. All India Judicial Service was first proposed by the 14<sup>th</sup> report of the Law Commission in 1958.

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

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

**QUESTION 4: The Doctrine of Advaita was propounded by-**

- A. Kapila
- B. Adi Shankaracharya
- C. Kannada
- D. Gautama

**QUESTION 5: Bestu Varas is celebrated as new year in-**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Assam



- C. Manipur
- D. Kerala

**QUESTION 6: Consider the following statements:**

1. The "Dairy Sahakar" Scheme launched recently comes under the ambit of Ministry of Agriculture and farmer welfare.
2. It has a total outlay of Rs 50000 crore.

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

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

**QUESTION 7: Which article of the constitution guarantees no birthplace-based discrimination in public employment?**

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

**QUESTION 8: Which railways in India are declared as World Heritage Sites?**

- A. Nilgiri Mountain Railways
- B. Kalka Shimla Railway
- C. Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
- D. All of the above

**QUESTION 9: Consider the following statements:**

1. Kaho is the first village from the China border in Himachal Pradesh.
2. According to the 2011 census, Kaho has only 650 residents.

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

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

**QUESTION 10: An ancient idol of Goddess Annapurna was brought back to India recently from which country?**

- A. Canada
- B. USA
- C. United Kingdom
- D. France

**QUESTION 11: According to Women and Child Ministry, there are more than \_\_\_\_\_ malnourished children in India.**

- A. 3.3 lakh
- B. 33 lakh
- C. 3 crore
- D. none of the above

**QUESTION 12: Consider the following statements:**

1. Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project is situated in Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It is built on Marusudar River, a tributary of Jhelum.

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

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

**QUESTION 13: Which city has been recently added from India in UNESCO Creative Cities Network?**

- A. Srinagar
- B. Chandigarh
- C. Nagpur
- D. Thiruvananthapuram

**QUESTION 14: Chardham project aims to improve the connectivity to the Chardham pilgrimage centres. Chardham doesn't include-**

- A. Yamunotri dham
- B. Gangotri dham
- C. Badrinath dham
- D. Kailash dham

**QUESTION 15: Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a Central Sector Scheme.
- 2. Each year, MPs receive Rs. 5 crore in five instalments of Rs.1 crore each.
- 3. Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.

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

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

**QUESTION 16: Recently it was declared that 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' will be celebrated on-**

- A. November 10
- B. November 12
- C. November 14
- D. November 15

**QUESTION 17: \_\_\_\_\_ became 1st Indian state to approve tissue culture-based seed potato rules.**

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

**QUESTION 18: Consider the following statements:**

- 1. National Education Day is celebrated on 11 November.
- 2. It is celebrated every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

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

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

**QUESTION 19: The government of which state has adopted a resolution against Centre's three contentious farm laws recently?**

- A. Punjab
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Maharashtra
- D. none of the above

**QUESTION 20: Punjabi will now be a compulsory subject for all students in the state of Punjab. If any school violates the norm, it will be fined up to Rs-**

- A. 50 thousand
- B. 1 lakh
- C. 2 lakh
- D. 5 lakh

**QUESTION 21: Under Nutrition Smart Village Programme, a total of \_\_\_\_\_ will be adopted by All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) centres and Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICAR-CIWA).**

- A. 150 villages
- B. 75 villages
- C. 100 villages
- D. 500 villages

**QUESTION 22: Bhadla Solar Park, the World's largest solar power park is located in-**

- A. Karnataka

- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Punjab
- D. Rajasthan

**Question 23. Wangala festival is celebrated in which of the following state?**

- A. Assam
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Nagaland
- D. Manipur

**Question 24. Guru Granth Sahib was compiled by which of the following Sikh gurus?**

- A. Guru Gobind Singh
- B. Guru Arjan
- C. Guru Nanak
- D. Guru Hargobind

**Question 25. Recently World Bank has reviewed its aided Project called STARS, With reference to STARS under which ministry it comes under:**

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Education
- C. Ministry of Commerce
- D. Ministry of Textile

**Question 26. Which village has been selected as one of the best Tourism Villages by the UNITED NATIONS WORLD TOURISM ORGANISATION?**

- A. Kodini, Kerala
- B. Mawlynnong, Meghalaya
- C. Punsari, Gujarat
- D. Pochampally, Telangana

**Question 27. When Safaimitras Suraksha Challenge was launched?**

- A. 19 November 2020
- B. 19 November 2021
- C. 19 November 2019
- D. 19 November 2018

**Question 28. 'Water Heroes – Share Your Stories' Contest will be launched by Jal Shakti Ministry, In this regard which of the following is/are correct?**

- A. This contest is organised with the aim of encouraging and collecting best practices in water conservation and management from the entire of India.
- B. It also aims to encourage such efforts in India, in a bid to boost transformational action in the water sector.
- C. Option a is Correct only
- D. Both are correct.

**Question 29. In Which city Indian Railways has opened its first Pod retiring rooms for passengers?**

- A. Secunderabad
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Lucknow
- D. Mumbai

**Question 30. Piyush Goyal has launched India's first Digital Food Museum in which city?**

- A. Coimbatore
- B. Mysore
- C. Madurai
- D. Thanjavur

**Question 31. In which amendment to the constitution were the Bodo, Dogri, Santhali and Maithili added to the list of recognised languages?**

- A. 73rd Constitution Amendment Act of 2003
- B. 92nd Constitution Amendment Act of 2003
- C. 103rd Constitution Amendment Act, 2018
- D. 101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016

**Question 32. Which of the following statements is /are correct?**

- A. Part IV of the constitution deals with the uniform civil code.

- B. BN Rau Committee was formed to codify Hindu law in 1942.
- C. Article 45 of the Constitution lays down that the state shall endeavour to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India.
- D. Part IV of the constitution is justiciable in nature.

**Question 33. Which of the following is not matched?**

- A. Article 112: Veto Power of the President of India
- B. Article 201: Bills Reserved for Consideration
- C. Article 200: Powers of the Governor with regard to assent given to bills passed by the State legislature
- D. Article 123: Power of the President to promulgate an ordinance

**Question 34. Article 245 of the Constitution gives ..... the power to make law?**

- A. States
- B. Panchayat
- C. Cooperatives
- D. Parliament

**Question 35. With reference to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), consider the following statement:**

- 1. It was created under the Ministry of Communications in 2012.
- 2. It is a non-lapsable fund
- 3. USOF ensures that there is universal non-discriminatory access to quality ICT services at economically efficient prices to people in rural and remote areas.
- 4. All credits to this fund require parliamentary approval and it has statutory support under Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003.

**Which of the following statement is/are correct?**

A

- A. 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

**Question 36. The ADARSH GRAM, Sui village is in which state/district?**

- A. Banswara, Rajasthan
- B. Bhiwani, Haryana
- C. Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh
- D. UdhamSingh, Uttarakhand

**Question 37. The first All-India Survey on Domestic Workers was launched recently by which of the following Ministry?**

- A. Ministry of Statistics
- B. Ministry of Labour and Employment
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. None of the above

**Question 38. Consider the following statements regarding JEWAR, NOIDA International Airport?**

- 1. It is the largest airport of Asia.
- 2. It is the 5th international airport of UP
- 3. It is developed by Zurich International Airport AG at an estimated cost of Rs 29,560 crore

- A. ONLY 1
- B. ALL 1, 2 AND 3
- C. NEITHER 1, 2 OR 3
- D. ONLY 1 AND 2

**Question 39. Constitution Day will be marked to promote the constitutional values ON WHICH DATE?**

- A. 26 JAN
- B. 26 NOVEMBER
- C. 15 AUGUST
- D. 1ST JAN



## Answers

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. ANSWER: C  | 21. ANSWER: B |
| 2. ANSWER: D  | 22. ANSWER: D |
| 3. ANSWER: C  | 23. Answer: B |
| 4. ANSWER: B  | 24. Answer: A |
| 5. ANSWER: A  | 25. Answer: B |
| 6. ANSWER: D  | 26. Answer: D |
| 7. ANSWER: D  | 27. Answer: A |
| 8. ANSWER: D  | 28. Answer: D |
| 9. ANSWER: D  | 29. Answer: D |
| 10. ANSWER: A | 30. Answer: D |
| 11. ANSWER: B | 31. Answer: B |
| 12. ANSWER: A | 32. Answer: A |
| 13. ANSWER: A | 33. Answer: A |
| 14. ANSWER: D | 34. Answer: D |
| 15. ANSWER: B | 35. Answer: C |
| 16. ANSWER: D | 36. Answer: B |
| 17. ANSWER: D | 37. Answer: B |
| 18. ANSWER: C | 38. Answer: B |
| 19. ANSWER: A | 39. Answer: B |
| 20. ANSWER: C |               |

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## INTERNATIONAL

**1.43 G20 Summit & Climate Change****WHY IN NEWS?**

- In the recently concluded G20 summit, the leaders made a commitment to reach carbon neutrality by or around mid-century.
- They have adopted the Rome Declaration (the current presidency of G20 countries is being held by Italy).
- Earlier, the G20 Climate Risk Atlas was released which provides climate scenarios, information, data and future changes in climate across the G20 countries.

**Highlights of the Declaration:**

- Roadmap for COP 26: It urged leaders of the world's biggest economies to put their action plans to tackle the global climate change crisis.
- This is a significant step in the context of the upcoming UN climate conference (COP 26) in Glasgow, Scotland.
- Restricting Aid to Coal Based Plants: It included a pledge to halt financing of overseas coal-fired power generation by the end of this year (2021).
- PPP Model of Finance Mobilisation: Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) are the only way to achieve the trillions of dollars in annual investment needed to transition to clean, sustainable energy sources that will mitigate the warming of global temperatures.

**Declaration by India:**

- Addressing Vaccine Inequality: Underlining the need to address vaccine inequity across the world, India is ready to produce over 5 billion vaccine doses by the end of next year (2022).
- India also emphasised on vaccine research, manufacturing and innovation.
- One Earth One Health: The vision of "One Earth One Health", or the need for a collaborative approach in the international domain in the fight against the pandemic.
- Resilient Global Supply Chains: India highlighted the need for resilient global supply chains and invited G-20 countries to make India their partner in economic recovery and supply chain diversification.
- Support for Global Minimum Tax: India also lauded the G-20's decision to come up with a 15-percent minimum corporate tax to make the global financial architecture "more just and fair".
- Welcoming Indo-Pacific Strategy: India welcomed the European Union's Indo-Pacific strategy and French leadership in it.

**Associated Concerns:**

- Half-Hearted Steps: The statement contained few concrete actions and made no reference to a specific 2050 date to achieve net-zero carbon emission.
- Moreover, the statement removed references in a previous draft to the target to "reduce emissions significantly".
- No target for Phasing Out Coal: It set no target for phasing out coal domestically, a clear nod to top carbon polluters China and India.
- For example, China has not set an end date for building domestic coal plants at home.
- Coal is still China's main source of power generation, and both China and India have resisted attempts for a G-20 declaration on phasing out domestic coal consumption.
- No resolution on Vaccine Patent Waiver: It did not touch upon the dispute over vaccine patent waivers.

- Pressing India's developmental Imperative: Climate negotiators from the US, EU and UK had made a number of visits to India over the past few months, pressing for India to update its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to include its target of 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

### 1.44 Saudi Arabia excavates 'forgotten kingdoms'

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is set to excavate 'five kingdoms' related to Dadanite and Lihyanite civilisations.

#### About:

- Excavation will be done by a team of French and Saudi Archaeologists.
- They will excavate five nearby sites related to Dadanite and Lihyanite civilisations. Both of the civilisations were important regional powers, some 2000 years ago.
- Kingdoms were spanning roughly 900 years until 100 CE. They controlled vital trade routes however, little is known about them.

#### Background

- In the year 2019, Saudi Arabia opened a flagship tourist destination called Al Ula. It is a 2000-year-old city that have been carved into rocks by the Nabateans. It is known for majestic tombs of Madain Saleh. They were pre-Islamic Arab people and they built Petra in Jordan.

#### About Madain Saleh

- Madain Saleh is also called as Hegra. It is an archaeological site situated in the area of Al-'Ula in the Medina Province of Hejaz, Saudi Arabia. Majority of the remains belong to Nabataean Kingdom that existed during 1st century AD. This site is the southernmost settlement of Saudi Arabia. It is the second largest city after Petra. On this site, traces of Lihyanite and Roman occupation can also be found.

#### Is the site in UNESCO list?

- UNESCO proclaimed Mada'in Saleh as a site of patrimony in the year 2008. Thus, this site is the first World Heritage Site of Saudi Arabia. It was selected for its well-preserved remains from late antiquity, like 131 monumental rock-cut tombs, with their ornamented facades.

#### Who built Mada'in Salih?

- Extensive settlement of the Madain Saleh took place during the 1st century AD, after it came under the rule of the Nabatean king Aretas IV Philopatriss (Al-Harith IV). He made Mada'in Saleh the second capital of Saudi Arabia, after Petra.

### 1.45 India, Bhutan to have 7 more Trade entry and exit points

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- India and Bhutan are set to have seven additional entry and exit points for trade in order to increase trade connectivity.

#### About:

- This decision was taken in a commerce secretary-level meeting, that was held between the issue of trade and transit between both the countries.
- Indian side was led by BVR Subrahmanyam, Secretary of Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry while the Bhutanese side was led by Dasho Karma Tshering, Secretary of Ministry of Economic Affairs, in Government of Agenda of the meeting
- During the meeting, extensive discussions on the current trade and transit issues were discussed.
- They also discussed issues of mutual interests and measures to strengthen the bilateral trade relations.
- Discussions were held to increase trade connectivity between both the countries.
- Both sides also formalised seven additional entry or exit points, through a Letters of Exchange.

**What are seven entry or exit points?****Seven entry or exit points include-**

- Nagarkata Land Customs Station without commodity restriction
- Agartala Land Customs Station
- Pandu port at Guwahati Steamerghat. It is subject to cross border control at Dhubri
- Jogighopa port. This port is also subject to cross border control at Dhubri.
- Asian Highway 48 that connects Torsha Tea Garden in India with Ahllay in Bhutan. This highway acts as an additional route corresponding to the Land Customs Station at Kamardwisa, Jaigaon and Birpara.

**Trade between India and Bhutan**

- Trade between both the countries has more than doubled in 2020-2021, as compared to USD 484 million in 2014-15. In 2020-21, the trade stood at USD 1,083 million.

**1.46 'Vax' named Oxford English Dictionary's Word of the Year 2021****WHY IN NEWS?**

- 'Vax' has been chosen as the word of the year by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) in 2021. Vax is derived from the Latin word Vacca, which means cow.
- Vax is used as a short form for vaccines and means a substance put into a person's body to prevent them from getting a disease.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, words related to vaccines saw a surge in 2021, including terms like double-vaxxed, unvaxxed and anti-vaxxer.

**1.47 UK Unveils Commemorative £5 Coin Celebrating Legacy Of Mahatma Gandhi****WHY IN NEWS?**

- The Government of the United Kingdom (UK) has unveiled a £5 coin to commemorate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. It is the first time Mahatma Gandhi has been commemorated on an official UK coin.
- The coin is available in a range of standards, including gold and silver, The special collectors' coin was designed by Heena Glover.
- Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the UK, chose the final design for the coin. The coin features an image of a lotus, India's national flower, alongside one of Gandhi's most famous quotes – 'My life is my message'.

**1.48 Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan****WHY IN NEWS?**

- A regional security summit was hosted by India on November 10, 2021. The summit was attended by eight nations including Iran and Russia.

**About:**

- Conference was represented by the national security advisors of each country.
- During the conference, it was announced that Afghanistan & its territories cannot be used to shelter or train terrorists, or to finance any act of terrorism.
- Countries issued a joint statement, dubbed as "Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan". As per the statement, eight participating nations discussed the evolving Afghan situation including the global ramification in the aftermath Taliban's takeover.
- They paid special attention to issues like Threats from terrorism, current political situation in Afghanistan, radicalisation & drug trafficking.



**Who were the participating countries?**

- The eight nations, which attended the conference include India, Russia, Iran, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

**Commitments made by countries**

- Participating countries highlighted the need to offer Afghanistan all possible humanitarian assistance.
- They reaffirmed their firm commitment to tackle terrorism in all forms and manifestations. They also seek to combat terror financing, dismantling of terrorist infrastructure and counter radicalisation in a bid to ensure that Afghanistan will never become a safe haven for terrorism.
- They further emphasised on the importance of ensuring fundamental rights of children, minorities and women.

**Joint Declaration**

- The Joint Declaration (Delhi Declaration) emphasised on the need to provide urgent assistance to Afghan people. It expressed deep concerns over deteriorating socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. It also noted the need of helping Afghanistan to contain COVID-19.

## 1.49 World Science Day 2021

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- World Science Day for Peace and Development is observed on November 10, every year to highlight importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.

**About:**

- The day highlights the role of science in society and the need to engage public in debates & discussion on important scientific issues.
- It is observed with the aim of ensuring that citizens are kept informed of developments in science.
- It notes the role played by scientists in broadening our understanding of remarkable, fragile planet and in making our societies more sustainable.
- Primary objective of the day is to bring science closer to society by highlighting its key aspects.

**Theme of the Day**

- The World Science Day 2021 was observed with the theme- 'Building Climate-Ready Communities'.

**History of the Day**

- UNESCO had proclaimed this day in 2001. Following this, the first World Science Day for Peace & Development was observed across the world on November 10, 2002, under UNESCO. Establishment of this day was the positive outcome of 1999 World Conference on Science in Budapest. This has generated many concrete projects, programs, and funding for science worldwide.

**National Science Day**

- On the line of World Science Day, India observes National Science Day every year on February 28. It commemorates the discovery of Raman Effect by Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman. For Raman Effect, he has been awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930. The first National science day was celebrated in 1987. In 2021, the day was observed under the theme: 'Future of STI (Science, Technology and Innovations)- Impacts on Education, Skills and Work'.

## 1.50 India and Sri Lanka revive Parliament Friendship Association

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- India and Sri Lanka have revived their "Parliamentary Friendship Association" for which Minister Chamal Rajapaksa has been selected as its president.

**About:**

- This association was there in the past.
- It is being revived for current Parliament which was elected in August 2020.

- At the revival event, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris noted the "close civilisational ties" between India & Sri Lanka. He observed that greatest gift of India to Sri Lanka was Buddhism.
- This association will help in "reinvigorating" Parliamentary exchanges and strengthening bilateral ties between both the countries.

**Background**

- Sri Lanka formed India-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship group, after deciding to buy fertiliser from India on November 11, 2021. The Indian Parliament proposed to form Parliamentary Friendship Group with the friendly nations to strengthen the bilateral relations.

**India-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship group**

- This association comprises of senior members of Lankan parliament to rejuvenate ties in spite of its close relations with China.
- This association was established for 9th Parliament of Sri Lanka.
- It was established at the Parliament complex in the presence of Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, the Speaker of Parliament.

**About meeting at Parliament complex**

- This meeting was attended by about 100 Members of Parliament. It was attended by several MPs, Ministers, State Ministers. During the meeting Chambal Rajapaksa was elected as the President of this Association.

