

# Current Affairs MONTHLY



APRIL 2022

By  
CivilsTap Himachal



For HPAS & Other  
Competitive  
Exam in  
Himachal Pradesh

Prelims

+91 7814622609

[www.civilstaphimachal.com](http://www.civilstaphimachal.com)

<b>NATIONAL NEWS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
1.1 Ujjain creates Guinness Record by Lighting 11.71 Lakh Diyas. ....	10
1.2 National Mission for Clean Ganga receives the 'Special Jury Award'. ....	10
1.3 Meghalaya withdraws general consent to CBI.....	10
1.4 Geological Survey of India Celebrates 172nd Foundation Day. ....	11
1.5 53 <sup>rd</sup> Raising Day celebrations of the Central Industrial Security Force. ....	11
1.6 Centre Constitutes National Dam Safety Authority for dam-related safety, disasters, resolve inter-state issues. 12	
1.7 National Youth Parliament Festival.....	12
1.8 Bal Bhawans under National Education Policy.....	12
1.9 Wearing Hijab Is Not Essential Religious Practice Rules Karnataka High Court. ....	13
1.10 Nagaland became first paperless assembly by implementing e-Vidhan application.....	13
1.11 Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day Observed On 23rd March. ....	13
1.12 Mekedatu dam. ....	14
1.13 Mysuru Declaration 2022 adopted at 96th AIU annual meeting. ....	14
1.14 States Too Can Declare Religious Or Linguistic Community As Minority: Government. ....	14
1.15 Surat becomes first city to get Steel slag road.....	15
1.16 Malabar Rebellion or Moplah Uprising. ....	15
1.17 The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022. ....	16
1.18 President's colour.....	16
1.19 India plans to start building 10 Nuclear Power plant in fleet mode. ....	16
PRACTICE MCQS .....	17
<b>INTERNATIONAL.....</b>	<b>21</b>
1.20 USA European nations agree to block Russian banks from SWIFT. ....	21
1.21 Ukraine moves International Court of Justice (ICJ), files case against Russia.....	21
1.22 Japan and India renews the Bilateral Swap Arrangement. ....	21
1.23 Egypt increases transit fees for ships passing through the Suez Canal.....	21
1.24 Swiss International Air Lines AG to become World's first airline to use Solar aviation fuel.....	22
1.25 India-ITU Host Country Agreement (HCA).....	22
1.26 Mobile World Congress held in Barcelona, Spain. ....	23
1.27 Financial Action Task Force retains Pakistan in the grey list.....	23
1.28 Costa Rica legalises the use of medicinal marijuana.....	24
1.29 Geneva conventions and the Russia-Ukraine war.....	24
1.30 Katalin Novak elected as Hungary's first-ever female President. ....	24
1.31 'Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle' Unveiled In Madagascar.....	25
1.32 India's Arctic policy released recently.....	25
1.33 Finlandization. ....	26

1.34	League of Arab States.....	26
1.35	Solomon Island signs agreement with China. ....	26
1.36	A Children’s Book ‘The Little Book of Joy’ authored by Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu. ....	26
1.37	India looks towards MERCOSUR nations for sunflower oil.....	27
1.38	Bucharest nine rejects Russian claim about Nato’s eastward expansion.....	27
1.39	ILO elects Gilbert Fossoun Hounbo as next director- general.....	27
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	28
<b>DAYS TO REMEMBER .....</b>		<b>33</b>
1.40	Zero Discrimination Day observed on 1st March.....	33
1.41	World Civil Defence Day observed on 1st March.....	33
1.42	World Wildlife Day 2022 Observed on 3 <sup>rd</sup> March. ....	33
1.43	National Safety Day observed on 4th March. ....	33
1.44	National Security Day observed on 4 <sup>th</sup> of March. ....	34
1.45	World Obesity Day observed globally on 4th March .....	34
1.46	Jan Aushadhi Diwas celebrated on 7 <sup>th</sup> March. ....	34
1.47	International Women’s Day celebrated on 8th March. ....	34
1.48	UN celebrates International Day of Women Judges. ....	35
1.49	World Kidney day on March 10 <sup>th</sup> .....	35
1.50	World Glaucoma Day observed on 12 <sup>th</sup> March.....	36
1.51	World Rotaract Day celebrated on 13th of March.....	36
1.52	International Day of Mathematics observed on 14 <sup>th</sup> March.....	36
1.53	World Consumer Rights Day celebrated globally on 15th March.....	37
1.54	UN declares March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. ....	37
1.55	International day of Nowruz celebrated on March 21.....	37
1.56	International Day of Forests (IDF) observed on March 21.....	38
1.57	World Oral Health Day observed on 20 <sup>th</sup> March.....	39
1.58	World Puppetry Day observed on 21 <sup>st</sup> March.....	39
1.59	22 <sup>nd</sup> March celebrated globally as World Water Day.....	40
1.60	International Day for the Right to the Truth: 24th March. ....	40
1.61	World Tuberculosis Day observed on 24th March.....	40
1.62	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade observed on 25th March.....	41
1.63	National Dolphin Day to be observed on October 5 <sup>th</sup> from this year .....	41
1.64	World theatre Day 2022 celebrated on 27th March.....	42
1.65	International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members observed on March 25.....	42
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	43
<b>PERSON IN NEWS.....</b>		<b>48</b>

1.66	Madhubi Puri Buch becomes 1st women to be appointed as SEBI chairperson. ....	48
1.67	Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan named as chairman of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)...	48
1.68	Chief Justice DN Patel appointed Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal. ....	48
1.69	T Raja Kumar named President of the Financial Action Task Force.....	49
1.70	Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule. ....	49
1.71	Ajay Bhushan Pandey appointed as Chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority. ....	49
1.72	Debasish Panda named as Chairman of IRDAI. ....	50
1.73	US Astrophysicist Eugene Parker passed away. ....	50
1.74	Former Sikkim CM B B Gurung passes away. ....	50
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	51
<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY .....</b>		<b>53</b>
1.75	Canada approves world's 1st plant-derived COVID-19 vaccine. ....	53
1.76	Hermetic wiper strikes Ukraine.....	53
1.77	Nasa begins assembly of Europa clipper spacecraft. ....	53
1.78	C-DAC installed "PARAM Ganga" Supercomputer at IIT Roorkee.....	54
1.79	researches build chip to prevent side channel attacks on IoT devices. ....	54
1.80	chandrayaan-2 makes first observations of distribution of argon-40 in moon's atmosphere. ....	54
1.81	ISRO to select 150 students for YUVIKA programme.....	55
1.82	space junk hits moon surface creates big new crater on moon. ....	55
1.83	European Space Agency introduces VIGIL- Earth's solar defender.....	56
1.84	ISRO Successfully Conducts Ground Test Of Solid Booster Stage For Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). ....	56
1.85	India's first AI & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) launched in Bengaluru. ....	57
1.86	. National Mission On Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical system.....	57
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	59
<b>DEFENCE .....</b>		<b>62</b>
1.87	City of Destiny-Visakhapatnam gets guided-missile stealth destroyer.....	62
1.88	Russia accused of using thermobaric weapons.....	62
1.89	India's first indigenous Flying Trainer HANSA-NG completes the sea level trials.....	63
1.90	Indian Navy successfully tests extended range Brahmos supersonic cruise missile.....	63
1.91	Iran successfully launches second military satellite Noor-2. ....	63
1.92	Phosphorous Bombs used in Ukraine. ....	64
1.93	Man-portable air-defense systems-MANPADS .....	64
1.94	Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).....	65
1.95	Relativistic Klystron Amplifier: China Develops Laser Weapon to Destroy Satellites in Space.....	65
1.96	9th India-Seychelles Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2022' begins. ....	65
1.97	Kinzhal Missiles. ....	65
1.98	EX-DUSTLIK between Indian and Uzbekistan armies begins.....	66