## 1.51 Belarus-Poland Border Crisis

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, Belarusian and Russian paratroopers staged joint drills near the Polish and Lithuanian borders.
- It is taking place during a standoff between Belarus and the European Union (EU) over migrants camped in freezing forests at the frontier.

**Background:**

- In Belarus there were months of protests following the August 2020 election that gave authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office.
- The opposition and the West rejected the result as a sham.
- Belarusian authorities responded to the demonstrations with a fierce crackdown that saw more than 35,000 people arrested and thousands beaten by police.
- The EU and the US reacted by imposing sanctions on the Belarus government.
- In May 2021 Belarus forcibly diverted a passenger jet and scrambled a warplane to arrest an opposition journalist in an act denounced by Western powers as "state piracy" (an act of piracy where the state is involved). After which the sanctions were further strengthened.
- The Belarus government reacted by saying he would no longer abide by an agreement to stem illegal migration, arguing that the EU sanctions deprived his government of funds needed to contain flows of migrants.
- And it would stop trying to prevent undocumented migrants and refugees from reaching the EU.
- The Belarusian opposition has urged the EU to take even tougher measures, including a trade embargo and a ban on transit of cargo via Belarus.
- However the Belarus government has threatened to cut off Russian gas supplies to Europe through pipelines over Belarus. But Russia appeared to distance itself from that threat.

**Current Crisis:**

- Thousands of people arriving from the Middle East are camping at the border with Poland, enduring freezing conditions, the migrants also include women and children.
- Poland is a member of the EU.
- The government in Poland is not even allowing aid organizations access to provide them with supplies. This violates international conventions (United Nations Refugee Convention 1951).

- Poland is ruled by the right-wing populist Law and Justice party (PiS), which is hostile to immigrants.

**Russia's Support:**

- Belarus has received strong support from its main ally, Russia, which has helped buttress Lukashenko's government with loans and political support.
- Russia said the migrant flows resulted from the US-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and Western-backed Arab Spring uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa.
- In a response to Poland's troop build-up along its border with Belarus, Russia dispatched two strategic, long-range Tu-22M3 bombers to patrol the border region.
- Russia has also squarely blamed the EU for the migrant crisis, arguing that it was the EU's refusal to accept asylum-seekers that is creating the crisis.

**EU's Stand:**

- The EU has made a strong show of solidarity with Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. EU officials are expected to discuss another round of sanctions against Belarus.
- The EU has accused Belarus of mounting a "hybrid attack" on the bloc by flying in thousands of migrants, mainly from West Asia, and pushing them to try to cross illegally into Poland.
- Neighbours of Belarus have expressed concern that the crisis could escalate into a military confrontation.
- However, Belarus also denies encouraging the flow of migrants and said the EU is violating migrants' rights by denying them safe passage.

**Global Reaction:**

- Western members of the United Nation Security Council have condemned Belarus for the escalating crisis over migrants stranded on its border with Poland.
- The UN Refugee Agency, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are calling for an urgent resolution of the situation and immediate and unhindered access to the EU to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided.

## 1.52 21st IORA Annual Council of Ministers' Meeting

**WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- The 21st Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Annual Council of Minister's (COM) Meeting was held in Dhaka.

**About:**

- India took part in the conference in virtual mode.
- India was led by Minister of State External Affairs (MoS), Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.
- IORA COM was held in a hybrid format in Dhaka.
- At the end of this meeting, Dhaka Communiqué was adopted.

**India's affirmation at the summit**

- While addressing the summit, the MoS reaffirmed India's strong commitment to strengthening IORA, which is the largest and pre-eminent organization in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- India also reaffirmed the commitment to promote peace, security and prosperity in IOR, as well as in the wider Indo-Pacific.
- Minister also noted the contributions made by India as coordinator of the IORA priority areas of Disaster Risk Management (DRM).
- While addressing the "Strategic Dialogue on "Impact of COVID-19 and perspectives of economic recovery in IOR" MoS highlighted India's assistance as the first responder to several countries in Indo-Pacific during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Steps were taken by India to strengthen IORA**

- In order to strengthen IORA, India undertook several initiatives during 2021:
- Assistance to the IORA Secretariat,
- Capacity building workshops in areas including Yoga, traditional medicines to Remote sensing.

- UNCLOS and Ocean Data Management
- Discussions on various issues under IORA.

#### **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**

- IORA is an international organisation comprising of 23 states surrounding the Indian Ocean. It is a regional forum, tripartite in nature, to bring together representatives of Government, Academia and Business in order to promote co-operation and closer interaction among them. The Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is at Ebene, Mauritius.

### **1.53 India gets re-elected to UNESCO Executive Board**

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

- India was re-elected to the executive board of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) for the term of 2021-2025.

#### **About:**

- India was re-elected with 164 votes.
- Among Group IV Asian & Pacific States, Japan, Vietnam, Philippines, Cook Islands and China were also elected.

#### **UNESCO Executive Board**

- UNESCO Executive Board is one among the three constitutional organs of the UN agency. It is elected by the General Conference. The board acts under the authority of General Conference. It examines the programme of work for organisation and corresponding budget estimates, which is submitted by Director-General. The board comprises of 58 member-states, each having a four-year term of office.

#### **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

- UNESCO is a specialised agency of United Nations (UN). It aims to promote world peace & security through international cooperation in education, science, arts, and culture. It comprises of 193 member states and 11 associate members besides partners in intergovernmental, non-governmental, and private sector. The agency is headquartered at World Heritage Centre in Paris, France. Apart from that, it has 53 regional field offices and 199 national commissions which facilitate its global mandate.

#### **History of UNESCO**

- UNESCO was founded in 1945 by succeeding the League of Nations' International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation. Its constitution establishes the goals, operating framework and governing structure of the agency.

#### **UNESCO's Program**

- UNESCO works across five major program areas namely, education, social or human sciences, natural sciences, culture and communication or information. It sponsors projects to improve literacy, protect independent media, provide technical training & education, and promote cultural diversity.

### **1.54 ADB & WB launched 'WePOWER India Partnership Forum'**

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

- The WePOWER India Partnership Forum was held through a virtual platform to boost the South Asia Women in Power Sector Professional Network (WePOWER) in India.
- The event was organized by the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) in association with the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF). The event saw a panel discussion on expanding job opportunities for women in India's Clean Energy Transition'.



## 1.55 Democracy Summit of the USA

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- India will participate in U.S.A's "Summit for Democracy" to be held on 9th and 10th December.

### About:

- More than 100 democratic countries are invited to participate at the summit.
- The summit is expected to include "individual and collective commitments to defend democracy and human rights at the international level.

### Key themes:

- "Defending against authoritarianism", "Addressing and fighting corruption", and "Advancing respect for human rights".
- An attempt was earlier made by the U.S. and the U.K. to expand the group of 10 democracies that would represent 60% of the global population, including Australia, India and South Korea, along with the G-7 group.
- The Group of Seven (G7) is an inter-governmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

## 1.56 World Antimicrobial Awareness Week: 18-24 November

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is celebrated every year from 18-24 November.
- The purpose of the week is to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance, encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policymakers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.
- World Antimicrobial Awareness Week Theme 2021 is Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance. The theme calls on One Health stakeholders, policymakers, health care providers, and the general public to be Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness champions.
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been declared as one of the top 10 global health threats by the World Health Organization (WHO).

## 1.57 PM Modi virtually delivers the keynote address at The Sydney Dialogue

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has delivered the keynote address at The Sydney Dialogue, via video conferencing. PM addressed the event on the theme 'India's technology evolution and revolution'.
- The Sydney Dialogue has been organised by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. The event will bring together political, business and government leaders to debate, generate new ideas and work towards common understandings of the opportunities and challenges posed by emerging and critical technologies.
- The Sydney Dialogue is an annual summit of cyber and critical technologies to discuss the fallout of the digital domain on the law and order situation in the world.

**PRACTISE MCQS**

**QUESTION 1: The Rome declaration was recently adopted by which international grouping-**

- A. G20
- B. G7
- C. ASEAN
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 2: The Dadanite and Lihyante civilisations were associated with which region?**

- A. Middle East
- B. North America
- C. China
- D. Europe

**QUESTION 3: India has recently decided to set up seven more entry and exit points for trade with-**

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

**QUESTION 4: Which word has been chosen as the word of the year by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) in 2021?**

- A. Vax
- B. Vogue
- C. Woke
- D. Covid

**QUESTION 5: Which country has unveiled a commemorative coin worth 5 of the respective currency, celebrating legacy of Mahatma Gandhi?**

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

**QUESTION 6: A regional security summit was hosted by India that led to signing of Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan. It was *not* signed by-**

- A. China
- B. Turkmenistan
- C. Russia
- D. Iran

**QUESTION 7: Consider the following statements:**

1. India observes National Science Day every year on February 28.
2. It commemorates the discovery of Raman Effect by Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman.

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

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

**QUESTION 8: India has revived the "Parliamentary Friendship Association" with which country recently?**

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Myanmar
- C. Bhutan
- D. Maldives

**QUESTION 9: Belarus does not share border with which of the following countries?**

- A. Poland
- B. Lithuania
- C. Latvia
- D. Romania

**Question 10: Which Country host the 21<sup>st</sup> Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Annual Council of Minister's (COM) Meeting?**

- A. India
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Indonesia

**Question 11: India has been re-elected to UNESCO executive board till which year?**

- A. 2023

- B. 2024
- C. 2025
- D. 2026

**Question 12: Which organization has launched 'WePOWER India Partnership Forum' to boost women participation in the energy sector?**

- A. World bank
- B. Asian Development Bank
- C. International Monetary fund
- D. Both a & b

**Question 13. Which of the following is *not* a part of G7 countries?**

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

**Question 14. What is the theme of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week Theme 2021?**

- A. The future of antibiotics depends on all of us
- B. Seek advice from a qualified healthcare professional before taking antibiotics
- C. United to preserve antimicrobials
- D. Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance

**Question 15. On which theme did Prime Minister Narendra Modi address the Sydney Dialogue?**

- A. Identity and Authentication
- B. Improve, Adapt and Overcome
- C. Transforming Healthcare for a better tomorrow
- D. India's technology evolution and revolution

## Answers

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

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## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1.58 SpaceX incorporates subsidiary in India

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Elon Musk-owned SpaceX has incorporated its wholly-owned subsidiary in India on November 1, 2021 to start local broadband operations.

#### About:

- The satellite broadband arm of SpaceX, Starlink, aims to start broadband services in India from December 2022. It has 2 lakh active terminals subject to permission from the Indian government.
- The subsidiary has been named as SSCPL, that stands for 'Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited'. The company was incorporated on November 1, 2021.
- Starlink has already received more than 5,000 pre-orders from India.

#### Data charges

- Starlink is charging a deposit of USD 99 (Rs 7,350) from each customer. It claims to deliver data speeds in the range of 50 to 150 megabit per second in beta stage. Its services will compete with the services provided by Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea in broadband. It will also be a direct competitor of Bharti Group-backed OneWeb.

#### Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX)

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

#### About Starlink

- Starlink is a satellite internet constellation operated by SpaceX. It provides satellite Internet access to most part of the Earth. As of now, it comprises of more than 1600 satellites.

### 1.59 HPV Vaccine Reducing Cervical Cancer

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, new research has found that the Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (Cervarix) reduces the risk of Cervical Cancer significantly in women.
- The results are important because the vaccine was introduced in the 2000s and studies confirming that it is effective against cancer have come up only recently.

#### Findings:

- The Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine reduced cervical cancer cases by 87% among women in the U.K. who received the vaccine when they were 12 or 13 years old.
- It reduced the risk by 34% in women who were aged 16-18 years when they were offered the jab.
- Over a period of 11 years (since 2006), the vaccine prevented around 450 cervical cancers and around 17,200 cases of precancerous conditions.

#### Cervical Cancer:

- It is a type of cancer that occurs in the cells of the cervix - the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina.
- Various strains of the Human papillomavirus (HPV) play a role in causing most cervical cancer.



- When exposed to HPV, the body's immune system typically prevents the virus from doing harm. In a small percentage of people, however, the virus survives for years, contributing to the process that causes some cervical cells to become cancer cells.
- The HPV vaccine (Cervarix) protects against two of the cancer-causing strains, which are HPV 16 and 18.

**Human papillomavirus:**

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common viral infection of the reproductive tract.
- There are more than 100 types of HPV.
- More than 40 types of HPV are spread through direct sexual contact.
- Out of these 40, two cause genital warts, while about a dozen of HPV cause different types of cancer including cervical, anal, oropharyngeal, penile, vulvar and vaginal.

**Types of HPV Vaccines:**

- Quadrivalent vaccine (Gardasil): It protects against four types of HPV (HPV 16, 18, 6 and 11). The latter two strains cause genital warts.
- Bivalent vaccine (Cervarix): It protects against HPV 16 and 18 only.
- Non valent vaccine (Gardasil 9): It protects against nine strains of HPV.
- These vaccines prevent cervical cancer in women and girls who have not yet been exposed to the virus.

**Indian Scenario:**

- India is home to 16-17% of the world's population, globally 27% of total cervical cancer cases are from here.
- Further, in India about 77% cases of cervical cancer are caused by HPV 16 and 18.
- In India, bivalent and quadrivalent HPV vaccines were licensed in 2008 and a non valent vaccine was licensed in 2018.
- Officially, the HPV vaccine has not been recommended for boys and males in India.

## 1.60 Molnupiravir: A Drug for Covid-19

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, it is claimed that Molnupiravir, an oral drug, can cut the risk of hospitalisation in Covid-19 patients by half, in phase 3 trials.
- In India, the Optimus Group recently announced the results of phase 3 clinical trials, which found 91.5% of patients given the drug tested RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) negative.

**Molnupiravir:**

- It belongs to a class of broad spectrum antiviral drugs called nucleoside analogues.
- They act by interfering with the function of viral RNA (Ribonucleic Acids) polymerases – which are enzymes that make new viral RNA in infected cells.
- RNA is a polymer of ribonucleotides and an important biological macromolecule that is present in all biological cells.
- It is principally involved in the synthesis of proteins, carrying the messenger instructions from Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), which itself contains the genetic instructions required for the development and maintenance of life.
- It works by causing viruses to make errors when copying their own RNA, introducing mutations that inhibit replication.
- It was initially invented as a drug for the influenza virus.

**Mechanism:**

- These drugs work by preventing the process of replication of the virus inside human cells.
- A virus is a biological agent that can self-replicate inside a host cell. The infected cells by viruses may produce thousands of new copies of the original virus at an extraordinary rate.

- It alters critical enzymes that were necessary to the virus for replicating in the human body cells.
- As of now, the Emergency Use Authorization is awaited for the drug but currently, it can be administered as a pill in a 5-day regimen.

### 1.61 Union Minister Jitendra Singh launches 'Samudrayan Project'

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh officially launched India's First Manned Ocean Mission called the "Samudrayan project" at Chennai. The Unique Ocean Mission aims to have deep underwater manned vehicles for carrying out subsea activities.
- With this technology, India joins the elite club of nations such as the USA, Russia, Japan, France and China to have such underwater vehicles.
- The Unique Ocean Mission aims to have deep underwater manned vehicles for carrying out subsea activities.
- The deepwater manned submersible has been codenamed as the 'MATSYA 6000'.
- It is developed by the Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).
- The technology will help to conduct deep-ocean exploration of the non-living resources located at a depth of about 1000 and 5500 meters, such as polymetallic manganese nodules, gas hydrates, hydro-thermal sulphides and cobalt crusts.

### 1.62 Wang Yaping: First Chinese Woman To Walk In Space

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Astronaut Wang Yaping has become the first Chinese woman to walk in space.

#### About:

- As a part of ongoing construction, team of Wang Yaping completed a six-hour stint outside Tiangong space station.
- Wang and her colleague Zhai Zhigang stepped out of Tiangong on November 7, 2021. They installed a suspension device and transfer connectors. This was the first extravehicular activity of Shenzhou-13 crew. They will spend six months at the space station.
- Tiangong, means heavenly palace, is the latest achievement in China's move to become a major space power.
- China has landed a rover on Mars and is sending several probes to the Moon.
- Core module of the Tiangong entered orbit earlier in 2021. This station is expected to be operational by 2022.
- Tiangong is expected to operate for around 10 years.

#### What is the work of crew?

- Their work includes setting up equipment and testing technology for future construction.

#### Background

- Mission commander Zhai is the former fighter pilot, who performed the first spacewalk of China in 2008. The previous crew, who made first mission to Tiangong Space Station, returned back to Earth in September 2021. They spent three months there.

#### About Tiangong

- Tiangong is a space station being constructed in low Earth orbit by China. It is being constructed between 340 and 450 km above the surface. It is China's first long-term space station. Construction of the space station is the goal of "Third Step" of the China Manned Space Program. It will have a mass between 80t and 100t, which is about one-fifth the mass of International Space Station. First module, Tianhe core module, was launched on April 29, 2021.

### 1.63 'Leonids Meteor Shower'

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The annual Leonids Meteor Shower has started and will be active between November 6 and 30, 2021.
- The Meteor Shower will reach its peak on November 17.
- Peak time of the meteor shower comes when Planet Earth passes through densest part of the debris.
- On November 17, viewers from earth will witness bits of cosmic debris. It will appear like a display of fireworks in the sky.

#### Which debris forms meteor shower?

- The debris forming this meteor shower originates from small comet named "55P/Tempel-Tuttle" in the constellation Leo. It takes 33 years to orbit around the sun.

#### What are Leonids?

- The Leonids are considered as a major shower, featuring the fastest meteors. The meteors usually travel at speeds of 71 km per second. The rates are usually as low as 15 meteors per hour. Leonids are also called as fireballs meteors, because of their bright colour and earth-gazer meteors because they streak close to the horizon. Friction between meteorite and molecule present in Earth's atmosphere creates light. This is why a meteor is called shooting star.

#### Meteor storm

- A Leonid shower turns into a meteor storm, every 33 years. During Meteor storm, hundreds to thousands of meteors are observed every hour. A Leonid storm is called as meteor storm when around 1,000 meteors are visible per hour. Last meteor storm took place in 2002.

#### When are showers visible?

- Such showers are visible on any cloudless night, when Moon is not that bright. In order to see showers, the viewing location should have no light pollution.

### 1.64 China Launched World's 1st Earth Science Satellite Named "Guangmu"

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- China has launched the world's first Earth-science satellite, Guangmu or SDGSAT-1 into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern Shanxi Province.
- The satellite was launched by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and developed by the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS).
- Guangmu was launched by a Long March-6 carrier rocket which is the 395th flight mission. SDGSAT-1 is the first satellite customized according to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which was adopted in 2015 with 17 SDGs for peace and prosperity.

### 1.65 Earth's first landmass emerged in Singhbhum: study

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- According to a study, India's Singhbhum region may have been Earth's earliest continental land to rise above the ocean 3.2 billion years ago.
- The researchers studied the granites that form the continental crust of Singhbhum region. Scientists found sandstones in Singhbhum region with geological signatures of ancient river channels, tidal plains and beaches over 3.2 billion years old.

#### What are the key findings of the study?

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**Earth's first landmass emerged 3.2 billion years ago:**

- Currently, a widely accepted view is that the continents rose from the oceans about 2.5 billion years ago. However, the study has suggested that this has happened 700 million years earlier which is about 3.2 billion years ago.
- Moreover, the earliest continental landmass to emerge may have been Jharkhand's Singhbhum region.

**Earth's earliest continents emerged from massive outbursts of magma:**

- The study has also challenged another well-accepted notion that continents rose above the ocean due to plate tectonics.
- According to the study, Earth's earliest continents emerged not through plate tectonic processes but from massive outbursts of magma that hardened into continental crust.

**1.66 SpaceX launches Indian-origin astronaut Raja Chari-led Crew 3 mission****WHY IN NEWS?**

- US Space agency NASA and the Elon Musk-owned private rocket company SpaceX have launched the "Crew 3" mission on November 10, 2021. The "Crew 3" mission consists of Indian-origin NASA astronaut Raja Chari as its mission commander.
- The other three astronauts are NASA's Tom Marshburn (pilot); and Kayla Barron (mission specialist); as well as ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Matthias Maurer (mission specialist).
- Under this mission, four astronauts have been sent to the International Space Station (ISS) for a six-month science mission until April 2022. The four-member international crew of astronauts lifted off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida onboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule named Endurance fixed to Falcon 9 rocket.

**1.67 Kamo'oalewa****WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, scientists have observed a quasi-satellite named Kamo'oalewa, tracking the Earth's orbit around the Sun, could be a fragment from the moon.
- A mission to collect Kamo'oalewa's samples has been scheduled for a launch in 2025.

**Kamo'oalewa:**

- Discovered in 2016 (through the PanSTARRS telescope in Hawaii), Kamo'oalewa is a word that is part of a Hawaiian chant, and alludes to an offspring that travels on its own.
- It is one of Earth's quasi-satellites, a space rock that orbits the Sun, but remains relatively close to the planet – in this case about 9 million miles away.
- The asteroid is roughly the size of a Ferris wheel – between 150 and 190 feet in diameter.
- Because of its small size (about 50 metres wide), this quasi-satellite has been difficult for scientists to study, and little was known about it so far.

**Findings-Three Possibilities:**

- **Part of Earth Moon:**
- It could have broken away from the Moon due to a possible impact, and gone on to orbit the Sun rather than the Earth-like its parent does.
- Spectrum of reflected light from Kamo'oalewa closely matched lunar rocks from Nasa's Apollo missions, suggesting it originated from the moon.
- It is in an unusual orbit, one that would be unlikely for objects that had drifted towards Earth from the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- The team are unsure how the piece of moon came to be adrift in space, in part, because there are no other known asteroids with lunar origins. However, they narrowed down the timeframe for the violent event to have occurred between 1,00,000 and 500 years ago.



- **Near Earth Objects:**
- Captured in its Earth-like orbit from the general population of Near Earth Objects.
- **Earth's Trojan Asteroids:**
- It originated from an as-yet-undiscovered quasi-stable population of Earth's Trojan asteroids (Trojans are a group of asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet).

## 1.68 Norovirus

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, a highly contagious virus named Norovirus has been detected in Kerala.

#### About:

- It is a group of viruses that leads to gastrointestinal illness.
- It causes inflammation of the lining of the stomach and intestines, in addition to severe vomiting and diarrhoea.
- Norovirus is resistant to many disinfectants and can heat up to 60°C. Therefore, merely steaming food or chlorinating water does not kill the virus. The virus can also survive many common hand sanitisers.

#### Transmission:

- A person can be infected with different varieties of norovirus several times in their lives, but developing immunity to one type doesn't provide protection against other varieties.
- The virus can be transferred from an infected to a healthy individual through contaminated surfaces or food.
- The virus can primarily be transmitted from oral-faecal.
- Disease outbreaks typically occur aboard cruise ships, in nursing homes, dormitories, and other closed spaces.

#### Vulnerable Group:

- The virus can affect people across all age groups but is known to cause serious symptoms in children, the elderly and people with comorbidities.

#### Symptoms:

- Diarrhoea, Vomiting, Stomach ache, Gastrointestinal problems etc are the symptoms.

#### Treatment:

- While there is no specific treatment available to cure the virus, generic medications for diarrhoea and vomiting can help cure the disease.

#### Status:

- There are 685 million cases annually, of which 200 million are detected among children younger than five years.
- Nearly 50,000 children die every year due to diarrhoea caused by the virus.

## 1.69 Sci & Tech Ministry inaugurates "Tech NEEV@75"

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Ministry of Science & Technology inaugurated "Tech NEEV@75" as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

#### About:

- On the occasion, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh interacted with successful start-ups including start-ups of tribal communities.
- The minister also informed that Central Government will set up 30 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs across the country for Scheduled Tribes (STs) by end of 2022.
- These STI hubs will help in promoting scientific talent among tribal communities as well as overall socio-economic development.

- Out of 75 proposed STI Hubs, 20 have already been set up by the Department of Science and Technology. These hubs will extend benefits to 20,000 people directly, by means of several interventions spreading across the farm, non-farm and other allied livelihood sectors.

**About Tech NEEV@75**

- Tech NEEV@ 75" is a year-long celebration, highlighting the impact of Science Technology Innovation (STI) in empowering the community to create equitable inclusive economic growth. It is a 75-hour programme and includes experience sharing of beneficiaries, societal change-makers conclave, community change leaders, and round table discussions by several stakeholders. It also includes a compilation of 75 impactful stories on the progress of India towards Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

**Significance of the programme**

- Tech NEEV@75" will lead to opportunities for land to lab research and help in building synergies with traditional, local and indigenous knowledge. This in turn will lead to new scientific developments which will contribute to building resilient communities.

**Which ministry will look after the initiative?**

- Tech NEEV@75 is an appropriate and timely initiative launched by the Ministry of Science & Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The initiative will showcase a strong foundation to adopt STI for better livelihood outcomes across India.

## 1.70 Land handed over for first LIGO project in India

**WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- Hingoli income division handed around 225 hectares of land right in Maharashtra to the authorities of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) venture.

**About:**

- The land was handed over in order to organise primary facilities within the nation.
- There are currently few such labs in the United States, at Hanford in Washington and Livingston in Louisiana. These labs examine the gravitational waves.
- This venture will provide alternatives to scientists and engineers for digging deeper into the concept of gravitational waves.

**Background**

- Central authorities had given an 'in precept' approval to LIGO-India mega science proposal in 2016, to analyse the gravitational waves.

**What is LIGO?**

- LIGO is a massive observatory to detect cosmic gravitational waves and to carry experiments. Its main objective is to make use of gravitational-wave observations in astronomical studies. This project currently operates three gravitational waves (GW) detectors. Out of three, two are at Hanford in Washington while one is at Livingston in Louisiana.

**LIGO India project**

- The LIGO India project was proposed with the aim of moving one advanced LIGO detector to India, from Hanford. This project is piloted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). This project in India will be coordinated and executed jointly by three Indian research institutions namely, Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT) in Indore, Department of Atomic Energy organisations: Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) in Gandhinagar and Inter-University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics (IUCAA) in Pune

## 1.71 World's most sophisticated MRI facility

**WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- Recently, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology launched the first of its kind, the world's most sophisticated MRI facility at the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar Haryana.
- NBRC is an autonomous institute funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

#### **About new MRI facility**

- With this facility, India embarks on new frontiers of human Neuroscience
- This new facility can run intense scanning modalities very fast, which reduces the scanning time for patients
- It can detect and quantify highly sensitive receptors and antioxidants from the brain which has a direct link with the onset of various brain disorders like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and psychiatric disorders.
- Also, heavy metal deposition in the brain due to pollution or many other factors can be quantified as necessary

#### **What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)?**

- MRI is a medical imaging technique used in radiology to form pictures of the anatomy and the physiological processes of the body.
- MRI scanners use strong magnetic fields, magnetic field gradients, and radio waves to generate images of the organs in the body.
- MRI is the most frequently used imaging test of the brain and spinal cord.

### **1.72 ICMR and booster dose**

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

- According to ICMR, There is no scientific evidence so far to support the need for a booster vaccine dose against COVID-19
- According to officials, around 82% of the eligible population in India have received the first dose of the vaccine while around 43% have been fully vaccinated.

#### **What is the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)?**

- ICMR, New Delhi is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, and promotion of biomedical research.
- Ministry: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- It is funded by the Government of India
- The Governing Body of ICMR is presided over by the Union Health Minister.

#### **'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign**

- A month-long 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign launched for house-to-house COVID-19 vaccination.

### **1.73 SWADESH, World's First Multimodal Brain Imaging Data and Analytics, developed.**

#### **Why in news?**

- DBT-National Brain Research Centre (DBT-NBRC), recently developed project SWADESH, a unique brain initiative focusing on certified neuroimaging, neurochemical, neuropsychological data and analytics that are made accessible to researchers for managing brain disorders. It was inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology

#### **About SWADESH**

- SWADESH is the first large-scale multimodal neuroimaging database designed specifically for Indian population with big-data architecture and analytics for various disease categories under one platform.

**6 modules covered under SWADESH:**

- The initiative proposes a big-data architecture that manages and analyzes six modules namely neurodegenerative [Alzheimer's Disease (AD), mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and Parkinson's disease (PD)], neuropsychiatric (schizophrenia and bipolar disorder), neurodevelopmental (autism and epilepsy), COVID-19-related disorders and other disorders.

**Clinical research tools developed through SWADESH by DBT-NBRC are:**

- **GAURI** system uses adaptive pattern recognition and learning schemes for predictive single or differential diagnosis, designed with MRI modalities and neuropsychological batteries.
- **NINS-STAT** is a high-performance state-of-the-art automated statistical test selection and execution software package with high applicability in clinical research.
- **KALPANA** is an integrative package for visualization, preprocessing, and quantitation of MRS data
- **PRATEE** Kanalyzes multimodal neuroimaging data that minimizes the need for expertise in handling different neuroimaging tools for processing and analyzing multimodal data.
- **BHARAT**, a big-data analytic model for early diagnostic biomarkers of AD.

**PRACTICE MCQS****QUESTION 1: Starlink project is a satellite internet constellation operated by-**

- A. Jio web services
- B. Vodafone
- C. SpaceX
- D. Virgin galactic

**QUESTION 2: Consider the following statements about Human papillomavirus (HPV):**

- 1. There are more than 100 types of HPV.
- 2. Gardasil and Cervarix are vaccines against HPV.

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

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

**QUESTION 3: Molnupiravir, an oral drug, seen recently in news has proven efficacy for-**

- A. HIV
- B. Dengue
- C. Covid-19
- D. Malaria

**QUESTION 4: Consider the following statements about Samudrayan project:**

- 1. 'MATSYA 6000' is the code name of deepwater manned submersible.
- 2. It is developed by the Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

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

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

**QUESTION 5: Who has become the first Chinese woman to walk in space?**

- A. Wang Yaping
- B. Zhai Zhigang
- C. Liu Boming
- D. none of the above

**QUESTION 6: Leonids Meteor Shower is formed of the debris originating from small comet named "55P/Tempel-Tuttle" in the constellation**

- A. Ursa Major
- B. Ursa Minor



- C. Scorpius
- D. Leo

**QUESTION 7: World's 1st Earth Science Satellite Named "Guangmu" has been launched by-**

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

**QUESTION 8: According to a recent study, India's \_\_\_\_\_ may have been Earth's earliest continental land to rise above the ocean.**

- A. Himalayan region
- B. Aravali region
- C. Singhbhum region
- D. none of the above

**QUESTION 9: Indian-origin astronaut Raja Chari-led Crew 3 mission has been launched by-**

- A. SpaceX
- B. Virgin Galactic
- C. Blue Origins
- D. NASA

**QUESTION 10: Kamo'oalewa, seen recently in news, is a/an-**

- A. Extinct dinosaur species
- B. Earth's quasi satellite
- C. Volcano in Hawaii
- D. None of the above

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

1. Norovirus has been detected in Kerala recently.
2. It is a group of viruses that leads to pulmonary illness.

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

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

**Question 12. Consider the following statements regarding Tech NEEV:**

1. The Government will be setting up 30 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs in different parts of the country for Scheduled Tribes (STs) by end of 2022 to promote scientific talent among tribal communities and for their overall socio-economic development.
2. Tech NEEV is a year-long celebration highlighting the impact of Science Technology Innovation (STI).
3. It was launched under the Ministry of Electronics and information and technology

**Which of the above is or are correct?**

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

**Question 13. In which the State of India first LIGO project will be operational in near future?**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Goa
- D. Karnataka

**Question 14. The world's most sophisticated MRI facility was launched in which of the following states of India?**

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

**Question 15. 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign is associated with which of the following?**

- A. Polio vaccination
- B. Education campaign for girls
- C. COVID-19 vaccination
- D. Job campaign for immigrants

## **Answer**

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



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## PERSON IN NEWS

### 1.74 Barclays' new chief is India-born CS Venkatakrishnan

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Barclays new CEO is CS Venkatakrishnan, an Indian-American and the first person of color to hold that position.
- Venkatakrishnan, who was most recently Barclays' co-president and head of global markets, is stepping in as CEO after Jes Staley resigned over his ties with late financier Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted sex offender who died by suicide in prison three years ago.
- As chief risk officer, Venkatakrishnan put in place processes that proved instrumental in helping Barclays steer clear of the Archegos Capital Management implosion; more recently, he was put in charge of the bank's markets division.

### 1.75 IPS officer Sheel Vardhan Singh to head CISF

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The government has announced the appointment of chiefs of two key Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). These are the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau Sheel Vardhan Singh has been appointed as the new CISF DG, while National Police Academy Director Atul Karwal has been appointed as the NDRF DG.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for appointments.

### 1.76 Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar named as next Chief of the Naval Staff

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar has been named as the next Chief of the Naval Staff by the Government of India. He is presently posted as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command.
- He will take on the new role with effect from November 30, 2021. He will replace the incumbent Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh, who will complete his tenure on November 30, 2021.

### 1.77 Nykaa's Falguni Nayar becomes India's richest self-made woman billionaire

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Falguni Nayar, the CEO and founder of beauty and fashion eCommerce platform Nykaa, has become the richest self-made woman in India. She founded Nykaa in the year 2012. She holds 53.5% stake in Nykaa and has a net worth of USD 7.48 billion.
- This comes after the IPO of FSN E-Commerce Ventures which is Nykaa's parent entity. This is also the first woman-led unicorn to list on the stock exchange.
- The issue size of the IPO of FSN E-Commerce Ventures (Nykaa) was Rs 5,351.92 crore with face value of Rs 1 per share.

## 1.78 Babasaheb Purandare

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Padma Vibhushan Babasaheb Purandare took his last breath on November 15, 2021 at Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital in Pune.

### About:

- He was 99 years old and on life support. His last rites were performed Vaikunth crematorium in Pune.

### Who was Babasaheb Purandare?

- Babasaheb Purandare was a celebrated historian, author, and theatre personality. His full name was Balwant Moreshwar Purandare. He was famous for his work on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The author wrote several books on Shivaji Maharaj, his administration as well the forts from Shivaji's era. He also directed 'Jaanta Raja', which is a popular play on Chhatrapati's life. His works are mostly related to Shivaji, as a result he was often called as Shiv-Shahir.

### His awards

- The historian was awarded with India's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan, on in January 2019. He was also awarded with Maharashtra Bhushan Award in 2015, which happens to be Maharashtra's highest civilian award. Madhya Pradesh government had awarded him the Kalidas Samman in 2007–08, for his works in the field of drama.

### Works of Babasaheb Purandare

- Purandare had started writing stories on Shivaji's reign at a young age. These stories were later compiled and published in a book called "Thinagya" ("Sparks"). His other works include-
- Book titled Raja Shiva-Chatrapati
- Book titled Kesari
- A book on life of Narayanrao Peshwa.
- A drama called Janata Raja.

### Janata Raja Drama

- Janata Raja Drama is a widely popular play on Shivaji. It was first staged in 1985. The drama has been staged for more than 1000 times across 16 districts of Maharashtra, Delhi, Agra, Bhopal, and the United States, since then. It was originally written in Marathi and later translated into Hindi. Performance of the drama usually starts around Diwali, each year. It is performed by 200 artists, elephants, horses and camels.

## 1.79 SN Pradhan Appointed As Director-General Of NCB

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Satya Narayan Pradhan has been appointed as the Director-General (DG) of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on a deputation till the date of his superannuation on 31st August 2024 or until further orders.
- He was holding the additional charge as the DG of NCB in addition to the responsibilities as the DG of NDRF. He took the additional charge as the DG of NCB succeeding Rakesh Asthana who was appointed as Delhi Police Commissioner.

## 1.80 P.C. Mody made Rajya Sabha Secretary-General

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- 1982-batch retired IRS officer and former chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Pramod Chandra Mody was appointed new Secretary General Rajya Sabha, replacing P.P.K. Ramacharyulu.



- Ramacharyulu meanwhile has been reassigned as an advisor for one year term. Ramacharyulu has now been appointed as an advisor in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
- Mody, a former chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), will be the new secretary-general of the Upper House of Parliament. Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu has signed an order to this effect.

### 1.81 Devasahayam Pillai

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Devasahayam Pillai, an 18th-century Hindu convert to Christianity, would be the first Indian layman (a non-ordained member of the Church) to be made a saint.
- Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Devasahayam Pillai, together with six other Blesseds, during a Canonization Mass in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on 15th May 2022.
- Vatican City is the seat of the Roman Catholic Church.

#### About:

- He was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1712 in the village of Nattalam in Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari District.
- Known as Nilakanda Pillai before embracing Christianity, he grew up in an upper-caste family of temple priests.
- He went on to serve in the court of Travancore's Maharaja Marthanda Varma. It was here that he met a Dutch naval commander, who taught him about the Catholic faith.
- He became a Catholic in 1745. Pillai took the Christian name Lazarus but later came to be known as Devasahayam (God's help).
- He then faced the wrath of the Travancore state, which was against his conversion.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> January 1752, just seven years after he became a Catholic, Devasahayam was shot dead in the Aralvaimozhy forest.
- Since then, he has widely been considered a martyr by the Catholic community in South India.
- His body is at Saint Francis Xavier Cathedral in the Diocese of Kottar (Tamil Nadu).
- The Church is of the view that his preaching of equality of all people despite caste differences eventually led to his martyrdom.
- He was first approved for sainthood in February 2020 for "enduring increasing hardships" after he decided to embrace Christianity.

### 1.82 Veteran sports commentator and football pundit Novy Kapadia passes away

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Veteran author, football journalist and sports commentator Novy Kapadia has passed away due to health complications. He was often called 'the voice of Indian football'.
- The noted commentator had covered nine FIFA World Cups, as well as Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. As an author, Kapadia had written books like Barefoot to Boots, The Many Lives Of Indian Football among others.

### 1.83 Veteran Punjabi Folk Singer Gurmeet Bawa Passes Away

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Renowned Punjabi folk singer Gurmeet Bawa has passed away following a prolonged illness. She was 77.
- Gurmeet was best known for her long 'hek' (Breathless opening of a Punjabi folk song calling "ho" to create a melodious voice with an unbreakable wave) that she could hold for about 45 seconds.
- She came to fame after she started performing on Doordarshan and thus became the first Punjabi female singer to appear on the national television channel.