1.99	For the first time, defense acquisition council (DAC) approves procure-ment under idex. ....	66
1.100	North Korea test fires Hwasong-17 Intercontinental ballistic missile.....	66
1.101	Gsat 7b And India's Other Military Satellites. ....	67
1.102	PARAM Shakti supercomputer.....	67
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	68

**ECONOMY ..... 72**

1.103	Telangana tops country in terms of per capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices. ....	72
1.104	Investments through P-notes decline. ....	72
1.105	Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women – “SAMARTH” launched.....	72
1.106	FINANCE MINISTER says equalisation levy levied by India is a sovereign right. ....	73
1.107	RBI releases booklet BE(A)WARE on modus operandi of financial frauds.....	73
1.108	India's first 100% women-owned Industrial Park inaugurated in Hyderabad. ....	73
1.109	Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments without Internet, Smartphone: UPI123pay launched.....	74
1.110	NaBFID to be regulated as All india Financial under RBI Act.....	74
1.111	Bureau of Indian Standards Asks Soy Product Makers To Get Quality Certification, Use Indian Standards Institution (ISI) Mark. ....	75
1.112	Ministry of micro, small & medium enterprises launches MSME innovative scheme. ....	76
1.113	Indian railways 1 <sup>st</sup> Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal' (GCT) commissioned in Asansol division of Indian railway. ....	76
1.114	Russia-Ukraine conflict: India's wheat exports expected to exceed 10mt this fiscal year. ....	76
1.115	First Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Centre(SGKC) of India inaugurated in Manesar. ....	77
1.116	Mahanadi Coalfields Limited is now the biggest coal-producing firm of India.....	77
1.117	ILO and ICAO sign agreement to strengthen aviation industry. ....	78
1.118	SBI to set up Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre at Hyderabad. ....	78
1.119	Telangana becomes first state in India to implement Crop Diversification Index. ....	78
1.120	UPI Lite launched by National Payments Commission of India.....	79
1.121	Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) signs the historic Ship Building Agreement.....	79
1.122	GI-tagged products like Kala Namak rice hold export potential: Commerce Minister. ....	79
1.123	Kerala becomes first state to introduce carbon-neutral agricultural practices.....	80
1.124	Export potential of Naga chilli to be explored-commerce Ministry.....	80
1.125	Assam Kaji Nemu.....	80
1.126	Reserve Bank Innovation Hub. ....	81
1.127	Government e-Marketplace achieves Rs. 1 lakh crore annual procurement. ....	81
1.128	GI Tagged products like Bangalore Rose onion hold export potential.....	81
1.129	'Hindustan 228'-19-seater aircraft introduced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.....	81
1.130	Shrinkflation.....	82
1.131	RBI Governor dedicates Varnika Ink Manufacturing Unit of BRBNMPL.....	82
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	83

<b>INDEX AND REPORTS .....</b>	<b>90</b>
1.132 Freedom of the World 2022 report: India ranked 'partly free' .....	90
1.133 Ministry of education report on unified district information system for education plus (UDISE+) 2020-21. ....	90
1.134 India's first medical city 'Indrayani Medicity' to set up in Maharashtra.....	91
1.135 United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network Released The World Happiness Report (Whr) 2022. ....	91
1.136 United Nations World Water Development Report (UN WWDR 2022) Released. ....	91
PRACTICE MCQS .....	93
<b>POLICY AND PROGRAMMES.....</b>	<b>95</b>
1.137 Field assessment of Swachh Survekshan launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.....	95
1.138 Ministry of Women and Child Development announces 5 lakh insurance for One Stop Centres (OSC) Workers and Stree Manorakhsha Project launched. ....	95
1.139 Govt. approved continuation of 7 sub-schemes under 'Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates for 2021-22 to 2025-26. ....	96
1.140 Sambhav' and 'Svavlamban' initiatives launched to tackle the issue of plastic waste in India. ....	96
1.141 Labour ministry launches Donate-a-Pension' programme under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana. ....	97
1.142 Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) launches Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav Campaign.. ....	97
1.143 NIESBUD signs an MoU with Ministry of Rural Development for implementing the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme. ....	98
1.144 Government approves continuation of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana.....	98
1.145 Green channel payment (gcp) set up for ayushman bharat pradhan mantri jan arogya yojana (ab pm-jay) ....	99
1.146 Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying focusing on seaweeds.....	99
1.147 Project Kirana-USAID and mastercard join hands to promote digital empowerment of women .....	99
1.148 Pm Ujjwala Yojana (Pmuy) Reduced Air Pollution Over 1.5 Lakh Deaths In 2019: Study .....	100
1.149 Union Cabinet approves continuation of National AIDS and STD control programme. ....	100
1.150 Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.....	101
1.151 Project Unnati.....	101
1.152 Polar Science and Research (PACER) scheme. ....	102
1.153 Sagarmala Programme Completes 7 Years. ....	102
1.154 Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme.....	102
1.155 Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme.....	103
1.156 Integrated command and control centre.....	103
PRACTICE MCQS .....	104
<b>HEALTH .....</b>	<b>109</b>
1.157 who global centre for traditional medicine in India.....	109
1.158 Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin On Maternal Mortality In India (2011-19) Released.....	109
1.159 India's first medical city 'Indrayani Medicity' to set up in Maharashtra.....	109

1.160	UNEP joins One health alliance .....	110
1.161	Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) Of India Declines By 10 Points. ....	111
1.162	eSanjeevani telemedicine crosses 3 crore tele-consultations. ....	111
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	112
<b>GEOGRAPHY.....</b>		<b>114</b>
1.163	Yilan crater discovered in China. ....	114
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	114
<b>ENVIRONMENT .....</b>		<b>115</b>
1.164	Australia hit by rare weather phenomenon-Rain Bomb. ....	115
1.165	Cheetah Action Plan- Translocation in 2022. ....	115
1.166	Glycosmis albicarpa, new gin berry species discovered. ....	115
1.167	Aarushi Verma selected to represent India at the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition. ....	116
1.168	Wildlife Institute of India study on tiger density.....	116
1.169	Tamil Nadu CM inaugurates India’s largest floating solar power project.....	117
1.170	India achieves significant reduction in coal import.....	117
1.171	Manas National Park witnesses sharp rise in tiger, rhino population. ....	117
1.172	Halari Donkey breed.....	118
1.173	Rare sawfish caught in Karnataka. ....	118
1.174	Mumbai announces detailed plans towards net zero emissions.....	118
1.175	Mouling National Park.....	118
1.176	First ever digital water databank Aqueverium launched.....	119
1.177	Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched Toyota Mirai- India’s first green hydrogen based FCEV.....	119
1.178	World Sparrow Day 2022 celebrated on March 20.....	119
1.179	Carbofuran poisoning causes vulture deaths.....	120
1.180	Africa's Boma technique adopted for translocating deer from Keoladeo National Park. ....	120
1.181	Centre Launches Water Reuse Project.....	120
1.182	Microsoft to recycle heat generated by data centres.....	121
1.183	First wildlife bond issued by World Bank to save Africa’s black rhino.....	121
1.184	Srinagar Tulip Festival. ....	121
1.185	As per UNEP report, Moradabad is the 2nd most noise polluted city globally.....	122
1.186	Rough toothed dolphin spotted in Lakshadweep. ....	122
1.187	Australia Declares 'Mass Bleaching' At Great Barrier Reef (Gbr).....	122
1.188	COP-4 Minamata Convention on Mercury.....	123
1.189	Hornbill nest adoption programme. ....	124
1.190	Olive Ridley Turtles Arrive At Odisha Coast For Mass Nesting.....	124
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	125
<b>ART AND CULTURE.....</b>		<b>131</b>