### 1.84 100th birth anniversary of Dr Verghese Kurien

- November 26, 2021, marks the 100th birth anniversary of Dr Verghese Kurien, who is also known as the 'Father of White Revolution' in the country.
- Every year since 2014, Kurien's birth anniversary has been observed as the National Milk Day.
- The late social entrepreneur, who was born on November 26, 1921, in present day- Kozhikode, Kerala, played an instrumental role in making India the largest milk producer in the world.
- He was also the brains behind 'Operation Flood,' which led to dairy farming becoming the country's largest self-sustaining industry, as well as the largest rural employment sector.
- Kurien also helped set up the Amul cooperative society in 1946, in Gujarat's Anand
- He was thus a recipient of several awards, including the Padma Vibhushan (1999), World Food Prize (1989), Krishi Ratna (1986), Padma Bhushan (1966), Padma Shri (1965), Ramon Magsaysay Award (1963) etc.

### PRACTICE MCQS

#### QUESTION 1: Who is the new CEO of Barclays?

- A. Arun Chawla
- B. CS Venkatakrishnan
- C. Zubeen Garg
- D. none of the above

#### QUESTION 2: Who has been appointed as the new DG of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)?

- A. Sankalp gupta
- B. Sheel vardhan singh
- C. Atul karwal
- D. None of the above

#### QUESTION 3: Who has been named as next Chief of the Naval Staff?

- A. R hari kumar
- B. Karambir singh
- C. Sheel vardhan singh
- D. None of the above

#### QUESTION 4: Who has become the richest self-made woman in India recently?

- A. Isha ambani
- B. Falguni nayar
- C. Gauri khan
- D. None of the above

#### QUESTION 5: Babasaheb Purandare, who passed away recently, was a-

- A. Cricketer

- B. Writer
- C. Painter
- D. None of the above

#### Question 6: Who has been appointed as the Director-General (DG) of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)?

- A. Satya Narayan Pradhan
- B. Kuldeep Singh
- C. Gurbirpal Singh
- D. Pradeep Chandran Nair

#### Question 7: Who is the new secretary-general of the Upper House of Parliament?

- A. PPK Ramacharyulu
- B. Desh Dipak Verma
- C. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
- D. PC Mody

#### Question 8: Consider the following statements regarding Devasahayam Pillai? which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Devasahayam Pillai, an 18th-century Hindu convert to Christianity, would be the first Indian layman.
- B. He was born on 23rd April 1712 in the village of Nattalam in Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari District.
- C. On 14th January 1752, just seven years after he became a Catholic, Devasahayam was shot dead in the Aralvaimozhy forest.

D. All of the above

**Question 9: Veteran author, football journalist and sports commentator \_\_\_\_\_ has passed away due to health complications.**

- A. Vikram Kapadia
- B. Rohan Kapadia
- C. Novy Kapadia
- D. Deepak Kapadia

**Question 10: Renowned Punjabi folk singer \_\_\_\_\_ has passed away following a prolonged illness.**

- A. Jaswinder Singh Bains
- B. Dilpreet Dhillon
- C. Gurmeet Bawa
- D. Apinder Dhillon

**Question 11: November 26, 2021, marks the 100th birth anniversary of Dr Verghese Kurien, who is also known as the**

- A. Father Of White Revolution
- B. Father Of Green Revolution
- C. Father Of Pink Revolution
- D. Father Of Blue Revolution

### Answers

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

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## ENVIRONMENT

### 1.85 South Korea inaugurated World's Largest Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of South Korea held that the 'Shinincheon Bitdream Fuel Cell Power Plant' at the Shinincheon Bitdream headquarters of Korea Southern Power in Seo-gu, Incheon has been completed and inaugurated.
- The power plant is operated by South Korea's independent power production company, POSCO Energy and Doosan Fuel Cell. It has a capacity of 78 MW constructed in four stages from 2017. The project cost about 340 billion won (\$292 million).

### 1.86 Uttarakhand gets country's largest aromatic garden

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Uttarakhand gets India's largest aromatic garden in the Nainital district. The research wing of the Uttarakhand forest department inaugurated the biggest aromatic garden of India in Lalkuan of Nainital district.
- Established in an area of over 3 acres, the garden has 140 different species of aromatic species from across India. The project was initiated in the year 2018-19 after approval of the Research Advisory Committee in June 2018.

### 1.87 World Heritage Sites & Climate Change

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- The first ever scientific assessment of the amounts of greenhouse gases emitted from and absorbed by forests (2001-2020) in UNESCO World Heritage sites has found that forests in World Heritage sites play a vital role in mitigating climate change.

#### Mitigating Climate Change:

- World Heritage sites play a vital role in mitigating climate change by absorbing 190 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere each year.
- Carbon sequestration by world heritage forests over long periods has led to total carbon storage of approximately 13 billion tons of carbon.
- If all this stored carbon were to be released into the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub>, it would be akin to emitting 1.3 times the world's total annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels.
- However, ten forests released more carbon than they sequestered due to pressure from human activity and climate change, which is alarming.
- UNESCO under its World Heritage Marine Programme lists 50 sites across the globe for their unique marine values. These represent just one per cent of the global ocean area. But they comprise at least 15% of global blue carbon assets.
- **Blue Carbon** is organic carbon that is mainly obtained from decaying plant leaves, wood, roots and animals. It is captured and stored by coastal and marine ecosystems.
- India's Sundarbans National Park (60 million tonnes of carbon) is among five sites that have the highest blue carbon stocks globally.

#### Reason for High Emissions:

- At some sites the clearance of land for agriculture caused emissions to be greater than sequestration.



- The increasing scale and severity of wildfires, often linked to severe periods of drought, is also a predominant factor in several cases.
- Other extreme weather phenomena, such as hurricanes, contributed at certain sites.

**Recommendations:**

- Protection of Heritage Sites:
- Strong and sustained protection of UNESCO World Heritage sites and their surrounding landscapes to ensure their forests could continue to act as strong carbon sinks and stores for future generations.
- Rapid Response:
- Rapidly responding to climate-related events, as well as maintaining and strengthening ecological connectivity through improved landscape management.
- Integrated Protection:
- Integrating the continued protection of UNESCO World Heritage sites into international, national and local climate, biodiversity and sustainable development strategies.
- It should be in line with the Paris climate agreement, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## 1.88 Glasgow Glacier: Antarctica

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, the 100-km long body of ice in Antarctica, which has been experiencing rapid melting, was formally named Glasgow after the Glasgow climate summit.
- The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is being held in Glasgow, UK.
- Research: Scientists from the University of Leeds in England have studied a chain of glaciers in the Getz basin of Antarctica.
- 14 glaciers in the Getz Basin of West Antarctica are thinning by an average of 25% between 1994 and 2018 due to climate change. The 315 gigatonnes of ice were lost from the region in the last 25 years and contributing to rising global sea levels.
- The Getz basin is part of Antarctica's largest ice shelf. The shelf is subject to more changeable oceanic forcing - a process where relatively warm deep ocean water melts the glaciers from below - than other Antarctic shelves.
- Other Glaciers Named: The eight newly named glaciers are based on:
- Stockholm Conference (1972): One of the major results of the Stockholm conference was the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- World Climate Conference, Geneva (1979): The World Climate Conference, now usually referred to as the First World Climate Conference was held in Geneva.
- Rio Summit (1992): It recommended a list of development practices called Agenda 21. It gave the concept of sustainable development to be combined economic growth with ecological responsibility.
- COP1 (Berlin, Germany, 1995): The first Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-1) met in Berlin in 1995.
- Kyoto Protocol (1997): In Kyoto, developed countries agreed to a collective target of a 5.2% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by between 2008 and 2012.
- COP13 (Bali, Indonesia, 2007): Parties agreed on the Bali Road Map and Bali action plan, which charted the way towards a post-2012 outcome.
- COP21 (Paris, 2015): To keep global temperature well below 2.0C above pre-industrial times and endeavor to limit them even more to 1.5C.
- It requires rich nations to maintain USD 100bn a year funding pledge beyond the year 2020.
- Incheon: The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is based in Incheon, South Korea.

**Significance:**

- Over the past 40 years, satellites have observed huge iceberg calving events, changes in the flow of glaciers and rapidly thinning ice demonstrating the devastating impact of global warming.
- The naming of the glaciers after the locations of major climate treaties, conferences and reports is a great way to celebrate the international collaboration on climate change science and policy over the last 42 years.

## 1.89 India's Panchamrita concoction

### WHY IN NEWS?

- On the first day of the global climate meet (COP26) in Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed a five-fold strategy for India to play its role in helping the world to get closer to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

### About:

- Prime minister Modi termed his scheme as 'Panchamrita', which means 'five ambrosia'.
- Traditionally, 'Panchamrita' is a method of mixing five natural foods namely, milk, curd, ghee, honey and jaggery.
- Panchmrita is used as a technique in Ayurveda. It is also used in Hindu and Jain worship rituals.

### Modi's Panchamrita

- Prime Minister proposed following 'Panchamrita':
- India will increase its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatts by 2030.
- India will meet 50 per cent of its energy requirements, with renewable energy, till 2030.
- India will reduce carbon emission by one billion tonnes by 2030.
- India will reduce its carbon intensity by 45 per cent by 2030.
- India will achieve net zero emissions by 2070.

### Where does India stand?

- India accounts for 17 per cent of the world's population. However, it only contributes five per cent of emissions. In terms of renewable energy capacity, India stands at fourth position.

### About COP26

- COP 26 or 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference is the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference. It started on October 31 in Glasgow, Scotland and will conclude on November 12, 2021. It is being held under the presidency of Alok Sharma. It is the third meeting of the parties of Paris Agreement. During the conference, parties are expected to commit to enhanced ambition since COP21. Parties are required to carry out ratchet mechanism every five years, in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

## 1.90 India to Reach Carbon Neutrality by 2070

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, India announced that it will reach carbon neutrality by 2070 as part of a five-point action plan that included reducing emissions to 50% by 2030.
- India made this pledge at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 climate summit in Glasgow, where it also urged developed countries to deliver on their promise of climate financing.
- However, India hasn't submitted an updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) with these commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) yet.

### About:

- Net Zero is a state in which a country's total emissions are offset by absorptions of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, like that done by trees and forests, and physical removal of carbon dioxide through futuristic technologies.
- More than 70 countries have promised to become Net Zero by the middle of the century, and this is being considered vital for meeting the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global temperatures within 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial times.

- India's Net Zero target of 2070 silences its critics but it is along expected lines.
- The big thing here is not the target itself but the fact that India finally relented and decided to take up a target, something it had been holding back on for quite some time.
- In its climate action plan submitted under the Paris Agreement, India had promised to reduce its emissions intensity, or emissions per unit of Gross Domestic Product, by 33 to 35% by the year 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

**Reducing India's Emissions:**

- India has the lowest per capita emissions of the world's major economies -- emitting 5% of the total, despite accounting for 17% of the world's population.
- According to the World Resources Institute, India's total greenhouse gas emissions were about 3.3 billion tonnes in 2018.
- It's projected to rise above 4 billion tonnes per year by 2030.
- That would mean between now and 2030, India could be emitting anywhere between 35 to 40 billion tonnes at the current rates of growth.
- Cutting 1 billion tonnes would, therefore, represent a reduction of 2.5 to 3% in its absolute emissions in the business-as-usual scenario in the next nine years.

**India's New Renewables Target:**

- In 2019 India announced that it would take up its installed capacity of renewable energy to 450 GW by 2030.
- At that time, India's publicly stated target was 175 GW by the year 2022.
- The installed renewable capacity has been growing rapidly in the last few years, and the enhancement as per its pledge from 450 GW to 500 GW is not likely to be very challenging.
- The increase in the proportion of non-fossil fuel energy in the energy mix, to 50% is a natural corollary of this.
- Most of the new capacity additions in the energy sector are being done in the renewable and non-fossil fuel space.
- In fact, India has already said it does not plan to start any new coal power plants after 2022.
- As of now, India was already targeting 40% electricity production through non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

**Climate Finance:**

- India's efforts though will have to be supported by the availability of climate finance from developed countries. Without foreign capital, on concessional terms, this transition will prove to be difficult.
- India demands USD 1 trillion of climate finance as soon as possible and will monitor not just climate action, but deliver climate finance.
- Most importantly, India has called, once again, for a change in lifestyles.

**Steps Needed to Achieve Net Zero:**

- According to the Council on Energy, Environment and Waters implications of a Net-zero Target for India's Sectoral Energy Transitions and Climate Policy' study, India's total installed solar power capacity would need to increase to over 5,600 gigawatts to achieve net-zero by 2070.
- The usage of coal, especially for power generation, would need to drop by 99% by 2060, for India to achieve net-zero by 2070.
- Consumption of crude oil, across sectors, would need to peak by 2050 and fall substantially by 90% between 2050 and 2070.
- Green hydrogen could contribute 19% of the total energy needs of the industrial sector.

## 1.91 COP26: Economic Implications Of India's Targets

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- On November 1, 2021, at COP26 climate summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 2070 as the India's target to reach net zero carbon emissions.

**About:**

- India's announcement came as a surprise to delegates in Glasgow, as India had rejected calls to announce such target recently.
- US, UK & Japan have net zero target by 2050; EU by 2060; Saudi Arabia, China & Russia by 2070.

**What is net-zero target?**

- A net-zero target is defined as date by which a country will only emit carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases that can be absorbed by forests, soil, crops, and developing technologies such as carbon capture technology.

**Which are the top Greenhouse Gas Emitters?**

- China, United States, India and Russia are the top greenhouse gas emitters. India is the third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases and is among the countries which are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. As per Global Climate Risk Index 2021, India is the seventh-most affected nation by extreme weather events.

**India's goal towards net-zero emissions**

- India's goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 is far-fetched. Thus, to support this goal, four other aggressive pledges were made. These targets are:
- 50% of power will come from renewables by 2030.
- 500 GW of installed renewable energy capacity will be reached by 2030.
- Reduction in carbon intensity by 45% by 2030.
- Reduction in projected total carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes by 2030.
- India further seeks to reduce its projected total carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes by the end of the decade.

## 1.92 Ganges River Dolphin

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, the Ministry of Jal Shakti released a guide for the safe rescue and release of stranded Ganges River Dolphins.
- The document has been prepared by the Turtle Survival Alliance and the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department (EFCCD) of the Uttar Pradesh Government.
- It was recognised as the National Aquatic Animal in 2009, by the Government of India.

**About:**

- Scientific Name: *Platanista gangetica gangetica*.
- Discovery: It was officially discovered in 1801.
- Habitat: They live in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.
- The Ganges river dolphin can only live in freshwater and is essentially blind.
- They hunt by emitting ultrasonic sounds, which bounces off of fish and other prey, enabling them to "see" an image in their mind. They are also called 'susu'.
- Population: The global population of the species is estimated at 4,000, and nearly 80% found in the Indian subcontinent.
- Significance:
- It is a reliable indicator of the health of the entire river ecosystem.

**Threats:**

- Bycatch: These dolphins and people both favor areas of the river where fish are plentiful and the water current is slower. This has led to fewer fish for people and more dolphins dying as a result of accidentally being caught in fishing nets, also known as bycatch.
- Pollution: Industrial, agricultural, and human pollution is another serious cause of habitat degradation.



- Dams: Construction of dams and other irrigation-related projects make them susceptible to inbreeding and more vulnerable to other threats because they cannot move to new areas.
- Dolphins below a dam are threatened by heavy pollution, increased fishing activities and vessel traffic. They also have less food because dams disturb the migration, breeding cycles and habitat of fish and other prey.

**Conservation Status:**

- Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972: Schedule I.
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): Appendix I (most endangered).
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Appendix II (migratory species that need conservation and management or would significantly benefit from international co-operation).

**Steps Taken:**

- Project Dolphin: The Prime Minister announced the government's plan to launch a Project Dolphin in his Independence Day Speech 2020. It is on the lines of Project Tiger, which has helped increase the tiger population.
- Dolphin Sanctuary: Vikramshila Ganges Dolphin Sanctuary has been established in Bihar.
- National Ganga River Dolphin Day: The National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> October as National Ganga River Dolphin Day.
- Conservation Plan: The Conservation Action Plan for the Ganges River Dolphin 2010-2020, which "identified threats to Gangetic Dolphins and impact of river traffic, irrigation canals and depletion of prey-base on Dolphins populations".

### 1.93 One Sun One World One Grid group

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' on November 2, 2021 for improving the viability of solar power.

**About:**

- On the occasion, he also announced that India's space agency, ISRO will provide a calculator to the world soon, that can measure solar energy potential of any region.
- 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' (OSOWOG) solution will be used to tackle the challenge of solar power.
- Earth's atmosphere receives enough sunlight in one hour, that can be used to power the electricity need of every human on earth for a year.
- However, solar energy is only available during the day. Another challenge is that it is dependent on weather conditions.

**About OSOWOG**

- This project is about setting a 'trans-national electricity grid to supply solar power across the world. The vision behind OSOWOG is 'The Sun Never Sets'. It is a constant at some geographical location, across the globe, at any given point of time. This is the most ambitious schemes undertaken by India and is significant in terms economic benefits. It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the World Bank. This plan will also leverage the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

**Three Phases of the OSOWOG**

- First Phase: It will involve interconnectivity within the Asian continent.
- Second Phase: Africa will be added.
- Third Phase: It will involve global interconnection.

**Significance of OSOWOG**

- OSOWOG project will help all the participating countries in attracting investments in renewable energy sources. It will also help in utilizing finances, skills and technology.

- It will lead to lesser project costs, higher efficiencies and increased asset utilization across all the participating entities.
- Economic benefits arising out of the project will result into poverty alleviation. It will also support in mitigating water & sanitation, food and other socio-economic challenges.

## 1.94 What is the Global Methane Pledge?

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Global Methane Pledge was launched on November 2, 2021 at the ongoing UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.

### About:

- As of now, more than 90 countries have signed this pledge.
- Global Methane Pledge is an effort led by the United States and the European Union, jointly.
- This pledge is significant because Methane is the second-most abundant greenhouse gas present in the atmosphere.

### About Global Methane Pledge

- The Global Methane Pledge was first announced in September 2021 by the US and EU. It is an agreement to reduce global methane emissions. This pledge was announced with the aim of reducing methane emissions by 30 per cent by the year 2030, as compared to 2020 levels.

### How Methane contributes to global temperature?

- As per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, methane accounts for around half of the 1.0 degrees Celsius net increase in global average temperature as compared to pre-industrial era. As per UN, 25 percent of the warming is because of methane.

### About methane

- Methane is a greenhouse gas and a component of natural gas. Its presence in the atmosphere increases the temperature on Earth. Methane comes from human as well as natural sources. Human sources of methane comprise of oil & natural gas systems, landfills, coal mining, agricultural activities, wastewater treatment, and industrial processes. Human sources accounts for 60 percent of the global methane emissions, among which Oil & gas sectors are the largest contributor.

## 1.95 Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, an ambitious declaration was initiated by the United Kingdom to "halt deforestation" and land degradation by 2030.
- It is being referred to as the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.
- India did not sign this, as it objected to "trade" being interlinked to climate change and forest issues in the agreement.

### About the Declaration:

- **Integrated Approach:** The declaration recognise that to meet our land use, climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals, both globally and nationally will require transformative further action in the interconnected areas:
  - Sustainable production and consumption.
  - Infrastructure development; trade; finance and investment.
  - Support for smallholders, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, who depend on forests for their livelihoods and have a key role in their stewardship.
  - To help achieve a balance between anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removal by sinks; to adapt to climate change; and to maintain other ecosystem services.
- **Signatories:** The declaration has over 105 signatories including the UK, US, Russia and China.

- These countries represent 75% of global trade and 85% of global forests in key commodities that can threaten forests – such as palm oil, cocoa and soya.
- They have also committed USD 12 billion in public funds from 2021-25.
- **Commitment to Multilateral Agreement:** It reaffirmed respective commitments to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Sustainable Development Goals; and other relevant initiatives.

**Major Highlights of the Declaration:**

- **Conservation:** Conserve forests and other terrestrial ecosystems and accelerate their restoration.
- **Sustainable Development:** Facilitate trade and development policies, internationally and domestically, that promote sustainable development, and sustainable commodity production and consumption.
- **Building Resilience:** Reduce vulnerability, build resilience and enhance rural livelihoods, including through empowering local communities.
- **Recognising Indigenous Rights:** The development of profitable, sustainable agriculture, and recognition of the multiple values of forests, while recognising the rights of Indigenous.
- **Financial Commitments:** Reaffirm international financial commitments and significantly increase finance and investment from a wide variety of public and private sources.

**India's Stand:**

- India, Argentina, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and South Africa are the only G20 countries that did not sign the declaration. The declaration interlinks trade to climate change and forest issues. Trade falls under the World Trade Organization and should not be brought under climate change declarations.
- India and others had asked the word “trade” to be removed, but the demand was not accepted. Therefore they didn't sign the declaration.
- The issue of deforestation in India is a hotly contested one. The government has repeatedly said that the tree cover and forest cover in India have increased over the past few years.
- However, environmentalists have long pointed out that the government is busy diluting existing environmental protections to open them up for mining and other infrastructure projects that will alter the forests, wildlife, and the people living around it forever.

## 1.96 Indian Flapshell Turtles

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, forest officials from Odisha found 40 Indian flapshell turtles in baskets in an alleged smuggling racket.

**About:**

- The Indian flapshell turtle is a freshwater species of turtle and is found in many states.
- The “flap-shelled” name stems from the presence of femoral flaps located on the plastron. These flaps of skin cover the limbs when they retract into the shell.
- It is a relatively small soft-shell turtle with a carapace length of up to 350 millimetres.

**Scientific Name:** *Lissemys punctata***Distribution:**

- They are found in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh (Indus and Ganges drainages), and Myanmar (Irrawaddy and Salween Rivers).
- They live in the shallow, quiet, often stagnant waters of rivers, streams, marshes, ponds, lakes and irrigation canals, and tanks.
- These turtles prefer waters with sand or mud bottoms because of their tendency to burrow.

**Conservation Status:**

- **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
- **CITES:** Appendix II

- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I

**Threats:**

- Turtles are smuggled and killed for their supposed aphrodisiac properties, livestock feed, to make leather from their skins, to make potions from their blood and to use as fishing bait.
- Turtles are also used for meat and medicines.

**Steps Taken for Conservation:**

- **KURMA App:**
- It has a built-in digital field guide covering 29 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises of India.
- It was developed by the Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN) in collaboration with the Turtle Survival Alliance-India and Wildlife Conservation Society-India.
- **World Turtle Day** is observed every year on **23<sup>rd</sup> May**.

## 1.97 Mass Fish Death in Kameng River

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Recently, the landslides caused by an earthquake of 3.4 magnitude close to the border with China has led to mass fish death in the Kameng river in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The region has been placed into Seismic Zone V, thus most vulnerable to earthquakes.

**About:**

- The earthquake happened in the vicinity of the source of the river at an elevation of about 6,300 metres above Mean Sea Level.
- The landslides dumped several tonnes of mud and rocks into the river, substantially reducing the flow of water.
- The river turned blackish due to very high turbidity resulting in low dissolved oxygen that killed the fish.
- Low dissolved oxygen concentrations can arise through natural phenomena that include seasonality, changes in river flow, and both saline and thermal stratification of the water column.
- Low dissolved oxygen levels can also indicate an excessive demand on the oxygen in the system.

**Kameng River:**

- It originates in Tawang district from the glacial lake below snow-capped Gori Chen mountain on the India-Tibet border.
- Kameng is not a transboundary river.
- It flows through Bhalukpong circle of West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh and Sonitpur District of Assam.
- It becomes a braided river in its lower reaches and is one of the major tributaries of the Brahmaputra River.
- It joins Brahmaputra river at Tezpur, just east of the Kolia Bhomora Setu bridge, Assam.
- It forms the boundary between East Kameng District and West Kameng Districts.
- It also forms the boundary between the Sessa and Eaglenest sanctuaries to its west (Arunachal Pradesh) and the Pakke tiger reserve to the east (Arunachal Pradesh).
- The Dafla Hills are east and the Aka Hills are located west of the Kameng River.
- **Tributaries:** Tippi, Tenga, Bichom and Dirang Chu.

**Historical Significance:**

- During the medieval period i.e. between 13th to early 16th century, it marked the borders between the Chutiya kingdom and the Kamata kingdom.
- Later, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, after the annexation of the Chutiya kingdom by the Ahoms and the downfall of Kamata kingdom, it acted as the border between the Ahom kingdom and Baro-Bhuyan rule.
- The Chutiya Kingdom (also Sadiya) was a late medieval state that developed around Sadiya in present Assam and adjoining areas in Arunachal Pradesh.



- The Kamata Kingdom emerged in western Kamarupa probably when Sandhya, a ruler of Kamarupanagara, moved his capital west to Kamatapur sometime after 1257 CE.
- Kamarupa is an ancient state corresponding roughly to what is now the state of Assam.
- Sukapha was a 13th-century ruler who founded the Ahom kingdom that ruled Assam for six centuries.
- The Baro-Bhuyans refers to the confederacies of soldier-landowners in Assam and Bengal in late middle age and early modern period.

## 1.98 US joins International Solar Alliance as a member country

### WHY IN NEWS?

- United States of America (USA) became the 101st member country to join International Solar Alliance (ISA).

### About:

- USA joined ISA as member country to accelerate the global adoption of solar energy.
- This announcement was made at UNFCCC COP26 on November 10, 2021.
- Now, USA will catalyse global energy transition through solar-led approach.

### International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework

- The ISA framework was first circulated in 2016 for the support of countries. It emphasises on delivering global relevance and local benefit through collaborations for all countries. Key interventions of ISA will focus on readiness and enabling activities, innovative financing instrument and risk mitigation in order to facilitate promotion and deployment of solar technologies.

### International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- ISA is an alliance of 124 countries. It was initiated by India. Most of the member countries are sunshine countries, lying either partly or completely between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn. This alliance was launched with the objective of working for efficient consumption of solar energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. It was first proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2015. It is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization. It is the largest grouping of states across the world.

### Who can join the alliance?

- Countries that do not lie within the Tropics can also join ISA and enjoy all benefits as other members. However, they do not get voting rights.

### Headquarter of ISA

- ISA is headquartered in Gurugram, India. Its foundation stone was laid by Narendra Modi, and French President Francois Hollande in 2016.

## 1.99 Egypt to host COP27 Climate Summit next year

### WHY IN NEWS?

- During COP26 conference in Glasgow, it was decided that Egypt will host COP27 United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2022.

### About:

- Egypt will host the conference in Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh.
- This decision was taken after Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi showed in September Egypt's interest in hosting COP27 on behalf of the African continent.
- Apart from that, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was selected to host COP28 international climate conference in the year 2023.

### United Nations Climate Change Conferences

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment & Development in 1992.

- United Nations Conference on Environment & Development is also known as Rio Summit, Rio Conference or Earth Summit.
- India is among few countries to have hosted the COP of all three Rio conventions on climate change, biodiversity and land.
- UNFCCC was enforced on March 21, 1994.
- Till date, it has been ratified by 197 countries.
- UNFCCC is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement as well as 1997 Kyoto Protocol.
- UNFCCC secretariat is a United Nations entity that has been tasked with supporting global response to the threat of climate change.
- It is headquartered in Bonn, Germany.

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

- COP is the apex decision-making authority of UNFCCC. It meets every year. The first COP meeting was held in March 1995 in Berlin, Germany. COP meets in Bonn, seat of the secretariat. The office of the COP President rotates among five United Nations regional groups namely, Asia, Africa, Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, and Western Europe & Others. President of COP is usually the environment minister of home country, who is elected by acclamation after opening of COP session.

### **1.100 EU, UNEP launch International Methane Emissions Observatory**

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

- At the recent G20 Summit, the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) was launched.
- **About International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO)**
- **Launched by:** UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with support from the European Union
- **Objective of the IMEO**
- The observatory aims to provide credible data to track countries progress on meeting methane reduction pledges and to promote best practice.
- It will initially focus on methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector and then expand to other major emitting sectors like agriculture and waste.
- It will also monitor commitments made by countries in the Global Methane Pledge, a US- and EU-led effort to slash methane emissions by 30% by 2030.

### **1.101 Kaiser-i-Hind: Arunachal's State butterfly**

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

- State Cabinet of Arunachal Pradesh, headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, approved "Kaiser-i-Hind" as state butterfly.

#### **About:**

- Kaiser-i-Hind' is a large and brightly coloured butterfly.
- It is an elusive swallowtail butterfly, which carries 'India' in its name.
- It is found in China and now it has been approved as the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.

#### **Cabinet Meeting**

- Government held the Cabinet meeting outside Itanagar, for the first time. It was held in Pakke Tiger Reserve.
- During the meeting, cabinet also adopted 'Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 declaration on climate change-resilient & responsive Arunachal Pradesh' with the aim of lowering emissions and sustainable development.

#### **About Kaiser-i-Hind**

- Kaiser-i-Hind is scientifically known as *Teinopalpus imperialis*. In literal terms, it means Emperor of India. The butterfly is having a wingspan of 90-120 mm.

**Distribution of Kaiser-i-Hind**

- It is found across six States along Eastern Himalayas at the elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in a well-wooded terrain. They also flutter in Bhutan, Nepal, Laos, Myanmar, southern China and Vietnam.

**Background**

- In January 2020, State Wildlife Board accepted the proposal from Koj Rinya, which is the divisional forest officer of Hapoli Forest Division in Lower Subansiri district. The proposal was made in a bid to boost butterfly tourism and to save the species from extinction in the State.

**Protection status of the butterfly**

- Protected areas under the Hapoli Forest Division are popular among butterfly enthusiasts. The Kaiser-i-Hind is protected under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Despite that, they are hunted for the supply to butterfly collectors.

**IUCN Status**

- International Union for Conservation of Nature has red-listed the Kaiser-i-Hind.

## 1.102 India launched 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

**WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- India successfully launched the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica, recently.

**About:**

- The first batch of Indian contingent arrived at the southern white continent.
- First batch comprises of 23 scientists and support staff. They reached the Indian Antarctic station Maitri recently.
- Four more batches will land in Antarctica by air using DROMLAN facility. They will land by mid-January 2021, onboard chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasiliy Golovnin.

**Major Programs of 41<sup>st</sup> expedition**

- 41st expedition comprises of two major programs:
- The first program is “geological exploration of Amery ice shelf” at Bharati station. This programme will help in exploring the link between India and Antarctica in past.
- The second program is “reconnaissance surveys and preparatory work” to drill 500 meters of ice core near Maitri. This programme will help in improving the understanding of Antarctic climate, sea-ice, greenhouse gases from a single climate, and westerly winds.
- Apart from accomplishing scientific programs, the 41st expedition will replenish annual supplies of fuel, food as well as provisions & spares for operation & maintenance of life support systems set up at Maitri & Bharati.

**How ice core drilling will be done?**

- The ice core drilling will be done in association with British Antarctic Survey and the Norwegian Polar Institute.

**The Indian Antarctic programs**

- Indian Antarctic programs started in 1981. It has completed 40 scientific expeditions. The programs helped in building three permanent research base stations in Antarctica:
- Dakshin Gangotri in 1983,
- Maitri in 1988 and
- Bharati in 2012.
- Base stations Maitri and Bharati are fully operational, as of now.

**Who manages the Indian Antarctic program?**

- The entire Indian Antarctic program is managed by the “National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa”. NCPOR is an autonomous institute working under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

### 1.103 What is the “Clean Ocean Manifesto”?

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Clean Ocean International Expert Group of UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, is going to present its short list of activities & goals as well as “Clean Ocean Manifesto”.

#### About:

- The group has set up two aims, in order to help United Nations in attaining the goal of clean ocean:
- Reducing marine debris by 50-90 per cent and
- globe circling & high-tech system of monitors.
- **The expert group is co-chaired by:**
- Angelika Brandt from Germany- A Southern Ocean & Antarctica biodiversity expert, and
- Elva Escobar Briones from Mexico- A deep sea biodiversity expert.
- It highlights the challenges and opportunities which Ocean Decade can provide for attaining a clean ocean.
- The expert group also underline that, this process should aim to define and attract financial support in order to meet the initial set of goals for 2025. It should then be followed by goals of 2030.
- **Objectives for 2030**
- The statement notes direct route to a clean ocean, highlighting following objectives for 2030:
- Enlarge understanding of pathways for spread & fate of pollutants,
- Reduce and remove top-priority forms of pollution up to 90 per cent and
- To prevent recurrence, reduce sources or emission of pollutants.
- **Three-day online conference**
- The three-day online conference will also highlight around 30 activities in place or in development across the world, which can make significant contributions by 2030 to clean ocean. These include initiatives of:
- Successfully and consistently monitoring marine debris from space
- Operating deep sea observatories from Atlantic
- Observing vast Southern Ocean to provide early warnings of possible

### 1.104 India's 1st grass conservatory inaugurated in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- India's first 'grass conservatory' or 'germplasm conservation centre' spread over an area of 2 acres was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Almora district of Uttarakhand.
- This conservatory is funded under the Central Government's CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme and is developed by the research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department.
- To create awareness about the importance of grass species, promote their conservation, and facilitate research in the field.

### 1.105 Arunachal Pradesh Govt adopted 'Pakke Declaration' on climate change

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- The government of Arunachal Pradesh approved the 'Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh', which aims to promote “climate-resilient development” in the state.



- The announcement is the first of its kind by any state government in the country. For the first time, the State's Cabinet meeting was conducted outside the capital Itanagar, at Pakke Tiger Reserve, where the 'Pakke Declaration' was adopted.
- The 'Pakke Declaration' focuses on a multi-sectoral approach to low-emission and climate-resilient development based on five broad themes, or Panch Dharas.

### 1.106 Yamuna Pollution

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Delhi's Chief Minister has announced a six-point action plan to completely clean the Yamuna by 2025.
- Timelines are set for every small aspect of the project and they will be revisited every 15 to 30 days to ensure that it is completed on time.

#### Action plan

- New sewage treatment plants (STP): Building new sewage treatment plants (STP), increasing the capacity of existing STPs, and technology upgradation
- In situ treatment of major drains.
- Diverting industrial waste: All industrial waste will be diverted to the common effluent treating plants. There will be a crackdown on industries for not sending their waste to the treatment plants.
- Proper Sewer network: JJ clusters will be connected to the larger sewer network to completely stop stormwater drains from being polluted. Every household may also be connected to the sewer network.
- Desilting: Complete desilting of the entire sewer network

#### About the Yamuna

- The Yamuna is a major tributary of the river Ganges,
- Origin: Yamunotri glacier near Bandarpooch peaks, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. It meets the Ganges at the Sangam in Prayagraj, UP
- Important Tributaries: Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, Ken, Tons, Hindon.

#### Causes of Pollution in the Yamuna

- Industrial Pollution
- Mixing of Drains
- Effects of Rising Ammonia

### PRACTICE MCQS

**QUESTION 1: World's largest hydrogen fuel cell power plant has been inaugurated in-**

- A. USA
- B. South Korea
- C. Japan
- D. China

**QUESTION 2: The country's largest aromatic garden has been inaugurated in-**

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Himachal Pradesh

- C. Assam
- D. Kerala

**QUESTION 3: Consider the following statements regarding blue carbon-**

1. Blue Carbon is synthetic carbon that is mainly obtained from decaying plant leaves, wood, roots and animals.
2. It is captured and stored by coastal and marine ecosystems.

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

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

**QUESTION 4: The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is based in -**

- A. Incheon
- B. Seoul
- C. Tokyo
- D. Beijing

**QUESTION 5: "Panchamrita" concoction, promoted by PM Modi in Glasgow, is associated with-**

- A. Tackling climate change
- B. Antibiotic resistance
- C. Food fortification
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 6: Consider the following statements:**

1. Net Zero is a state in which a country's total emissions are offset by absorptions of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, like that done by trees and forests, and physical removal of carbon dioxide through futuristic technologies.
2. India announced that it will reach carbon neutrality by 2060.

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

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

**QUESTION 7: India is the \_\_\_\_\_ biggest emitter of greenhouse gases.**

- A. Second
- B. Third
- C. Fourth
- D. Seventh

**QUESTION 8: Consider the following statements about Ganges river Dolphin:**

1. Its scientific name is Platanista gangetica gangetica.
2. It can only live in freshwater and is essentially blind
3. It is an indicator species.

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

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

**QUESTION 9: The term OSOWOG in context with renewable energy stands for-**

- A. One Source, One World, One Grid
- B. One Sun, One World, One Grid
- C. One Sun, One World, One Group
- D. One Source, One World, One Group

**QUESTION 10: The Global Methane Pledge was announced with the aim of reducing methane emissions by \_\_\_\_\_ per cent by the year \_\_\_\_\_, as compared to 2020 levels.**

- A. 30, 2030
- B. 40, 2035
- C. 40, 2030
- D. 50, 2030

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

1. Glasgow Leaders' Declaration to aims "halt deforestation" and land degradation by 2030.
2. India is a signatory to this declaration.

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

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 12: Consider the following statements about Indian flapshell turtles:**

1. Its IUCN status is "critically endangered".
2. It is a freshwater species of turtle.

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

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

**QUESTION 13: Tippi, Tenga, Bichom and Dirang Chu are tributaries of -**

- A. Kameng
- B. Lohit
- C. Irrawady
- D. Salween

**QUESTION 14: Consider the following statements:**

1. India, USA and France are founding members of International Solar Alliance (ISA).
2. ISA is headquartered at Gurugram.

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

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

**QUESTION 15: Consider the following statements:**

1. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed in 1992.
2. It is headquartered in Bonn, Germany.