1.191	Assam government to set up 'Naamghars' after Srimanta Sankardeva. ....	131
1.192	Herath Festival Celebrated in Kashmir. ....	131
1.193	Odisha government plans run the Sun Temple completely on solar energy. ....	131
1.194	Kaliyattam Festival celebrated in Kerala. ....	132
1.195	IHCL & UNESCO Partner to Preserve the Intangible Cultural Heritage of India. ....	132
1.196	Bihar's Bodh Gaya to get India's Largest Buddha Statue in Sleeping Posture. ....	133
1.197	archaeological survey of india(asi) warns of threats of puri heritage corridor project. ....	133
1.198	GI-tagged Kashmir carpets sent to Germany. ....	134
1.199	3. Santhali Sohrai mural. ....	134
1.200	Phool dei festival of Uttarakhand. ....	134
1.201	West bengal celebrates Dol Utsav. ....	135
1.202	Narasinghapettai nagaswaram gets GI tag. ....	135
1.203	Bihar government to translate and publish original Buddhist manuscripts brought back by Rahul Sankrityayan. ....	135
1.204	Santali script 'Ol Chiki'. ....	135
1.205	Mangaluru Kambala starts in Karnataka. ....	136
1.206	Taliban preserving Bamiyan buddhas. ....	136
1.207	Kozhikode proposed as a UNESCO's City of Literature. ....	137
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	138
<b>STATE CURRENT AFFAIRS .....</b>		<b>142</b>
1.208	Tamil Nadu 'Naan Mudhalvan'- Skill Development scheme for students. ....	142
1.209	India's first ambulance for street animals launched in Tamil Nadu. ....	142
1.210	Shirui Lily festival celebrated in Manipur. ....	142
1.211	Sikkim Govt. to launch Aama Yojna & Bahini Scheme. ....	142
1.212	Chhattisgarh CM launches 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' for safe motherhood. ....	143
1.213	Haryana govt announces Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme. ....	143
1.214	100 years of Pal-Dadhvav killings. ....	143
1.215	Tripura Govt announced "Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa" scheme. ....	143
1.216	Rajasthan Foundation Day or Rajasthan Diwas observed on 30 <sup>th</sup> March .....	144
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	145
<b>SPORTS .....</b>		<b>147</b>
1.217	Rafael Nadal wins Mexican Open 2022. ....	147
1.218	Pooja Jatyan becomes 1st Indian to win a silver in Para Archery World Championships. ....	147
1.219	Indian shooter Saurabh Chaudhary wins 10m air pistol gold at ISSF World Cup. ....	147
1.220	Mithali Raj becomes first woman cricketer to appear at six Cricket World Cups. ....	147
1.221	Priyanka Nutakki becomes the 23rd Woman Grandmaster of India. ....	147
1.222	India's S L Narayanan wins Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open Chess Tournament. ....	148



1.223	American-Swedish Pole Vaulter Mondo Duplantis Sets World Record of 6.19m in Belgrade.....	148
1.224	India to host 44 <sup>th</sup> World Chess Olympiad 2022 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. ....	148
1.225	Yulimar Rojas Created World Record By Clearing 15.74 Metres. ....	148
1.226	Cristiano Ronaldo Becomes All-time Leading Scorer with 807 Goals. ....	148
1.227	Max Verstappen wins 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix.....	149
1.228	Promotion Of Rural And Indigenous/Tribal Games Under Khelo India Scheme (KIS).....	149
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	150
<b>AWARDS .....</b>		<b>153</b>
1.229	IISER's Prof. Deepak Dhar becomes first Indian to be awarded with Boltzmann Medal .....	153
1.230	Haryana announces 'Sushma Swaraj Award' for women. ....	153
1.231	Skoch State of Governance ranking 2021: Andhra Pradesh gets first rank. ....	153
1.232	Sahitya Akademi Awards presented. ....	154
1.233	Diebedo Francis Kere becomes first African to win the Pritzker Architecture Prize.....	154
1.234	Poland's Karolina Bielawska crowned Miss World 2021.....	154
1.235	Dennis P. Sullivan wins Abel prize. ....	154
1.236	Wilfried Brutsaert wins Stockholm water prize. ....	155
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	156
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS .....</b>		<b>158</b>
1.237	Sikander Kumar files papers, set to be elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha. ....	158
1.238	Baddi- Barotiwala- Nalagarh (BBN) hub gets Himachal's first air quality monitoring station. ....	158
1.239	10-day Kullu carnival. ....	158
1.240	10-day mela to promote local products begins in Dharamsala. ....	158
1.241	International Life Saver Award for Nurpur club.....	158
1.242	A memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed to promote lemongrass farming.....	159
1.243	Dharmshala first literature festival. ....	159
1.244	Una to have Rs 8 cr ethno-botanical garden.....	159
1.245	IIT-Mandi, researchers find method to convert plastic into hydrogen, useful chemicals .....	160
1.246	Spring fest in Kullu from April 28 .....	160
1.247	Rs 100 cr provided to youth for self-employment avenues: Himachal Pradesh CM .....	160
	PRACTICE MCQS .....	162
<b>OTHER IMPORTANT ONE LINERS .....</b>		<b>164</b>

## NATIONAL NEWS

### 1.1 UJJAIN CREATES GUINNESS RECORD BY LIGHTING 11.71 LAKH DIYAS.

#### Why in news?

- **Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh** has created a **Guinness record** by lighting **11.71 lakh** clay lamps (diyas) in 10 minutes. The diyas were lighted as part of the '**Shiv Jyoti Arpanam Mahotsava**' on the occasion of Mahashivratri.
- The certificate was received by Madhya Pradesh chief minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- With this they broke the earlier record of lighting 9.41 lakh diyas created in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on 03 November 2021. Ujjain is also known as the 'Land of Mahakal'.
- It was a zero-waste programme. The clay from the lamps will be used to prepare idols, while the oil left in the lamps will be offered to gaushalas. The plastic used for the I-cards will be used to make chairs and other items for public gardens.

### 1.2 NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA RECEIVES THE 'SPECIAL JURY AWARD'.

#### Why in news?

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) received the 'Special Jury Award' for its considerable contribution in Ganga Rejuvenation at the 7th India Industry Water Conclave and the 9th edition of FICCI Water Awards, held virtually, from 2nd to 3rd March, 2022.
- The Jury acknowledged NMCG's strategic role to bring about a paradigm shift in water management, besides its involvement in reviving the river Ganga.
- It also insisted on the need for a real Jan Andolan (Mass Movement) around the river Ganga to revive not only its main stream but also the other order of streams, catchments, aquifers that provide base-flows to the river.

#### About National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- The aim of this mission is to take measures for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in river Ganga and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water so as to rejuvenate the river Ganga
- It is registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act 1860. It acts as an implementation wing of National Ganga Council (set in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)).
- It operates under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Establishment of NMCG: August 12, 2011.

### 1.3 MEGHALAYA WITHDRAWS GENERAL CONSENT TO CBI.

#### Why in news?

- Meghalaya has become the ninth state of the country to withdraw consent to CBI to investigate cases in the state.

#### About general consent

- The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, governs the CBI and it is **mandatory to obtain the concerned state government's consent before beginning to investigate a crime in a state**.
- States typically give a general consent to assist the CBI in conducting a seamless investigation of cases of corruption involving central government personnel in their states.
- This is consent by default otherwise CBI would have to seek permission from the state government in every case, even for small tasks.

#### Withdrawal of consent

- It means that the CBI will not be able to file any new cases involving central government officials or private persons in the state without the permission of the state government.
- CBI officers who will be entering the state that has withdrawn consent will lose all powers of a police officer as soon as they enter the state unless they have received permission from the government of the state.
- Before Meghalaya, the eight other states that had withdrawn consent to the CBI are Punjab, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Mizoram, and Kerala.
- The first state to withdraw consent was Mizoram which did so in 2015.

#### 1.4 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA CELEBRATES 172ND FOUNDATION DAY.

##### Why in news?

- Geological Survey of India (GSI), the premier Geological organization of India, celebrated its 172<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day across all the offices with great enthusiasm.
- GSI has been instrumental in identifying the mineral blocks and augmenting the vast mineral resources of the nation.
- Recently GSI has handed over more than 150 G2 and G3 Mineral Blocks as well as 152 G4 Mineral Blocks to various state governments for auctioning.

##### About Geological Survey of India

- **The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits** for the Railways.
- An **attached office of the Ministry of Mines**, GSI has **six regional offices** located in **Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong and Kolkata** and unit offices in almost all states of the country.
- Its **main functions relate to creating and updating of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment.**
- These objectives are achieved through **ground surveys, air-borne and marine surveys, mineral prospecting and investigations, multi-disciplinary geoscientific, geo-technical, geo-environmental and natural hazards studies, glaciology, seism tectonic study, and carrying out fundamental research.**
- GSI's chief role includes providing objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and geoscientific information of all kinds, with a focus on policy making decisions, commercial and socio-economic needs. GSI also emphasises on systematic documentation of all geological processes derived out of surface and subsurface of India and its offshore areas. The organisation does so by using the latest and most cost-effective techniques and methodologies, including geophysical and geochemical and geological surveys.
- GSI's **core competence in survey and mapping is continuously enhanced through accretion, management, coordination and utilization of spatial databases** (including those acquired through remote sensing).
- It functions as a **'Repository' or 'clearing house'** for the purpose and uses the latest computer-based technologies for dissemination of geoscientific information and spatial data, through cooperation and collaboration with other stakeholders in the Geo-informatics sector.

#### 1.5 53<sup>RD</sup> RAISING DAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE.

##### Why in news?

- The Union Home and Cooperation Minister attended the 53rd Raising Day celebrations of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in Ghaziabad today as the Chief Guest.
- The minister also released the Force's magazine '**Sentinel**'-2022.

##### About Central Industrial Security Force

- **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** was established in 1969, under an Act of Parliament, "Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968."
- CISF is also responsible to provide protection to the persons classified as Z Plus, Z, X, Y.
- CISF is the **only force with a customized and dedicated fire wing.**
- CISF has **carved a niche for itself with multi-skilled, multi-faceted and professional prowess.**

- It provides integrated security cover to the Public Sector Undertakings, airports and SEZs on a case to case basis. CISF is present in 354 sensitive and critical installations with a strength of about 1,64,000 and more than 65 sensitive airports, seaports, nuclear units, space institutes, coal, oil and steel production sites and also offshore oil production plants.

## 1.6 CENTRE CONSTITUTES NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AUTHORITY FOR DAM-RELATED SAFETY, DISASTERS, RESOLVE INTER-STATE ISSUES.

### Why in news?

- National Dam Safety Authority, has been constituted that seeks to maintain standards related to dam safety, prevent dam-related disasters and resolve inter-state issues related to dams.
- The Centre also constituted a 22-member National Committee on Dam Safety which is headed by the Chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC)(Present Chairman - R.K. Sinha) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- According to the National Register of Large Dams, there are 5,264 completed large dams in the country, while 437 were under construction.

### About National Dam Safety Authority

- The Dam Safety Act has been passed by the Parliament in December 2021 which states that National Dam Safety Authority will **work closely with state-level dam safety organisations and owners of dams for standardising safety-related data and practices.**
- Under the Act, the National Dam Safety Authority has been constituted on 18th February, 2022 which will be headed by a chairman and assisted by 5 members to lead its 5 wings -policy and research, technical, regulation, disaster & resilience and administration & finance.
- The Authority will be **headquartered in the National Capital Region (NCR)**, Delhi and will be supported by 4 regional offices.
- **Functions:**
- The authority **resolves any issue between the State Dam Safety Organisations of states or between a State Dam Safety Organisation and any owner of a specified dam in that state.**
- The Dam Safety Act also provides an institutional architecture for dam safety in India.

## 1.7 NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT FESTIVAL.

### Why in news?

- While addressing the National Youth Parliament Festival, Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla said '**nation first**' should guide youth in their every effort.

### About National Youth Parliament

- Organised under **Ministry of Parliamentary affairs.**
- **Objective** -to strengthen the roots of democracy, inculcate discipline, tolerance and to enable students to learn about practices and procedures of Parliament.
- Programme envisages **Kishore Sabha** for the students of Class IX to Class XII and **Tarun Sabha** for the students of Under Graduate/ Post Graduate level.
- It is **in existence since 1966**, but recently to increase coverage, a web portal has been established.

## 1.8 BAL BHAWANS UNDER NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY.

### Why in news?

- National Education Policy 2020 recommends that every State will be encouraged to strengthen existing or establish "Bal Bhavans":

### About National Bal Bhawan

- It is an **autonomous body under, Ministry of Education**, which aims at enhancing the creative potential of children by providing them various activities, opportunities and common platform to interact, experiment, create and perform.

- Since 1956, it has brought in children across gender, class, caste divides to nurture their curiosity and imagination.
- **Works** as a nodal agency for all affiliated Bal Bhavans.

### 1.9 WEARING HIJAB IS NOT ESSENTIAL RELIGIOUS PRACTICE RULES KARNATAKA HIGH COURT.

#### Why in news?

- Ruling has come in the backdrop of petition seeking the right to wear hijabs or head scarves along with uniforms inside classrooms.
- According to the Court, wearing of hijab (head scarf) by Muslim women does not form a part of essential religious practices in Islamic faith and is not protected under right to freedom of religion under Article 25 of Constitution.
- Also, prescription of school uniform does not violate either right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1) (a) or right to privacy under Article 21.
- Further, restriction against wearing of hijab in educational institutions is only a reasonable restriction constitutionally permissible.
- **What is the essential religious practice test?**
- It was evolved by Supreme Court (SC) in 'Shirur Mutt' case (1954) to protect only such religious practices which were essential and integral to the religion.
- Court held that term "religion" will cover all rituals and practices integral" to a religion, and took upon itself the responsibility of determining essential and non-essential practices of a religion.
- This attempt to differentiate essential and non-essential practices was taken up in various judgments.

### 1.10 NAGALAND BECAME FIRST PAPERLESS ASSEMBLY BY IMPLEMENTING E-VIDHAN APPLICATION.

#### Why in news?

- **Nagaland** has created history by becoming the **first State Assembly** in the country to implement the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme** to become completely paperless.
- The Nagaland Assembly Secretariat has attached a tablet or e-book on each table in the 60 members' assembly amid the ongoing Budget session.

#### **About the NeVA:**

- NeVA is a work-flow system deployed on NIC Cloud, **MeghRaj** which helps the Chair of the House to conduct the proceedings of the House smoothly and to conduct Legislative Business of the House in a Paperless manner.
- **NeVA is a device neutral and member-centric application** created to equip them to handle diverse House Business smartly by putting entire information regarding member contact details, rules of procedure, list of business, notices, bulletins, bills, starred/unstarred questions and answers, papers laid, committee reports etc. in their handheld devices/ tablets and equip all Legislatures / Departments to handle it efficiently.

### 1.11 SHAHEED DIWAS OR MARTYRS' DAY OBSERVED ON 23RD MARCH.

#### Why in news?

- Every year, the Nation was observed on **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** as **Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day)**.
- The day was observed to pay tribute to the death anniversary of the freedom fighters **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru**, who laid their lives for the freedom of India.
- Also, **30 January** is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of **Mahatma Gandhi**.

#### **History of the day**

- On March 23, three heroes of our nation were hanged to death, namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar by the British.
- They sacrificed their lives for the welfare of our nation. These heroes fought for the welfare of people and sacrificed their lives for the same cause.