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

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**QUESTION 16: International Methane Emissions Observatory was launched by-**

- A. European Union and World Meteorological Organisation
- B. World Meteorological Organisation and UN Environment Programme
- C. UN Environment Programme and European Union
- D. none of the above

**QUESTION 17: "Kaiser-i-Hind" has been adopted as state butterfly recently of which state?**

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Kerala

**Question 18: Which of the Following Indian research base stations in Antarctica are fully operational, as of now?**

- A. Dakshin Gangotri 1983
- B. Maitri in 1988
- C. Bharati in 2012.
- D. Maitri in 1988 and Bharati in 2012

**Question 19: Clean Ocean Manifesto launched by Clean Ocean International Expert Group of UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development has been chaired by?**

- A. Angelika Brandt
- B. Angelika jolie
- C. Vandana Shiva
- D. Demitry ana shova

**Question 20: India's first 'grass conservatory' or 'germplasm conservation centre' has been inaugurated in which of the following state?**

- A. Assam
- B. West Bengal
- C. Nagaland
- D. Uttarakhand

**Question 21: Which state government has approved the 'Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change'?**

- A. Assam
- B. Tripura
- C. Telangana
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

**Question 22: Which of the following is not a tributary of the river Yamuna?**

- A. Chambal
- B. Sindh
- C. Betwa
- D. Beda

### Answers

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



CivilsTap Himachal



## ECONOMY

### 1.107 PCA Framework Revised

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework.
- The PCA framework enables supervisory intervention of RBI over Banks at an appropriate time and ensures effective market discipline.

#### Revised Framework:

##### • **Applicability:**

- The framework applies to all banks operating in India, including foreign banks operating through branches or subsidiaries based on breach of risk thresholds of identified indicators.
- However, payments banks and small finance banks (SFBs) have been removed from the list of lenders where prompt corrective action can be initiated.
- The new provisions will be effective from January, 2022.

##### **Monitored Areas:**

- Capital, Asset Quality and Capital-To-Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR), NPA ratio, Tier I Leverage Ratio, will be the key areas for monitoring in the revised framework.
- However, the revised framework excludes return on assets as a parameter that may trigger action under the framework.

##### **Invocation of PCA:**

- The breach of any risk threshold may result in the invocation of the PCA. Stressed banks may not be allowed to expand credit/investment portfolios.
- However, they are allowed to invest in government securities/other high-quality liquid investments.
- In the case of a default on the part of a bank in meeting the obligations to its depositors, possible resolution processes may be resorted to without reference to the PCA matrix.

##### **RBI's Powers:**

- In governance-related actions, the RBI can supersede the board under Section 36ACA of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Amendment to Section 45 of the BR Act enables the Reserve Bank to reconstruct or amalgamate a bank, with or without implementing a moratorium, with the approval of the Central government.
- The RBI, as part of its mandatory and discretionary actions, may also impose appropriate restrictions on capital expenditure, other than for technological upgradation within Board approved limits, under the revised PCA.

##### **Withdrawal of PCA Restrictions:**

- Withdrawal of restrictions imposed will be considered if no breaches in risk thresholds in any of the parameters are observed as per four continuous quarterly financial statements.

#### **Prompt Corrective Action:**

- Background: PCA is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI.
- The RBI introduced the PCA framework in 2002 as a structured early-intervention mechanism for banks that become undercapitalised due to poor asset quality, or vulnerable due to loss of profitability.
- The framework was reviewed in 2017 based on the recommendations of the working group of the Financial Stability and Development Council on Resolution Regimes for Financial Institutions in India and the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission.

- Objective: The objective of the PCA framework is to enable supervisory intervention at an appropriate time and require the supervised entity to initiate and implement remedial measures in a timely manner, so as to restore its financial health.
- It aims to check the problem of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the Indian banking sector.
- It is intended to help alert the regulator as well as investors and depositors if a bank is heading for trouble.
- The idea is to head off problems before they attain crisis proportions.
- Audited Annual Financial Results: A bank will generally be placed under the PCA framework based on the audited annual financial results and the ongoing supervisory assessment made by the RBI.

### 1.108 RBI Committee on Asset Reconstruction Companies

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) committee has come out with a host of suggestions in a bid to streamline the functioning of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).

#### Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)

- It is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions so that they can clean up their balance sheets.
- A NPA is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days.
- Typically, ARCs buy banks' bad loans by paying a portion as cash upfront (15% as mandated by the RBI), and issue security receipts (SRs) for the balance (85%).
- This helps banks to concentrate on normal banking activities. Banks, rather than going after the defaulters by wasting their time and effort, can sell the bad assets to the ARCs at a mutually agreed value.
- The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up of ARCs in India.
- The Act helps reconstruction of bad assets without the intervention of courts. Since then, a large number of ARCs were formed and were registered with the RBI.
- RBI has got the power to regulate the ARCs.

#### Background:

- The performance of the ARCs has so far remained lacklustre, both in ensuring recovery and in revival of businesses.
- Lenders could recover only about 14.29% of the amount owed by borrowers in respect of stressed assets sold to ARCs in the 2004-2013 period.
- To improve the performance of ARCs, the RBI had appointed the committee (headed by Sudarshan Sen) to examine the issues and recommend measures for enabling ARCs to meet the growing requirements of the financial sector.

#### Suggestions:

- **Online Platform for Sale of Stressed Assets:**
- Recognising the **need for transparency and uniformity of processes** in sale of stressed assets to ARCs, the Committee feels that an online platform may be created for sale of stressed assets.
- **Expanding Scope of SARFAESI Act:**
- The scope of Section 5 of the SARFAESI Act may be expanded to allow ARCs to acquire 'financial assets', for the purpose of reconstruction, not only from banks and 'financial institutions' but also from such entities as may be notified by the RBI.
- Under these proposed powers, the RBI may consider permitting ARCs to acquire financial assets from all regulated entities, including Alternative Investment Fund (AIFs), Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), Asset Management Company (AMCs) making investment on behalf of Mutual Funds (MFs) and all Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

- **Providing Additional Resources:**

- ARCs are to be allowed to sponsor SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds to raise resources for facilitating restructuring of bad loans purchased by them.

- **Using IBC:**

- Envisaging ARCs as a prime vehicle for resolution of stressed assets, the regulations should allow ARCs to also use the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) framework for this purpose.

- **Large Loans for sale to ARCs:**

- Large loans and loans that have been in default for over two years should be considered for sale to ARCs by banks. Final approval of the reserve price should be given by a high-level committee.
- Reserve price plays a critical role in ensuring true price discovery in auctions conducted for sale of stressed assets.

- **For Ensuring Debt Aggregation:**

- The Committee has said that if 66% of lenders (by value) decide to accept an offer by an ARC, the same may be binding on the remaining lenders and it must be implemented within 60 days of approval by majority lenders (66%).
  - **Aggregate Debt** means the total of principal and interest that is owed by the debtor to the creditors at the time of execution of the debt settlement agreement. If a lender fails to agree, it will be subjected to 100% provisioning on the loan outstanding.
- **Provisioning of loan:** Booking a provision means that the bank recognises a loss on the loan ahead of time.

- **For NARCL:**

- In respect of the proposed National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) by India for cleaning the books of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), the RBI should ensure fair competition between the NARCL and private ARCs to promote the objectives of true price discovery through the market mechanism.

- **Expected Benefits:**

- **Get Rid of Stressed Loans:**
  - The suggestions are aimed at enabling banks to get rid of stressed loans in the early stage of default and nudge reluctant minority lenders into joining the sale. The norms also seek to appoint valuers for large-value loans that are sold.
- **Help ARCs Raise Resources:**
  - The recommendations are timely and will help ARCs raise resources by tapping different categories of market participants eligible for investment in security receipts.
  - Banks have also been incentivised for sale of NPA (Non-Performing Asset) early with provision to spread loss over two years.

## 1.109 Minerals Concession (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Ministry of Mines has notified the Minerals (other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Mineral) Concession (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021.
- It will amend the Minerals (other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Mineral) Concession Rules, 2016 [MCR, 2016].

### Key Points

#### Amendments :

- **Sale from Captive Leases:**
  - New rules inserted to provide a manner of sale of 50% of minerals produced from the captive leases.
  - With this amendment, the way for releasing of additional minerals in the market by greater utilization of mining capacities of captive mines has been paved.

- Captive mines are those that produce coal or mineral for exclusive use by the company that owns the mines, while non-captive ones are those that produce as well as sell the fuel.

**Disposal of Overburden (OB):**

- Provision added to allow disposal of overburden/ waste rock/ mineral below the threshold value, which is generated during the course of mining or beneficiation of the mineral.
- This will enable ease of doing business for the miners.

**Area for Grant of Mining Lease:**

- Minimum area for grant of mining lease has been revised from 5 ha. to 4 ha. For certain specific deposits, minimum 2 ha. is provided.

**Part Surrender for all Cases:**

- Part surrender of mining lease area allowed in all cases.
- Earlier, part surrender was allowed only in case of non-grant of forest clearance.

**Transfer of Composite Licence:**

- Rules amended to allow transfer of composite licence or mining lease of all types of mine.

**Objective:**

- To increase employment and investment in the mining sector, increasing revenue to the States, increasing the production and time bound operationalisation of mines, increasing the pace of exploration and auction of mineral resources, etc.

**Mining Sector in India****About:**

- India holds a fair advantage in production and conversion costs in steel and alumina. Its strategic location enables export opportunities to develop as well as fast-developing Asian markets.
- India is the world's second-largest coal producer as of 2021.
- India is the world's second-largest crude steel producer, as of 2020.
- India has the same mineral potential as South Africa and Australia. It produces 95 types of minerals but despite this huge mineral potential, the mining sector of India still remains underexplored.
- The mining sector contributes around 7 to 7.5% of the GDP of countries like South Africa and Australia whereas it is only 1.75% in India.
- 11 states account for 90% of the total number of operational mines (Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Karnataka).

**Constitutional Provision Related to Mining:**

- The entry at serial No. 23 of List II (State List) to the Constitution of India mandates the state government to own the minerals located within their boundaries.
- The entry at serial No. 54 of List I (Central List) mandates the central government to own the minerals within the Exclusive Economic Zone of India (EEZ).
- The central government has the ownership over all offshore minerals (ie, minerals extracted from the sea or ocean floor in the Indian maritime zones such as the territorial waters, continental shelf and exclusive economic zones).

## 1.110 PM Modi launches two innovative customer-centric initiatives of RBI

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched two innovative customer-centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These initiatives are the RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme. There will be a single point of reference for customers to file their complaints, submit the documents, track status, and provide feedback.
- RBI Retail Direct Scheme is aimed at enhancing access to the government securities market for retail investors. It offers them a new avenue for directly investing in securities issued by the Government of India and the state governments.



- The Reserve Bank- Integrated Ombudsman Scheme aims to further improve the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against entities regulated by RBI. The central theme of the scheme is based on 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' with one portal, one email and one address for the customers to lodge their complaints.

### 1.111 Regulating Cryptocurrency

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India chaired a meeting regarding the management of the cryptocurrency sector. Citing the unregulated nature of the crypto market, he called for taking progressive and forward-looking steps.
- At the moment, there is no legislature that covers cryptocurrencies in India. In India, owning cryptocurrencies is still not illegal. In 2020, the Supreme Court had struck down a ban on the trading of cryptocurrency in India, which was imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- China has declared all cryptocurrency transactions illegal, effectively imposing a complete ban, whereas El Salvador has permitted Bitcoin as legal tender.

#### Benefits Associated with Cryptocurrency:

- **Fast and Cheap Transactions:** Cryptocurrencies are way cheaper to use to execute international transactions because the transactions don't have to be handled by a series of intermediaries before they reach their destinations.
- **Investment Destination:** There is a limited supply of cryptocurrency – partially like gold. Moreover, the last few years have seen the price of cryptocurrencies rising faster than other financial instruments.
- Due to this, cryptocurrencies can become a preferred investment destination.
- **Anti-Inflationary Currency:** Due to the high demand for cryptocurrency its prices have largely remained on a growing trajectory. In this scenario, people tend to hold more cryptocurrency than spend it.
- This will cause a deflationary effect on the currency.

#### Associated Concerns with Cryptocurrencies:

- **Bombardment of Advertisement:** The crypto market is seen as a way to earn quick profits. Due to this, there is a bombardment of advertising, both online and offline, to lure people into speculating in this market.
- However, there are concerns that these are attempts to mislead the youth through “over-promising” and “non-transparent advertising”.
- **Counterproductive Utility:** Unregulated crypto markets can become avenues for money laundering and terror financing.
- **Cryptocurrencies are Extremely Volatile:** Bitcoin skyrocketed from USD 40,000 to reach an all-time high of USD 65,000 (between January to April 2021).
- Then in May 2021, it plunged and throughout June it remained below USD 30,000.
- **Macroeconomic and Financial Stability:** According to a Group of Crypto exchanges, crores of Indians have invested over Rs 6, 00,000 crores in crypto assets.
- The extent of investment exposure of Indian retail investors in this unregulated asset class poses a risk to Macroeconomic and Financial Stability.
- **Stock Market Issues:** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has flagged the issue that it has no control over the “clearing and settlement” of cryptocurrencies, and it cannot offer counterparty guarantees as is being done for stocks.
- Further, whether cryptocurrency is a currency, commodity, or security has not been defined.

## 1.112 First Audit Diwas: CAG

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Recently, the Prime Minister unveiled the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India to mark the First Audit Diwas (16th November, 2021).

### About:

- It is celebrated to mark the historic origins of the institution of the CAG. It aims to highlight the rich contributions of the CAG to boost transparency and good governance.
- Girish Chandra Murmu assumed office as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020.
- Constitutional Body:** Article 148 provides for an independent office of the CAG. It is the supreme audit institution of India.
- Other Provisions Related to CAG include:** Articles 149-151 (Duties & Powers, Form of Accounts of the Union and the States and Audit Reports), Article 279 (calculation of net proceeds, etc.) and Third Schedule (Oath or Affirmation) and Sixth Schedule (Administration of Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram).
- Profile in Brief:**
- CAG: Head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department - created in 1753.
- Guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state.
- One of the bulwarks of the democratic system of government in India.
- The others being the Supreme Court, the Election Commission and the Union Public Service Commission.
- The accountability of the executive (i.e. Council of Ministers) to the Parliament in the sphere of financial administration is secured through audit reports of the CAG.
- Appointment:** Appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
- Tenure:** A period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- Removal:** CAG can be removed by the President on the same grounds and in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court. He does not hold his office till the pleasure of the President.
- In other words, he can be removed by the President on the basis of a resolution passed to that effect by both the Houses of Parliament with special majority, either on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

### Other Related Points:

- Not eligible for further office, either under the Government of India or of any state, after he ceases to hold his office.
- Salary and other service conditions are determined by the Parliament.
- The administrative expenses of the office of the CAG, including all salaries, allowances and pensions of persons serving in that office are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India (thus are not subject to the vote of Parliament).
- No minister can represent the CAG in Parliament.

### Duties & Powers as also under the CAG's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971:

- Audits the accounts related to all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, consolidated fund of each state and consolidated fund of each union territory having a Legislative Assembly.
- Audits all expenditure from the Contingency Fund of India and the Public Account of India as well as the contingency fund of each state and the public account of each state.
- Audits profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and other subsidiary accounts kept by any department of the Central Government and state governments.
- Audits the receipts and expenditure of the following:
- Bodies and authorities substantially financed from the Central or state revenues,
- Government companies, and

- Other corporations and bodies, when so required by related laws.
- Audits the accounts of any other authority when requested by the President or Governor. For example, the audit of local bodies.
- Acts as a guide, friend and philosopher of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament.

### **1.113 PM to inaugurate First Global Innovation Summit of Pharmaceuticals sector**

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

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the “First Global Innovation Summit of Pharmaceuticals sector”.

#### **About:**

- The global innovation summit will be launched at 4 PM in virtual mode.
- It is a two-day Summit comprising of 12 Sessions.
- In the summit, around 40 national and international speakers will deliberate on several subjects including the regulatory environment, industry-academia collaboration, funding for innovation, and innovation infrastructure.
- The Summit will see the participation of leading members of domestic & global Pharma Industries, investors, officials, and researchers from institutes like- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, IIM Ahmedabad, John Hopkins Institute etc.

#### **Aim of the Summit**

- This summit is a distinctive initiative, that will be held with the aim of bringing together the key Indian and international stakeholders from the government, academia, industry, investors, and researchers for discussing and strategizing priorities to foster an innovation ecosystem in the pharmaceuticals industry in India. The summit will also highlight the opportunities in the Indian Pharmaceuticals industry, that has huge potential for growth.

#### **Pharmaceutical industry in India**

- Pharmaceutical industry in India is the world’s 3rd largest by overall volume. It is also the world’s largest with respect to providing generic medicines worldwide. In 2021, it accounted for 20% of total global pharmaceutical exports by volume and 3.5% share by value.

#### **Major pharmaceutical hubs in India**

- Vadodara, Vapi (Gujarat) Ahmedabad, Ankleshwar (Gujarat), Sikkim, Baddi (Himachal Pradesh), Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Aurangabad and Chennai.

### **1.114 India’s first fisheries business incubator launched in Gurugram**

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

- The first-of-its-kind, dedicated fisheries business incubator has been inaugurated in Gurugram of Haryana to nurture fisheries start-ups under real market-led conditions.
- The incubator is known as LINAC- NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC). It was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala.
- The centre has been established at a cost of Rs. 3.23 crore under the central flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is the implementing agency for the LIFIC.
- The first batch of ten incubators from four states (Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra) have already been identified.

## 1.115 India, world's largest recipient of remittances, received \$87 billion in 2021: World Bank

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- The World Bank has released its Migration and Development Brief Report.

### What are the key findings of the report?

- India is the world's largest recipient of remittances.**
- It received \$87 billion in 2021. India had received over \$83 billion in remittances in 2020.
- Reasons for the increase in Remittances:**
- Migrants determination to support their families in times of need.
- Stronger oil prices and the resulting pickup in economic activity in Gulf.
- Severity of caseloads and deaths during the second wave of pandemics played a prominent role in drawing substantial flows (including for the purchase of oxygen tanks) to the country.

### Biggest Source of Remittance for India:

- The United States was the biggest source, accounting for over 20% of these funds.

### Other Countries:

- India was followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt.

### Projections for 2022:

- In India, remittances are projected to grow 3% in 2022 to \$89.6 billion, reflecting a drop in overall migrant stock as a large proportion of returnees from the Arab countries await the return.

## PRACTISE MCQS

### QUESTION 1: With respect to banking, PCA stands for-

- A. Prompt Corrective Action
- B. Prompt Credit Affirmation
- C. Pro- Credit Action
- D. none of the above

D. Neither 1 nor 2

### QUESTION 2: Consider the following statements:

- Asset Reconstruction Companies are specialized financial institution that buy the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions.
- A NPA is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 60 days.

### Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2

### QUESTION 3: As per the recent Minerals (other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Mineral) Concession (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021, minimum area for grant of mining lease has been revised to-

- A. 1 hectare
- B. 3 hectares
- C. 4 hectares
- D. 6 hectares

### QUESTION 4: Consider the following statements:

- The Reserve Bank- Integrated Ombudsman Scheme aims to further improve the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints.
- The central theme of the scheme is based on 'One Bank-One Ombudsman'.