- For many young Indians, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev have become a source of inspiration. Even during British rule, their sacrifice urged many people to come forth and fight for their freedom. Therefore, in order to homage to the three of these revolutionaries, India has commemorated March 23 as Shaheed Diwas.
- They were hanged to death for assassinating **John Saunders**, a British police officer in 1928.
- They had mistook him for British police superintendent **James Scott**. It was Scott who had ordered lathi-charge, which eventually led to the death of **Lala Lajpat Rai**.

### 1.12 MEKEDATU DAM.

#### Why in news?

- Tamil Nadu government has recently passed a resolution against move to build the dam.

#### **About the Dam**

- To be built across the Cauvery River by Karnataka as a reservoir and drinking water project. It will also recharge the aquifers in the region.
- However, Tamil Nadu has been opposing the project as it violates the final award of the Cauvery River Water Tribunal of 2007 and SC judgement of 2018.
- Also, the dam would disrupt the natural flow of water from the upper riparian state and affect its agrarian community.
- The project is now before the Cauvery Water Management Authority.

### 1.13 MYSURU DECLARATION 2022 ADOPTED AT 96TH AIU ANNUAL MEETING.

#### Why in news?

- According to the Declaration, universities would draw up strategies for achieving their targets for the realisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and share their best practices through the **network of AIU (Association of Indian Universities) for attainment of SDGs**.
- The Vice-Chancellors, in attendance, have resolved to commit themselves for the realisation of SDGs and align the University education, research, innovation, and governance towards achieving the goals and targets set out for each of the 17 SDGs.
- SDGs were adopted by UN in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

### 1.14 STATES TOO CAN DECLARE RELIGIOUS OR LINGUISTIC COMMUNITY AS MINORITY: GOVERNMENT.

#### Why in news?

- Central government has told the Supreme Court (SC) that certain States, **where Hindus or other communities are less in number**, can declare them as minorities within their own territories, to enable them to set up and administer their own institutions.
- Centre's response came in a plea seeking minority status for Hindus in states (Mizoram, Punjab etc.) in accordance with the principle laid down by the SC in its **TMA Pai ruling (2002)**.
- In **TMA Pai Case**, SC said, **for the purposes of Article 30, religious and linguistic minorities have to be considered state-wise**.
- The centre has clarified that under the Constitution, both Parliament and state legislatures "have concurrent powers to enact law to provide for the protection of minorities and their interests".
- Currently, only those communities notified under section 2(c) of the National Minorities Commission Act, 1992, by the central government are regarded as minorities.
- They are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains.

#### **Constitutional provisions on minorities**

- Though not defined in the constitution, expression "minorities" appears in Article 29, 30 and 350.
- **Article 29**, which deals with the "Protection of interests of minorities" while **Article 30** deals with the "right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions":

- **Article 350B** says there shall be a Special Officer for linguistic minorities to be appointed by the President whose duty is to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities.

### 1.15 SURAT BECOMES FIRST CITY TO GET STEEL SLAG ROAD.

#### Why in news?

- The Diamond City of India, Surat in Gujarat became India's first city to get a road that is made out of steel waste (1st ever 'steel slag 'road) at Hazira, Surat .
- The road was constructed by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India with CSIR India (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) & CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) New Delhi along with the support of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.
- The project will be constructed under the initiative of the **Waste to Wealth** and **Clean India Campaign**.
- Laid in the Hazira Industrial Area, the road consists of 100% processed steel slag.
- The **6-lane 1-kilometer long road** is an experimental project, which is constructed to solve the waste material issue. The thickness of the road has been reduced by 30%.
- The processed steel slag has the great potential for sustainable products and works as a replacement for natural construction material.
- **Steel slag** is a type of waste from the Iron & Steel Industry but it has shown potential for use as a raw mix component up to 5-10% in the construction products.
- The Ministry of Steel has also constituted a Task Force for promotion and utilization of Iron and Steel Slag.

### 1.16 MALABAR REBELLION OR MOPLAH UPRISING.

#### Why in news?

- The Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) has deferred its decision on a recommendation to remove the 1921 Malabar Rebellion martyrs including **Variamkunnaathu Kunhamad Haji** and **Ali Musliyar** from the list of India's freedom fighters.
- Earlier, a three-member panel brought out by the ICHR, is understood to have recommended the deletion as it felt that the 1921 rebellion was never part of the independence struggle but a fundamentalist movement.

#### About Malabar Rebellion or Moplah Uprising or Mapillah Revolt (1921)

- **Reasons:**
- The trigger of the uprising came from the **Non-Cooperation Movement** launched by the Congress in 1920 along with the **Khilafat agitation**.
- The **anti-British sentiment** fuelled by these agitations affected the **Muslim Mapillahs** (also known as **Moplahs**) of **south Malabar** region of Kerala.
- **New Tenancy Laws:** After the death of Tipu Sultan in 1799 in the **Fourth Anglo-Mysore War**, Malabar had come under British authority as part of the **Madras Presidency**.
- The British had introduced **new tenancy laws that tremendously favoured the landlords** known as *Janmis* and instituted a **far more exploitative system for peasants** than before.
- The new laws **deprived the peasants of all guaranteed rights to the land**, share in the produce they earlier got and in effect rendered them landless.
- **The Communal Angle:** Most of the **landlords were Namboodiri Brahmins** while most of the tenants were **Mapillah Muslims**.
- **The Revolt:** Fuelled by the fiery speeches by Muslim religious leaders and anti-british sentiments, the Mopillahs launched a **violent rebellion**. Numerous **actions of violence were reported and series of persecutions** were committed both **against the British and the Hindu landlords**.
- **Support:** In the initial stages, the movement had the support of **Mahatma Gandhi** and other Indian nationalist leaders, but as it turned violent they distanced themselves from it.
- **Collapse:** By the end of 1921, the rebellion was crushed by the British who had raised a special battalion, the **Malabar Special Force** for the riot.

- **Wagon Tragedy:** In November 1921, 67 Moplah prisoners were killed when they were being transported in a closed freight wagon from Tirur to the Central Prison in Podanur. They died of suffocation. This event is called the Wagon Tragedy.

### 1.17 THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022.

#### Why in news?

- The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 for the inclusion of the **Darlong community** in the list of Tripura Scheduled Tribes.
- It proposes the "**Darlong**" community as a sub-tribe of "**Kuki**" in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Tripura.
- The tribal communities of Tripura include Tripuri or Debbarma, Reangs or Brus, Jamatia, Noatia, Uchoi, Chakma, Mog, Lushal, Kuki, Munda, Kour, Oram, Santhal, Bhul, Bhutia, Chaimar or Sermai, Garo, Khasi, Lepcha and Halam.
- The Halam community has several small tribal clans within it. Many of these are linguistically endangered groups like Bongcher, Karbongs etc.

### 1.18 PRESIDENT'S COLOUR

#### Why in news?

- It has recently been awarded to **INS Valsura**.
- It is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation, **both in peace and in war**.
- The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force, to be awarded the President Colour by Dr Rajendra Prasad on 27 May 1951.

### 1.19 INDIA PLANS TO START BUILDING 10 NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN FLEET MODE.

#### Why in news?

- India is set to put in motion construction of 10 'fleet mode' nuclear reactors over the next three years. The **First Pour of Concrete (FPC)** for a 700 MegaWatts (MW) **Kaiga Atomic Power Plant, Karnataka** units 5 & 6 are scheduled by 2023.
- The centre had approved the construction of 10 indigenously developed **Pressurised Heavy-Water Reactors (PHWRs)** of 700 MegaWatts (MW) each in June 2017 with a total cost of Rs 1.05 Lakh crore.
- Also by 2024, The FPC for **Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Praiyonjan** units 3 & 4 and the **Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Projects** units 1 to 4 were planned to begin construction.
- And the FPC for the **Chutka Madhya Pradesh Atomic Power Project** units 1 & 2 are expected by 2025.
- The FPC signals the beginning of construction of nuclear power reactors from the pre-project stage which includes excavation activities at the project site.
- The Kamataka's Kaiga Atomic Power Plant units 5 & 6 and Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Praiyonjan units 3 & 4 were agreed to be built under Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Model.
- Currently, India operates 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MegaWatt (MW), among which one 700 MW reactor at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station in Gujarat was connected to the grid in January 2021.

#### **About Indian Pressurised Heavy-Water Reactor - 700:**

- Indian Pressurised Heavy-Water Reactor is **designed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)**.
- It is a Generation III reactor developed from the earlier **CANDU (Canada Deuterium Uranium-Pressurised Heavy-Water Reactor)** based 220 MW and 540 MW designs.
- The Indian Pressurised Heavy-Water Reactor has been upgraded to generate electricity capacity of 700 MW.
- **India's first pair of PHWRs of 220 MW each were set up at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan** in the 1960s with Canadian support (Canada Deuterium Uranium-Pressurised Heavy-Water Reactor).
- Fuel - Natural Uranium
- Moderator - Heavy Water



**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. Which city has recently created a Guinness record by lighting 11.71 lakh clay lamps (diyas) in 10 minutes?**

- A. Ayodhya
- B. Ujjain
- C. Panaji
- D. Bhopal

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Consider the following statements regarding National Mission for Clean Ganga-**

- 1. It operates under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- 2. It is registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act 1860.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

**3. Which state has recently withdrawn general consent to CBI?**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Consider the following statements regarding Geological Survey of India-**

- 1. It was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
- 2. It works as an attached office of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Consider the following statements regarding Central Industrial Security Force-**

- 1. It provides security to India's most critical infrastructure facilities like nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, etc.

2. It was established under an Act of Parliament in 1969.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Consider the following statements regarding National Dam Safety Authority:**

- 1. It seeks to maintain standards related to dam safety, prevent dam-related disasters and resolve inter-state issues related to dams.
- 2. It will be headquartered in Bhopal to cater to all regions of the country.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Consider the following statements regarding National Youth Parliament-**

- 1. It envisages Kishore Sabha for the students of Class IX to Class XII and Tarun Sabha for the students of Under Graduate/ Post Graduate level.
- 2. It is organised under Ministry of Parliamentary affairs.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**8. National Bal Bhawan is an autonomous institution under-**

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment

**ANSWER: A**

**9. "The essential religious practice test" was evolved by the Supreme court in-**

- A. Keshavnanda Bharti case
- B. Shirur Mutt case
- C. Minerva Mills Case
- D. Baldev Singh case

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Which state assembly has become the first paperless assembly by implementing e-Vidhan application?**

- A. Kerala
- B. Nagaland
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Karnataka

**ANSWER: B**

**11. Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru were hanged for murder of-**

- A. James scott
- B. Michael o'dwyer
- C. John saunders
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**12. Mekedatu Dam, seen recently in news, is projected to built upon-**

- A. Cauvery
- B. Mahanadi
- C. Krishna
- D. Godavari

**ANSWER: A**

**13. Mysuru Declaration 2022, seen recently in news, is associated with-**

- A. Elephant conservation
- B. Climate change
- C. Urban landscape makeover
- D. University education

**ANSWER: D**

**14. Consider the following statements-**

1. The word 'minorities' has not been defined in the constitution.
2. Supreme court, in TMA Pai Case, held for the purposes of Article 30, religious and linguistic minorities have to be considered state-wise.

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

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

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Which city has become the first city in India to get Steel slag road?**

- A. Surat
- B. Varanasi
- C. Bokaro
- D. New Delhi

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Consider the following statements about Moplah Uprising or Mapillah Revolt-**

1. In this conflict, most of the landlords were Namboodiri Brahmins while most of the tenants were Mapillah Muslims.
2. The British had raised a special battalion, the Malabar Special Force for controlling the riots.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Darlong community is stated to be included in scheduled tribes list in which of the following states?**

- A. Tripura
- B. Manipur
- C. Mizoram
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Which of the following naval vessels was presented with President Colour recently?**

- A. INS Arnala
- B. INS Valsura
- C. INS Rajput
- D. INS Kamorta

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Consider the following statements regarding Pressurised Heavy-Water Reactor (PHWR)-**

1. India's first pair of PHWRs of 220 MW each was set up at Rawatbhata
2. They use plutonium as fuel and heavy water as moderator.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1.20 USA EUROPEAN NATIONS AGREE TO BLOCK RUSSIAN BANKS FROM SWIFT.

#### Why in news?

- United States and European nations recently agreed to block select Russian banks from SWIFT.
- Founded in 1973, SWIFT (**Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication**), a non-listed **Belgium-based firm**, is **actually a cooperative of banks**.
- It **doesn't handle any transfers of funds** itself but its **messaging system provides banks the means to communicate rapidly, securely and inexpensively**.
- **Banks use the SWIFT system to send standardised messages about transfers of sums between themselves**, transfers of sums for clients, and buy and sell orders for assets.
- This measure will ensure that Russian financial institutions are disconnected from the international financial system and harm their ability to operate globally.

### 1.21 UKRAINE MOVES INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ), FILES CASE AGAINST RUSSIA.

#### Why in news?

- The lawsuit demands that Russia be held accountable for distorting the concept of genocide to justify aggression.
- **International Court of Justice** is **principal judicial organ of United Nations** established in June 1945 by Charter of UN.
- **Seat** of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- It is **composed of 15 judges**, who are elected for **terms of office of nine years** by United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
- Judge Dalveer Bhandari from India is among present members.
- Its official languages are **English and French**.

### 1.22 JAPAN AND INDIA RENEWS THE BILATERAL SWAP ARRANGEMENT.

#### Why in news?

- **Japan and India** have renewed the **Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA)** the size of which is up to **USD 75 billion**. The BSA is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for the US Dollar.
- The interest rate charged in this case is fixed at the time of signing the agreement and hence it reduces the risk caused due to fluctuations in the exchange rate.
- The actual Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) was signed between the **Bank of Japan and the Reserve Bank of India** in 2018.

#### What does BSA between India and Japan mean?

- It means that Japan and India can borrow money from each other in either their currency i.e Indian Rupee or Japanese Yen or US Dollar. This can be further explained as mentioned below:
- When India wants to borrow money from Japan it can borrow in US Dollars or Japanese Yen up to the limit of \$75 billion.
- When Japan wants to borrow money from India it can borrow in US Dollars or Indian Rupees up to the limit of \$75 billion.
- The countries will pay interest on the amount actually borrowed at an interest rate fixed at the time of borrowing the money.

### 1.23 EGYPT INCREASES TRANSIT FEES FOR SHIPS PASSING THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL.

#### Why in news?

- Cash-strapped Egypt has increased transit fees for ships passing through the **Suez Canal** with hikes of up to 10%.

#### About

- The Suez Canal is an **artificial sea-level waterway** running north to south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt, to **connect the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea**.
- The canal separates the **African continent from Asia**.
- The Suez Canal Company built it between 1859 and 1869, and it opened on November 17, 1869.
- It provides the **shortest maritime route** between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans.
- It is one of the **world's most heavily used shipping lanes**, carrying over 12% of world trade by volume.