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

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

**Question 5: With reference to 'Cryptocurrency', sometimes seen in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- A. China has declared all cryptocurrency transactions legal.
- B. In India owning cryptocurrencies is illegal
- C. Recently El Salvador has permitted Bitcoin as legal tender
- D. none of the above

**Question 6: When was the first Audit Diwas celebrated?**

- A. 12 November 2021
- B. 14 November 2021
- C. 16 November 2016
- D. 16 November 2021

**Question 7: In regards to Pharmaceutical industry in India**

- 1. Pharmaceutical industry in India is the world's 4th largest by overall volume
- 2. Pharmaceutical industry in India is the world's 2nd largest with respect to providing generic medicines worldwide.

- 3. It accounted for 20% of total global pharmaceutical exports by volume and 3.5% share by value.

**Which of the following is/ are correct?**

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

**Question 8: India's first dedicated fisheries business incubator has been inaugurated in which place?**

- A. Gurugram
- B. Dehradun
- C. Kochi
- D. Pune

**Question 9: With reference to the Migration and Development Brief Report, consider the following statement:**

- 1. India was the world largest recipient of remittances in 2021
- 2. the United States was the biggest source of remittances in India.
- 3. The report was published by World Bank.

**Which of the statement given is/are correct?**

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

## Answers

1. ANSWER: A
2. ANSWER: A
3. ANSWER: C
4. ANSWER: A
5. Answer: C
6. Answer: D
7. Answer: C
8. Answer: A
9. Answer: C



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## DEFENCE

### 1.116 Project-15B Class Destroyer Ship: Visakhapatnam

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the first ship of the four Project-15B state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyers i.e. 'Y 12704 (Visakhapatnam)', was delivered to the Navy.
- The ship is constructed using indigenous steel DMR 249A and is amongst the largest destroyers constructed in India.

#### India's Destroyer Construction Programme:

- India's indigenous Destroyer construction programme commenced in the late 1990s with the three Delhi class (P-15 class) warships and this was followed by three Kolkata class (P-15A) destroyers commissioned a decade later.
- Presently, under the P-15B (Visakhapatnam Class), a total of four warships are planned (Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal, Surat).
- The Destroyers come next only to an Aircraft Carrier (INS Vikramaditya) in terms of their reach and endurance.

#### Project-15B:

- Four Guided missile Destroyers of Project 15B (P 15B) are under construction at M/s Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. The contract for construction of these four ships was signed in 2011.
- These ships are amongst the most technologically advanced Guided Missile Destroyers of the world, with state-of-the-art weapon/sensor package, advanced stealth features and a high degree of automation.

#### Features of the P-15B Ships:

- These ships are equipped with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and long-range Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAM).
- The ship has several indigenous weapons systems like medium range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAMs), indigenous torpedo tube launchers, anti-submarine indigenous rocket launchers and 76-mm super rapid gun mount.

#### Other Three Ships of Project 15B:

- The second ship of P15B, Mormugao was launched in 2016, and is being readied for harbour trials.
- The third ship (Imphal) was launched in 2019, and is at an advanced stage of outfitting.
- The fourth ship (Surat) is under block erection and will be launched within this current financial year (2022) .

#### Role of P-15B:

- The Indian Navy's responsibilities to safeguard a large coastline of 7516 Kms and about 1100 offshore islands along with 2.01 million sq km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) have been enhanced in the present geopolitical scenario.
- Destroyers like the P-15B class shall play an important role in the larger oceans of the Indo-Pacific, making the Indian Navy a potent force.
- The guided missile Destroyers are deployed for various responsibilities like escort duties with the Carrier Battle Group to protect the Naval fleet against any air, surface and underwater threats.

#### Other Recent Projects:

- Project 75 (I): It envisages indigenous construction of submarines equipped with the state-of-the-art Air Independent Propulsion system at an estimated cost of Rs. 43,000 crore.

- Project 75: It is a programme by the Indian Navy that entails building six Scorpene-Class attack submarines. The programme has been undertaken with transfer of technology from French company Naval Group (formerly known as DCNS) at the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL).

### 1.117 Shakti 2021: India-France To Hold 6th Edition Of Army Exercise

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Indian Army is set to conduct the sixth edition of the biennial training exercise with French Army from November 15, 2021, in series of joint training exercises with friendly nations.

#### About:

- India has already conducted joint Naval exercises and Air Force exercises with France earlier in 2021.
- Shakti 2021 will be conducted from November 15 to November 26 in Frejus, France.
- In the exercise, platoon strength of a Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion will participate, representing India.
- French army will be represented by troops of 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of the 6th Light Armoured Brigade.

#### Significance of the exercise

- The Shakti 2021 exercise will focus on Counter Terrorism operations in light of semi-urban terrain under the mandate of United Nations. It will be conducted with the aim of enhancing military cooperation and inter-operability between the armies of both the country.

#### Last edition of Shakti exercise

- The last edition of the Shakti exercise was organised in the year 2019, at the Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan. In this edition of the exercise, armies practised and validated the Counter Terrorism operations in semi-desert terrain.

#### Gorkha Rifles contingent

- Indian Army is being represented by Gorkha Rifles contingent. It has a rich heritage which is marked by its military valour and supreme sacrifices. It has a glorious history of 68 years. The contributions of contingent in 1971 war were recognised by Theatre Honour of Jammu & Kashmir and Battle Honour Shingo River Valley.

#### French Army contingent

- The French Army contingent was set up in 1831 under the name '2nd Marine Regiment'. It was later renamed as 21st Marine Infantry Regiment in 1901. It has an illustrious operational history of 120 years. The contingent has participated in all the major wars of French Army.

### 1.118 Navy's plan for a 170-ship force

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- The Navy's plan for a 170 ship force is under way, and some changes in timelines are also being finalised.

#### About:

- The Navy shall include a second indigenous aircraft carrier in its Maritime Capability Perspective Plan (MCPP).
- The Navy will commission the first Project-15B class stealth-guided missile destroyer Visakhapatnam on November 21, and the fourth Scorpene class submarine Vela on November 25.
- Current status: The Navy currently has 130 ships and had earlier planned to achieve securing 200, which was revised to 170 ships by 2027.
- Revised timeline: The timeline is now being revised as the Navy is revising its MCPP for the next 15 years, which is expected to be ready by 2022.



- It will be in line with the 10-year Integrated Capability Development Plan (ICDP) being formulated by the Department of Military Affairs to bring in service integration

#### **Navy's Maritime Capability Perspective Plan (MCP)**

- The Navy's Maritime Capability Perspective Plan (MCP)' emphasises on capability building rather than numbers.
- The MCP lays down the plans for force development and modernisation over three plan periods from 2005-22.
- Aim: To build a three-dimensional force that is able to meet all future challenges

### **1.119 Exercise 'SITMEX'**

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

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette is participating in the 3rd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX – 21.

#### **About:**

- SITMEX is being conducted annually since 2019 with an aim to enhance mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices between the Indian Navy (IN), RSN and RTN.
- SITMEX-21 will fortify the long-standing bond of friendship and further enhance the cooperation between the participating navies towards augmenting the overall maritime security in the region.

### **1.120 Light Combat Helicopter**

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

- Recently, the Prime Minister handed over the indigenously-built Light Combat Helicopter (HAL's LCH), two small drones ('SWITCH 1.0 UAV' and 'MR-20') built by Indian start-ups to the Air Force.
- LCH is a truly 'Make in India' product built with private industry participation.

#### **About:**

- LCH is a new addition to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL's) helicopter division. This twin-engine helicopter is a dedicated combat helicopter of 5 to 8-tonne class.
- The LCH incorporates advanced technologies and stealth features for effective combat roles and is designed to carry out roles such as destruction of enemy air defence, counterinsurgency, search and rescue, anti-tank, Counter Surface Force Operations etc.
- The LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 m with a considerable load of weapons and fuel.
- It is effective even in temperatures ranging from minus 50 degrees Celsius on snow peaks to 50 degrees Celsius in the desert.
- LCH will eventually be deployed along the Line of Actual Control with China, in addition to the AH-64E Apache helicopters in service.

#### **SWITCH 1.0 UAV and MR-20:**

##### **SWITCH 1.0 UAV:**

- SWITCH 1.0 UAV, with its peerless capabilities of 1.5 hours flight time and 15 km range at more than 4500 m take-off altitude.
- It has an endurance of approximately 90 minutes and will support the Indian Army's most demanding surveillance operations under harsh environments and high altitudes for day and night surveillance across India's borders.

##### **'MR-20':**

- The MR-20 hexacopter drones have a capacity to ferry loads of up to 20kg.
- It will be used to ferry food, essential items, emergency medical aid, ammunition and weapons to troops deployed at heights in forwarding areas.

**1.121 Russia Successfully Tests Fired Hypersonic Cruise Missile 'Zircon'****WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- Russian Navy successfully test-fired the 'Zircon' Hypersonic Cruise Missile from Frigate – Admiral Gorshkov warship, which rightly hit the test target placed in the Russian Arctic waters.
- Russia destroyed its own satellite in low-earth orbit using an Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile named 'Nudol', which led to the formation of a cloud of space debris that could potentially destroy other orbiting satellites & the International Space Station (ISS).

**1.122 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Approves – Proposal for GSAT-7C Satellite for Air Force and AK203 Assault Rifle Deal****WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has granted permission for the mass production of AK-203 rifles and GSAT-7C Satellite for the Indian Air Force

**About:**

- The procurement of GSAT(Geostationary Satellite)-7C satellite and Ground Hubs worth Rs 2,236 crore for real-time connectivity of Software Defined Radios (SDRs).
- The manufacturing of the Kalashnikov Rifles will be done in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh jointly by the Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt Ltd (IRRPL),
- It was created as a joint venture between the Ordnance Factories Board (OFB) and the Russia's Rosoboronexport and Concern Kalashnikov.

**1.123 Army Chief observes military exercise 'Dakshin Shakti'****Why in news?**

- Army chief General M M Naravane recently observed military exercise 'Dakshin Shakti' with the Army and the Air Force taking part in it in Jaisalmer.

**About military exercise 'Dakshin Shakti'****Location of the exercise:**

- The exercise began on Saturday in the deserts of Jaisalmer.

**Participants:**

- T-72, T-90 as well as Vijayanta tanks of the Army and the IAF's Dhruv and Rudra helicopters, and the Jaguar fighter aircraft participated in the joint exercise.

**Aim of the exercise:**

- The drill aims to establish the best coordination among the wings of the armed forces, space technology and artificial intelligence.

**Dignitaries present:**

- General Officer-in-Commanding of the Army's Southern Command, Lieutenant General JS Nain, JOC Battle X Division Major General Ajit Singh Gehlot were also present at the exercise.

**PRACTISE MCQS**

**QUESTION 1: Project-15B defence project is associated with construction of-**

- A. Indigenous Submarines
- B. Main Battle Tanks
- C. Guided Missile Destroyers
- D. Aircraft Carrier

**QUESTION 2: Shakti 2021 is a bilateral army exercise of India and-**

- A. USA
- B. France
- C. UK
- D. Russia

**Question 3: Consider the following statements regarding Navy's Maritime Capability Perspective Plan (MCP):**

- 1. The Navy's Maritime Capability Perspective Plan (MCP)' emphasises on capability building rather than numbers.
- 2. The MCP lays down the plans for force development and modernisation over three plan periods from 2005-22.

**Select the correct answer from the following codes:**

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

**Question 4: With reference to exercise SIMTEX21, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It was the third edition of the India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime exercise

- 2. The exercise was held in Andaman.
- 3. INS Karmuk participated in the exercise.

**Which of the following given above is correct?**

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

**Question 5: Recently SWITCH 1.0 and MR-20 are in the news, In this regard what is SWITCH 1.0 and MR-20?**

- A. Virus
- B. Drones
- C. Helicopters
- D. Fighter Plane

**Question 6: Which country has successfully test-fired Hypersonic Cruise Missile 'Zircon' & Anti-Satellite Missile 'Nudol'?**

- A. Russia
- B. UK
- C. USA
- D. South Korea

**Question 7: The mass production of AK-203 rifles and GSAT-7C Satellite will be done by India with which country?**

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

## **Answers**

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



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## REPORTS

### 1.124 THE's World Reputation Rankings 2021 announced

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- 4 Indian institutes have made it to the Times Higher Education (THE)'s World Reputation Rankings 2021, the annual ranking of THE that features the top 200 universities based on the votes from leading academics across the globe.
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru ranked among the top 100 (91-100) has topped the Indian Institutes. The other 3 Indian institutes are the IIT Bombay, the IIT Delhi, and the IIT Madras.
- Harvard University of the United States of America (USA) has topped the 2021 ranking. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and University of Oxford from the United Kingdom (UK) has secured the 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.

### 1.125 2022 QS World University Rankings announced

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) has released the 2022 QS World University Rankings. The ranking has been topped by the National University of Singapore (NUS) for the 4th year in a row.
- It is followed by China's Peking University at 2nd position and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and the University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong at 3rd.
- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) (42nd regionally) and IIT Delhi (45th regionally) are the only two Indian institutions among the Top-50.
- IIT Madras, which was in 50th place last year, has lost four places and now ranks 54th. India features 118 Indian Universities following China with 126 universities.

### 1.126 WEF Report: Mission 2070- A Green New Deal for a Net Zero India

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- World Economic Forum (WEP) published its report titled "Mission 2070: A Green New Deal for a Net-Zero India" to provide a roadmap for India's energy transition.

#### About:

- The report was published in the backdrop of India's target to achieve net zero emissions by 2070. This target was committed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 global climate summit in Glasgow.
- At the summit, PM Modi also committed:
- To bring non-fossil energy capacity of India to 500 GW by 2030,
- To lower carbon intensity to 45 per cent by 2030
- To reduce 1 billion tonnes of carbon emissions out of total projected emission by 2030.
- To fulfil 50 per cent of energy requirement using renewable waste by 2030.

#### Key Findings of the report

- Report highlights that, India's transition towards a green economy could contribute about \$1 trillion in economic impact by 2030. It will create more than 50 million jobs.
- The economic impact would increase to \$15 trillion by 2070.
- Report notes that, India's commitments are a critical foundation for achieving 1.5-degree Celsius global warming target.

- India is on the frontline of climate change. More of Indians are exposed to negative effects of climate change and extreme weather events as compared to other nationality.

#### **Five Pillars contributing towards emission in India**

- Energy, industry, mobility, agriculture and infrastructure & cities are the five pillars in India, contributing over 90 per cent emissions. India will require to curb this emission, along with four cross-sectoral enablers including-
- Accelerated approach to green technology innovation;
- Integrated approach to carbon, capture, utilisation and storage
- Overarching framework to catalyse green finance and
- Plan for climate adaptation.

### **1.127 LEADS Report 2021**

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

- Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has released the Logistics Ease across Different States (LEADS) Report (Index) 2021.
- About:
- The LEADS report is aimed at gauging the logistics performance of states and Union Territories (UT) and identifying areas where they can improve logistics performance.
- **It was launched in 2018.**
- States are ranked based on quality and capacity of key infrastructure such as road, rail and warehousing as well as on operational ease of logistics including security of cargo, speed of terminal services and regulatory approvals.
- The report is structured along the three dimensions which collectively influence logistics ease- Infrastructure, Services, and Operating and Regulatory Environment which are further categorised into 17 parameters.
- **Need:**
- India's logistics costs account for 13-14% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), compared to 7-8% in developed countries.
- The government was aiming to bring down logistics costs by 5% over the next 5 years.
- Estimated logistics costs in India are currently about 14%, which is quite high compared to 8-10% globally.
- Efficient logistics was pivotal to bring ease and empowerment to businesses as well as citizens.
- Logistics contributed immensely in our fight against Covid-19 by taking essential supplies including liquid Medical Oxygen throughout the country during the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave.

#### **Ranking of States:**

- **Top Performers:**
- Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab have emerged as the top performers in the LEADS 2021 index respectively.
- This is the third year in a row that Gujarat remained on top of the rankings.
- Delhi stands at the top rank among Other UTs.
- North Eastern States and Himalayan Region:
- Jammu and Kashmir is the top ranker followed by Sikkim and Meghalaya.

#### **Suggestion:**

- States should frame state level logistics policy & logistics master plan, use single-window clearance system for logistics, establishment of grievance redressal mechanism and enable skilling in logistics through State skilling infrastructure.

## 1.128 Global Drug Policy Index 2021

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the inaugural Global Drug Policy Index was released by the Harm Reduction Consortium.
- It is a data-driven global analysis of drug policies and their implementation which comes at a time when the Indian government is reviewing the provisions of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic substances act 1985.
- The Harm Reduction Consortium is a global consortium of networks aiming to challenge the global “war on drugs”, scale up access to harm reduction services, and advocate for increased resources for harm reduction.

### About the Index:

- It is a unique tool that documents, measures and compares national-level drug policies.
- It provides each country with a score and ranking that shows how much their drug policies and their implementation align with the **United Nations principles of human rights, health and development**.
- The Index provides an essential accountability and evaluation mechanism in the field of drug policy.
- It evaluates the performance of 30 countries covering all regions of the world.

### Major Findings:

- The global dominance of drug policies based on repression and punishment has led to low scores overall, with a median score of just 48/100, and the top-ranking country (Norway) only reaching 74/100.
- Standards and expectations from civil society experts on drug policy implementation vary from country to country.
- Inequality is deeply seated in global drug policies, with the top-ranking 5 countries scoring 3 times as much as the lowest-ranking 5 countries.
- This is in part due to the colonial legacy of the ‘war on drugs’ approach.
- Drug policies disproportionately affect people marginalised on the basis of their gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and socio-economic status.
- There are wide disparities between state policies and how they are implemented on the ground.
- With a few exceptions, the meaningful participation of civil society and affected communities in drug policy processes remains severely limited.

### India's Performance:

- **Ranking:**
- India's rank is 18 out of 30 countries. It has an overall score of 46/100.
- **Scores:**
- Using extreme sentencing and responses, it has a score of 63/100.
- Health and harm reduction, 49/100.
- Proportionality of criminal justice response, 38/100.
- Availability and access of internationally controlled substances for the relief of pain and suffering, 33/100.

## 1.129 Bribery Risk Matrix 2021

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Recently, Bribery Risk Matrix 2021 was released by TRACE, an anti-bribery standard setting organisation.

### About the Matrix:

- It measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.
- It was originally published in 2014 to meet a need in the business community for more reliable and nuanced information about the risks of commercial bribery worldwide.

- It aggregates relevant data obtained from leading public interest and international organisations, including the United Nations, World Bank, V-Dem Institute at the University of Gothenburg and World Economic Forum.

**Calculation Methods:** Score is calculated on the basis of four factors:

- Enforcement and anti-bribery deterrence.
- Business interactions with the government.
- Government and civil service transparency.
- Capacity for civil society oversight which includes the media's role.

**Performance of the Countries:**

**India:**

- India has slipped to 82<sup>nd</sup> position in 2021, five places down from 77<sup>th</sup> rank last year.
- In 2020, India ranked 77 with a score of 45 while this year, the country stood at 82<sup>nd</sup> position with a score of 44.
- India fared better than its neighbours – Pakistan, China, Nepal and Bangladesh. Bhutan, meanwhile, secured 62<sup>nd</sup> rank.