### 1.24 SWISS INTERNATIONAL AIR LINES AG TO BECOME WORLD'S FIRST AIRLINE TO USE SOLAR AVIATION FUEL.

#### Why in news?

- **Swiss International Air Lines AG (SWISS or Swiss Air Lines)**, a part of the Lufthansa Group, has signed a new strategic collaboration with Switzerland based solar fuels start-up, Synhelion SA (Synhelion) to use their solar aviation fuel.
- **SWISS is set to become the world's first airline to use Solar Aviation fuel** ("sun-to-liquid" fuel).
- Synhelion is set to build the world's first facility to industrially produce solar fuel in Julich, Germany. The plant will become operational from 2022 onwards.
- SWISS will become the first customer of solar kerosene in 2023.
- As per the agreement, SWISS and Lufthansa will also support the commercial fuel production facility of Synhelion in Spain.
- Solar Aviation fuel: SWISS and the Lufthansa Group have concluded a strategic collaboration with Synhelion, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) spinoff, to bring solar aviation fuel to market.
- Synhelion has developed a key technology for manufacturing sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from renewable energy sources
- The process uses concentrated solar heat to manufacture syngas which can then be synthesized into carbon-neutral kerosene using standard industrial processes.
- This sun to liquid fuel will only produce as much as carbon dioxide as used in to its manufacture.
- This fuel will contribute to effectively decarbonizing air transport.

### 1.25 INDIA-ITU HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT (HCA).

#### Why in news?

- Recently, Union Minister of Communications and Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA).

#### About the agreement

- HCA was signed in a virtual ceremony during the World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly-20 (WTSA-20) being held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- HCA provides the **legal and financial framework for the establishment and operations** of the Area Office and innovation center of ITU in New Delhi, India.

#### About the Area Office and innovation center

- The Area Office and Innovation Centre is expected to be operational by mid-2022.
- Innovation Centre will provide opportunities to academics, start-ups, and Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to showcase their innovation on a global stage.
- It will serve Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and India.

#### International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- ITU is the **United Nations specialized agency** responsible for information and communication technologies (ICTs).
- It is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland**.
- It was established in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, making it the oldest UN agency.
- ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries.

#### **World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (WTSA)**

- WTSA is a **four-yearly global conference of ITU** dedicated to **standardization of the Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs)**.
- WTSA defines general policy and adopts working methods and procedures for ITU-T.
- Article 18 of the ITU Constitution and Article 13 of the ITU Convention provides the functions of the WTSA.
- India has proposed to host the next WTSA to be held in 2024.

### **1.26 MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS HELD IN BARCELONA, SPAIN.**

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

- The Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) has organised the 2022 **Mobile World Congress (MWC)**, which took place in Barcelona, Spain from 28 February to 3 March.
- The MWC-22 focused on increasing the global connectivity of the 5G network and economic recovery.
- Global Mobile Economy Report expects 5G connections globally to reach 1 billion in 2022 by 5G adoption. Increase in the 5G network connection will increase the global GDP by 5% up to \$5 trillion in 2025.

#### **About Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA):**

- The GSM Association is an industry organisation that represents the interests of mobile network operators worldwide. More than 750 mobile operators are full GSMA members and a further 400 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem are associate members.
- Established in 1995
- Headquarters - London, United Kingdom

### **1.27 FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE RETAINS PAKISTAN IN THE GREY LIST.**

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

- The global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), **retained Pakistan in the grey list** and asked the country to work on money laundering investigations and prosecutions.
- The decision has been taken after the conclusion of the four-day FATF Plenary from March 1-4, 2022. The event took place in hybrid mode from Paris, France.
- FATF also added the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** to its grey watchlist.
- Pakistan has been on the grey list of FATF since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering, and terror financing. It was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019 but it fails to comply with the FATF mandates.
- Pakistan is now targeting the full completion of the 2021 action plan on anti-money laundering and combating terror financing by the end of January 2023.

#### **About Financial Action Task Force (FATF):**

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an **inter-governmental organization** established to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- It was **formed in 1989 by the G7 Summit** which was held in Paris. The FATF is really a policy-making body that works with governments to bring about national legislation and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- Headquarters- **Paris, France**

- Members- 39 nations along with 9 FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs)

## 1.28 COSTA RICA LEGALISES THE USE OF MEDICINAL MARIJUANA.

### Why in news?

- Recently, Costa Rica has legalised the use of medicinal marijuana and also the cultivation and industrial production of hemp.
- However, for recreational purposes it remains banned.
- **Medical marijuana** uses marijuana plant or its **active chemical (Cannabinoids)** to **treat diseases or conditions** like glaucoma; mental health conditions like schizophrenia and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); etc.
- In India, the use of Marijuana is **not completely banned** as its medical and scientific use is allowed under the law.
- However, its sale and consumption are banned under Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985.

## 1.29 GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR.

### Why in news?

- Russian troops have been accused of violating Geneva conventions in ongoing war.
- **Geneva Conventions** are a set of **four treaties** (formalised in 1949) and **three additional protocols**, the first two of which were formalised in 1977 and the third in 2005, which codify widely accepted **ethical and legal international standards for humanitarian treatment of those impacted by any ongoing war**.
- Geneva Conventions have been ratified by 196 states, including all UN member states.
- Three Protocols have been ratified by 174, 169 and 79 states respectively.

### About Geneva Conventions

- **First Geneva Convention**
- Protects wounded and sick soldiers on land during war. • Also extends to medical and religious personnel, medical units, and medical transport.
- **Second Geneva Convention**
- Protects wounded, sick and shipwrecked military personnel at sea during war.
- Also extends to hospital ships and medical transports by sea.
- **Third Geneva Convention**
- Applies to prisoners of war, including a wide range of general protections such as humane treatment, maintenance and equality across prisoners etc.
- **Fourth Geneva Convention**
- Protects civilians, including those in occupied territory.

### Three Additional Protocols

#### Protocol I and II

- They strengthen the protection of victims of international (Protocol I) and non-international (Protocol II) armed conflicts and place limits on the way wars are fought.

#### Protocol III

- Created an additional emblem, the Red Crystal, which has the same international status as the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems.

## 1.30 KATELIN NOVAK ELECTED AS HUNGARY'S FIRST-EVER FEMALE PRESIDENT.

### Why in news?

- The Hungarian Parliament has elected the ruling Fidesz Party lawmaker, **Katelin Novak**, as **Republic of Hungary's first-ever female President**.
- By winning the election, she has become **Hungary's youngest ever head of state, at the age of 44**.



- She received 137 votes (a 2/3rd majority) against her opposition rival, Peter Rona, an economist, who received 52 votes.
- She will replace her predecessor, Janos Ader, who has been holding the presidency since 2012 and was also a co-founder of the Fidesz Party.
- Novak will hold the Presidency for a tenure of five years, during which she has the power to temporarily block laws and call referendums.
- Earlier, she served as the Vice President of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's Fidesz party and also as a Minister for Family Affairs.

### 1.31 'MAHATMA GANDHI GREEN TRIANGLE' UNVEILED IN MADAGASCAR.

#### Why in news?

- **Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle** has been unveiled in **Madagascar** to mark **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- Ambassador of India to Madagascar, **Abhay Kumar** celebrated the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by inaugurating a Green Triangle, along with Mayor of Antananarivo Naina Andriantsitohaina.
- The word **green in the plaque signifies their commitment to sustainable development and saving the environment**. The naming of this park as Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle is an apt tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

### 1.32 INDIA'S ARCTIC POLICY RELEASED RECENTLY.

#### Why in news?

- Union Minister of State (MoS) for Science & Technology recently released India's Arctic policy titled 'India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development' in New Delhi.
- India is one of 13 nations holding Observer status in the Arctic Council.
- Thirteen Non-arctic States have been approved as Observers to the Arctic Council. They are
- France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, China, Poland, India, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

#### Objective:

- To promote the agenda of strengthening national capabilities and competencies in science and environmental protection, maritime and economic cooperation with the Arctic region.
- To enhance understanding of the impact of climate change in the Arctic and deepen India's participation in climate, economic, and energy security related issues. It studies linkages between polar regions and the Himalayas.
- **India's Arctic Policy is based on six pillars:**
- Strengthening India's scientific research and cooperation,
- Climate and environmental protection,
- Economic and human development,
- Transportation and connectivity,
- Governance and international cooperation,
- National capacity building in the Arctic region.