**World:**

- North Korea, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Eritrea pose the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.
- Over the past five years, the business bribery risk environment in the United States worsened significantly when compared with global trends.
- From 2020 to 2021, all of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries saw an increase in commercial bribery risk.
- Related Steps Taken by India: India, in pursuance of its commitment to “Zero Tolerance Against Corruption” has taken several measures to combat corruption which, inter alia, include:
- Systemic improvements and reforms to provide transparent citizen-friendly services and reduce **corruption. These, inter alia, include:**
- Disbursement of welfare benefits directly to the citizens under various schemes of the Government in a transparent manner through the Direct Benefit Transfer initiative.
- Implementation of E-tendering in public procurements.
- Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedure and systems.
- Introduction of Government procurement through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- **The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988:**
- It clearly criminalizes the act of giving bribes and will help check big-ticket corruption by creating a vicarious liability in respect of senior management of commercial organizations.
- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), through various orders and circulars recommended the adoption of the Integrity Pact to all the organizations in major procurement activities and to ensure effective and expeditious investigation wherever any irregularity/misconduct is noticed.
- The institution of Lokpal has been operationalised by the appointment of Chairperson and Members.
- Lokpal is statutorily mandated to directly receive and process complaints as regards alleged offences against public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

## 1.130 ASER 2021 Report

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- 16th Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2021 (Rural) was published by the Pratham foundation.

**About:**

- ASER provides reports on the schooling status of children in the age group of 5-16 age across rural India including the ability to do basic reading & arithmetic tasks.



- This year, ASER followed a phone-based survey format, as a field survey was not possible due to the covid-19 pandemic.
- Survey was conducted during September-October 2021.
- It tries to find out how children in aged between 5-16 studied at home since the onset of a covid-19 pandemic as well as challenges those schools & households now face in the backdrop of opening up of schools.

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

- Important findings of the ASER 2021 report are as follows:
- As per the report, there was an overall increase in the proportion of children enrolled in govt schools in between 2018 and 2020. Enrolment increased from 64.3% to 65.8%. But in 2021, enrolment suddenly increased to 70.3%.
- The enrolment rate in private schools has decreased as compared to last year. In 2020, the enrolment rate was 28.8% which decreased to 24.4% in 2021.
- In 2021, 73.1% of school respondents received training to implement Covid-19 prevention measures.
- Even though the availability of smartphones increased to 67.6% in 2021 as compared to 36.5% in 2018, around 79% of children in private schools had smartphones at home as opposed to 63.7% of children in government schools.
- The number of school-going children taking tuition increased by 40% during the closure of their schools.
- 52% of the respondents cited financial distress caused by the covid-19 pandemic as the reason for the increase in enrolments in government schools.

### **1.131 Andhra Tops IPF Smart Policing Index 2021**

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

- Andhra Pradesh Police has topped the 'IPF Smart Policing' Index 2021, among 29 states and Union Territories, released by the Indian Police Foundation (IPF). Andhra Pradesh has secured the first rank with an overall score of 8.11 out of 10.
- Telangana Police is in the second position with 8.10 points while Assam Police has secured the third position with an overall rating of 7.89. With a score of 5.81, Uttar Pradesh is ranked at 28th position and Bihar has occupied the last position with 5.74 points.

### **1.132 India has made no progress on anaemia, childhood wasting: Global**

#### **Nutrition Report**

- According to the (GNR, 2021) 2021 Global Nutrition Report: The state of global nutrition, India is making no progress or worsening to meet the targets on Anaemia & Childhood wasting India Made No Progress on Anaemia & Childhood Wasting
- **Childhood stunting:**
- India is among 53 countries 'on course' to meet the target for childhood stunting, yet around 34.7 % of children under 5 years of age are still affected
- This is higher than average for Asia, where nearly 21.8% are affected by stunting.
- **Anaemia**
- India is among the 161 countries that have made no progress or worsening in terms of reducing anaemia. ii. Around 50% of Indian women between the age group of 15-49 are anemic.
- **Childhood Overweight:**
- India is among the 105 countries that are 'on course' to meet the target for 'childhood overweight'.
- **Exclusive breast feeding:**
- India is among the 53 countries that are 'on course' to meet the target for 'exclusive breastfeeding'.

- **Childhood wasting:**
- India is among the 23 countries that have made no progress or worsening in terms of reducing childhood wasting.

## PRACTISE MCQS

**QUESTION 1: Consider the following statements regarding Times Higher Education (THE)'s World Reputation Rankings 2021:**

1. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru ranked among the top 100 (91-100) has topped among the Indian Institutes.
2. 2021 ranking are topped by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA.

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

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

**QUESTION 2: Which Indian institute topped in India in recently released 2022 QS World University Rankings?**

- A. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- B. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- C. Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
- D. Indian Institute of Technology Madras

**QUESTION 3: A report "Mission 2070: A Green New Deal for a Net-Zero India" is released recently by-**

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. The Energy and Research Institute
- C. World Economic Forum
- D. none of the above

**QUESTION 4: Consider the following statements:**

1. Logistics Ease across Different States (LEADS) Report (Index) 2021 is released by Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. It has been topped by Gujarat.

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

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

**QUESTION 5: Global Drug Policy Index was released by-**

- A. Harm Reduction Consortium
- B. World Health Organisation
- C. World Bank
- D. World Trade Organisation

**Question 6: Bribery Risk Matrix 2021 was released by which of the following?**

- A. V-Dem Institute
- B. World Bank
- C. Trace
- D. UN

**Question 7: Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2021 (Rural) was published by?**

- A. Niti Ayog
- B. Pratham Foundation
- C. Amnesty International
- D. World Bank

**Question 8: Which state has topped the IPF Smart Policing Index 2021 released by the Indian Police Foundation (IPF)?**

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

**Question 9: As per Global Nutrition Report (2021, India made no progress to meet the targets on \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Exclusive breastfeeding
- B. Childhood overweight
- C. Childhood stunting
- D. Anaemia

### Answers

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

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## SPORTS

### 1.133 National Sports Awards 2021

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2021.
- The National Sports Awards of India comprise six different awards given to sportspersons of India by the Central Government.

#### About:

- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:**

- Formerly known as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, it is the highest award bestowed to a sports person in India and was instituted in the year 1991-1992.
- It is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of the previous four years.
- It comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh.

- **Arjuna Award:**

- It was instituted in 1961 by the Government of India to recognise outstanding achievement in national sports events.
- It is given for good performance over a period of previous four years and showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh, a bronze statue of Arjuna and a scroll of honour.

- **Dronacharya Award:**

- It was instituted in 1985 by the Government of India to recognise excellence in sports coaching.
- It is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work on a consistent basis and enabling sportspersons to excel in International events.
- It carries a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh, a bronze statue of Dronacharya and a scroll of honour.

- **Dhyan Chand Award:**

- It was instituted in the year 2002 and comprises a Dhyan Chand statuette, a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a certificate and a ceremonial dress.
- It is given to honour sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports events after their retirement.

- **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy:**

- It was instituted in the year 1956-1957.
- It is for university-level sports performances.
- It is given to a university for "top performance in the inter-university tournaments" over the period of the last one year.

- **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar:**

- It was instituted in the year 2009
- It is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), sports control boards, NGOs including sports bodies at the State and National level who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

#### Government Initiatives for Sports Development:

- Khelo India Scheme.
- National Sports Development Fund.
- The National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme.
- Sports Authority of India Training Centres Scheme (STC).
- Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme.



**1.134 Unmukt Chand becomes the 1st Indian male to sign up for BBL****WHY IN NEWS?**

- Unmukt Chand has become the first Indian male cricketer to sign up for the Big Bash League as he is set to feature in the Melbourne Renegades side in the upcoming edition.
- The 28-year-old, who led India to the Under-19 World Cup title in 2012, has represented India A, apart from featuring in teams like Delhi Daredevils, Mumbai Indians, and Rajasthan Royals in the IPL.
- He announced his retirement from Indian cricket in August this year stating that he would explore 'better opportunities from around the world'.

**1.135 Sankalp Gupta becomes 71st Indian Grandmaster****WHY IN NEWS?**

- Sankalp Gupta has become India's 71st Grandmaster by scoring 6.5 points and finishing second in the GM Ask 3 round-robin event in Arandjelovac, Serbia.
- The Maharashtra player also touched the 2500 Elo rating mark during the tournament. To achieve the GM title, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.

**1.136 India's First National Yogasana Sports Championships Setup In****Bhubaneswar****WHY IN NEWS?**

- India's first Physical National Yogasana Championships has been organised in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from November 11-13, 2021. The National Yogasana Sports Championships 2021-22 has been organised by the National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) in association with the Odisha state.
- Around 560 young Yogasana Sports athletes from across 30 states would be taking part in the event. The event aims to promote yoga and create a global brand around it, portraying it as a competitive sport with high standards and benchmarks

**1.137 Women's cricket to make its debut in Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games****WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- The first matches for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games have been announced. Women's cricket is making its debut at the Commonwealth Games with the T20 format.
- The last time cricket was played in the multi-sporting showpiece was in the 1998 edition in Kuala Lumpur. The women's cricket T20 competition will be held at the Edgbaston Stadium from the 29 July, with the bronze and gold medal matches taking place on 7 August.
- India will face Australia in the opening match when women's cricket makes its debut at the 2022 Commonwealth Games on July 29 while the final will be played on August 7. India in the early session, with Pakistan playing Barbados, who was recently confirmed as the team from the West Indies that will take part in the Commonwealth Games.

**1.138 Australia wins their maiden T20 World Cup title****WHY IN THE NEWS?**

- Australia won their maiden T20 World Cup title as they defeated New Zealand in the final by 8 wickets.

- A target of 173 in a global final is never easy but Marsh with his power and reach made it look like a walk in the park in the company of David Warner (53 off 38 balls), who also turned the wheels of fortune for himself and his team during a victory, achieved in 18.5 overs.
- Mitchell Marsh was named as the player of the match.
- David Warner was named as the player of the series.

### 1.139 Sourav Ganguly appointed Chairman of ICC Men's Cricket Committee

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- The President of BCCI, Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee, during the ICC Board Meeting. Ganguly will replace Anil Kumble who assumed the charge in 2012.
- Kumble stepped down having served a maximum of three separate three-year terms. The Board also approved that first-class status and list A classification will be applied to women's cricket to align with the men's game and applied retrospectively.
- Going forward the ICC Women's Committee will be known as the ICC Women's Cricket Committee and will assume all decision making responsibility for women's cricket reporting directly to the CEC. Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies has been appointed to the ICC Women's Cricket Committee.

### PRACTISE MCQS

**QUESTION 1: Consider the following statements about Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar:**

1. It is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), sports control boards, NGOs including sports bodies for sports promotion and development.
2. It was instituted in 2014.

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

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

**QUESTION 2: Who has become the first Indian male cricketer to sign up for the Big Bash League?**

- A. Rishabh Pant
- B. Hardik Pandya
- C. M S Dhoni
- D. Unmukt Chand

**QUESTION 3: Who has become the 71st Indian Grandmaster?**

- A. Pratham Maheshwari
- B. Apoorva Gulati
- C. Sankalp Gupta
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 4: India's first Physical National Yogasana Championship has been organised in-**

- A. Bhubaneswar
- B. New Delhi
- C. Rajkot
- D. Ahmedabad

**QUESTION 5: Which sports to make its debut in Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games?**

- A. Football
- B. Hockey
- C. Cricket
- D. Skating

**QUESTION 6: Which of the following team has won their maiden T20 World Cup title as they defeated New Zealand in the final?**

- A. Australia
- B. Pakistan
- C. England
- D. India

**QUESTION 7: Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee?**

- A. VVS Laxman
- B. Sourav Ganguly
- C. Virender Sehwag
- D. Sachin Tendulkar

### Answers

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



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## AWARDS

### 1.140 South African author Damon Galgut wins Booker Prize

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- South African playwright and novelist, Damon Galgut has won the 2021 Booker Prize for “The Promise”, his third shortlisted novel which chronicles a family in his homeland from the late apartheid era through to Jacob Zuma’s presidency.
- Spanning several decades, the book shows the family’s growing disintegration as the country emerges into democracy.
- Mr. Galgut took the prize on his third time as a finalist, for a book the judges called a “tour de force.” He was previously shortlisted for “The Good Doctor” in 2003 and “In a Strange Room” in 2010, but lost both times.

### 1.141 Priyanka Mohite to Receive 2020’s Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Maharashtra-based, 28-year old mountaineer Priyanka Mohite was selected by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the prestigious ‘Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020’ for outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure.
- She scaled the world’s highest peak Mt Everest, Mt Lhotse and Mt.Makalu. She is the 1st Indian woman to climb Mt Annapurna, the 10th highest mountain peak in the world.
- Priyanka is one among the 7-recipients of the ‘2020 Tenzing Norgay National Award’ & will receive the award from President Ram Nath Kovind in during the 2021 National Sports Award.

Awardee	Category
Priyanka Mangesh Mohite	Land Adventure
Jay Prakash Kumar	Land Adventure
Col. Amit Bisht	Land Adventure
Sheetal	Land Adventure
Srikaanth Viswanathan	Water Adventure
Lt. Col. Servesb Dhadwal	Air Adventure
Jai Kishan	Life Time Achievement

### 1.142 Puneeth Rajkumar honoured posthumously with Basavashree Award 2021

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar will be posthumously conferred the Basavashree award 2021 by the Bruhanmurt.



- Fondly called Appu, Puneeth, who was born in Chennai on March 17, 1975, was an actor, playback singer, television presenter, and producer. Puneeth, son of Matinee Idol Rajkumar, was a lead actor in 29 films and as a child and appeared in many films.
- The award honours people for services to society in their respective fields by following the principles of Lord Basaveshwar. It is presented by Chitradurga Bruhanmurt since 1997. The award includes Rs 5 lakh cash and a memento.
- PT Usha (2009), Malala Yousufzai (2014), P Sainath (2016), Dr K Kasturirangan (2020) are some to win the award in recent times.

### **1.143 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize**

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

- Pratham, a civil society organisation dedicated to improving the quality of education among underprivileged children in India and across the world, has been selected for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2021.
- The 2021 Prize is awarded to Pratham for its pioneering work over more than 25 years
- in seeking to ensure that every child has access to quality education
- for its innovative use of digital technology to deliver education
- for its programmes to provide skills to young adults
- for its timely response in enabling children to learn during the COVID-19 related school closures

#### **About Indira Gandhi Prize**

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, is the prestigious award accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- It is given to individuals or organisations in recognition of creative efforts toward promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order.
- The prize carries a cash award of 2.5 million INR and a citation.
- The panel consists of prominent national and international personalities including previous recipients.

### **1.144 BRO received Guinness World Record for world's highest motorable road**

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

- The Border Roads Organisation has received the Guinness World Record for constructing & blacktopping the world highest motorable road passing through the 19,024 feet 0.73 inches (5798.251m) high Umlingla Pass in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- The 52-kilometre long Chisumle to Demchok tarmac road was developed under Project HIMANK (93RCC/753 BRTF) of BRO. Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhry, Director General Border Roads, received the Guinness World Records certificate.

### **1.145 Jason Mott won the 2021 National Book Award for fiction**

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

- The 72nd edition of the National Book Award was organized as a virtual event by the National Book Foundation.
- Jason Mott won the 2021 National Book Award for fiction for his novel "Hell of a Book", a narrative about a black author's adventure while travelling around in a book tour.

#### **Winners of 2021 National Book Awards:**

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Category	Book	Author
Fiction	Hell of a Book	Jason Mott
Non-Fiction	All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake	Tiya Miles
Young People's Literature	Last Night at the Telegraph Club	Malinda Lo
Poetry	Floater	Martín Espada
Best Translated Literature	Winter in Sokcho	Elisa Shua Dusapin and translator Aneesa Abbas Higgins (translated from French)

### 1.146 ABU – UNESCO Peace Media Awards 2021

#### WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)-UNESCO Peace Media Awards 2021 were presented at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

#### About:

- In the award event, Doordarshan and All India Radio received multiple awards.
- Multiple awards showcased the excellence of Prasar Bharati in quality content creation, TV shows and Radio shows, to the world.

#### Which programmes won the award?

- Programme 'DEAFinitely Leading the Way' of Doordarshan won the award under the 'Living Well with Super Diversity' category.
- All India Radio's programme called 'Living on the edge – The coastal lives' won the award in the 'Ethical & Sustainable Relationship with Nature' category.

#### Who presented the award?

- Awards were given by UNESCO in collaboration with ABU, under an initiative called 'Together for Peace' (T4P). This competition was open for TV, Radio and digital platforms.

#### 'DEAFinitely Leading the Way' programme

- This programme is about inspiring the journey of a specially-abled child. The purpose of this programme is to motivate specially-abled persons to live their life with dignity. It was produced and directed by the Programme Executive of Doordarshan Delhi, Mr Pradeep Agnihotri.

#### 'Living on the edge – The coastal lives'

- This series by All India Radio explores life for fishing communities who are living on the edge of Visakhapatnam. The series was devised and produced by the Programme Executive of All India Radio, Delhi, Ms Monika Gulati.

#### ABU-UNESCO T4P Media Awards

- This award highlight and promote the crucial role of ethical & independent journalism and citizens' media literacy in order to build positive peace in human minds. Positive peace does not only mean the absence of conflicts & war but striving for equitable & fair societies having sustainable relations with the environment.

**PRACTISE MCQS**

**QUESTION 1: South African playwright and novelist, Damon Galgut has won the 2021 Booker Prize for his book-**

- A. The Promise
- B. Girl, Woman, Other
- C. Milkman
- D. none of the above

**QUESTION 2: Priyanka Mohite was selected by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the prestigious 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020'. She belongs to-**

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Assam

**QUESTION 3: Who will be posthumously conferred the Basavashree award 2021?**

- A. Puneeth Rakkumar
- B. Subba Rao
- C. Avi Barot
- D. None of the above

**QUESTION 4: Indira Gandhi peace Prize 2021 was awarded to which of the following?**

- A. UNICEF
- B. Sir David Attenborough
- C. Manmohan Singh
- D. NGO Pratham

**QUESTION 5: Which organization has received the Guinness World Record for constructing & blacktopping the world highest motorable road "Umling la Pass" in the Union Territory of Ladakh?**

- A. Border Roads Organisation
- B. Border Security Force
- C. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- D. Indo-Tibetan Border Police

**QUESTION 6: Who has won the 2021 National Book Award for fiction for his novel "Hell of a Book"?**

- A. Tiya Miles
- B. Malinda Lo
- C. Tahmima Anam
- D. Jason Mott

**QUESTION 7: Recently Doordarshan and All India Radio received awards in Kuala Lumpur, In this context which of the following statement is/are correct?**

- A. Programme 'DEAFinitely Leading the Way' of All India Radio's won the award under 'Living Well with Super Diversity' category.
- B. Doordarshan's programme called 'Living on the edge – The coastal lives' won the award in the 'Ethical & Sustainable Relationship with Nature' category.
- C. Both are correct.
- D. Both are incorrect.

## Answers

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



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