#### Background

- India began its engagement with the Arctic region **when it signed the Svalbard Treaty** (originally the Spitsbergen Treaty) in 1920 in Paris, France.
- In 2007, India began its Arctic Research Program which focuses on climate change.
- India also set up a **research station 'Himadri'(2008)** in the international Arctic research base at Ny-Alesund, Svalbard, Norway.
- India is actively participating in studies and research development related to the Arctic oceanography, atmosphere, pollution and microbiology.

- **India established IndArc**, which is the **first multi-sensor moored observatory in Kongsfjorden in 2014** and the northernmost Gruvebadet Atmospheric Laboratory in Ny Alesund in 2016 were launched in the Arctic region.
- The **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa** under the MoES, is the **nodal institution for India's Polar research programme, which includes Arctic studies.**

#### **About Arctic Council:**

- Founded in 1996, it is Headquartered in Tromso, Norway
- Council members (8)- eight Arctic states-Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia and the U.S
- Observer states (13)-France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, China, Poland, India, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

### **1.33 FINLANDIZATION.**

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

- French President suggested Finlandization can be a way to ease tensions over Ukraine.
- It refers to the **policy of strict neutrality between Moscow and the West** that Finland followed during decades of Cold War.
- Principle of neutrality was rooted in Agreement of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance that Finland signed with USSR in 1948.
- 1948 treaty formed the basis of Helsinki-Moscow relations until 1992, when Finland signed a new agreement with post-Soviet Russia.

### **1.34 LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES.**

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

- In a UNSC meeting Indian foreign secretary called for greater policy alignment between the U.N. and the LAS (League of Arab States).

#### **About League of Arab States or Arab League**

- It is an intergovernmental organization (IGO), a voluntary association of independent African and Middle East countries whose peoples are mainly Arabic speaking.
- Purpose: To strengthen ties among the member states, coordinate their policies, and promote their common interests.
- Founded in 1945.
- Headquarters: **Cairo, Egypt**

### **1.35 SOLOMON ISLAND SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH CHINA.**

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

- Solomon has signed an agreement with China which could allow Chinese soldiers and police to be deployed in the Pacific nation.

#### **About Solomon Islands**

- It is an archipelagic state in Melanesia, located in southwest Pacific Ocean. It is geographically positioned in the Southern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth.
- Neighborhood: Located to the southeast of Papua New Guinea and to the northwest of Vanuatu.
- Geographical Features: A wide-spread archipelago of mountainous, heavily forested volcanic islands (some active) and a few low-lying coral atolls.
- The highest point in the Solomon Islands is Mount Popomanaseu and lowest point is the Pacific Ocean.

### **1.36 A CHILDREN'S BOOK 'THE LITTLE BOOK OF JOY' AUTHORED BY DALAI LAMA & DESMOND TUTU.**

### Why in news?

- A picture book edition co-authored by **Nobel Peace Prize winners 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) & Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, titled **"The Little Book of Joy"** will be released in September 2022.
- The illustrations provided by artist Rafael López and Rachel Neumann & Douglas Abrams collaborated on the text. This book focuses on the meaning of true happiness, which is not in the materialistic world but lies in the nature of human beings.
- In 2016, they also co-authored the book titled **"The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World"**, which became a bestseller & sold more than 1 million copies and translated into more than 40 languages.

## 1.37 INDIA LOOKS TOWARDS MERCOSUR NATIONS FOR SUNFLOWER OIL.

### Why in news?

- India is looking to sign long-term contracts with MERCOSUR countries to import crude sunflower oil as Russia's invasion of Ukraine has disrupted imports, leading to skyrocketing edible oil prices.
- For this, India may need to reduce the import duty on sunflower oil originating from Mercosur countries and do away with the stringent testing requirements under the existing preferential tariff agreement (PTA) with the grouping, signed in 2004.

### **About MERCOSUR**

- Established in 1991, MERCOSUR is the Latin American trading bloc with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay as its members.

## 1.38 BUCHAREST NINE REJECTS RUSSIAN CLAIM ABOUT NATO'S EASTWARD EXPANSION.

### Why in news?

- Bucharest Nine rejected the Russian claim about the eastward "expansion" of NATO.
- B9 is a group of **9 NATO countries in Eastern Europe** that became part of the US-led military alliance after end of Cold War.
- It was founded in 2015, and takes its name from Bucharest, the capital of Romania.
- All members of B9 are part of European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).
- B9 members are **Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia**, and three Baltic republics of **Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania**.

## 1.39 ILO ELECTS GILBERT FOSSOUN HOUNGBO AS NEXT DIRECTOR- GENERAL.

### Why in news?

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) elected Gilbert Fossoun Hougbo from Togo as its next Director-General (DG). He will take office on 1st October 2022 for five years.
- **Gilbert F. Hougbo** will become the 11th DG of ILO and the First African to hold the post of DG.
- He will succeed Guy Ryder from the United Kingdom (UK), who has held the office since 2012.
- He was elected by the ILO's Governing Body, which consists of representatives of governments, workers and employers during their meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The ILO's Governing Body is composed of 56 titular members (28 Governments, 14 Employers and 14 Workers) and 66 deputy members (28 Governments, 19 Employers and 19 Workers).

### **About International Labour Organization (ILO):**

- Headquarters-Geneva, Switzerland
- Director-General- Guy Ryder (March 2022)
- Founded-1919 Members-
- 187 Member Countries

**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. Consider the following statements regarding SWIFT -Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication-**

1. It a non-listed Belgium-based firm, which is actually a cooperative of banks.
2. It doesn't handle any transfers of funds itself but its messaging system provides banks the means to communicate.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**2. Consider the following statements regarding International Court of Justice:**

1. The seat of the Court is at Paris.
2. It is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

**3. India has recently renewed Bilateral Swap Arrangement upto \$75 billion with which of the following countries?**

- A. Japan
- B. Canada
- C. UAE
- D. Indonesia

**ANSWER: A**

**4. The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway which was opened in-**

- A. 1859
- B. 1865
- C. 1869
- D. 1879

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Which airline is set to become world's first airline to use solar aviation fuel?**

- A. Air France
- B. SWISS
- C. Qatar Airways
- D. Singapore Airlines

**ANSWER: B**

**6. India has recently signed Host Country agreement with International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The headquarters of ITU are located in-**

- A. Brussels
- B. London
- C. Geneva
- D. Lisbon

**ANSWER: C**

**7. The 2022 Mobile World Congress has been recently held in-**

- A. Amsterdam
- B. Barcelona
- C. Cairo
- D. Dubai

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Consider the following statements about Financial Action Task Force-**

- 1. It is intergovernmental organisation founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G20 to develop policies to combat money laundering.
- 2. It is headquartered at London, UK.

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

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

**ANSWER: D**

**9. Consider the following statements with respect to Marijuana use in India-**

- 1. The use of Marijuana is not completely banned as its medical and scientific use is allowed under the law.
- 2. Its sale and consumption are banned under Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985

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

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

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Consider the following statements regarding Geneva conventions-**

1. These are a set of four treaties and three additional protocols.
2. Geneva Conventions have been ratified by 196 states, including all UN member states.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**11. Who has been recently selected as Hungary's first-ever female President?**

- A. Anna Orosz
- B. Andrea Mager
- C. Monika Karas
- D. Katelin Novak

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle has been recently unveiled in which of the following countries?**

- A. Madagascar
- B. Seychelles
- C. Mauritius
- D. Sri Lanka

**ANSWER: A**

**13. India recently released its 'Arctic Policy'. With respect to Arctic Council, consider the following statements:**

1. India holds observer status in the Arctic Council.
2. It is headquartered in Toronto, Canada.
3. National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa is the nodal institution for Arctic Studies.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**14. The term Finlandization, seen recently in news, is associated with-**

- A. Health
- B. Education
- C. Social security to old age
- D. International neutrality

**ANSWER: D**

**15. With respect to League of Arab States, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is an intergovernmental organization (IGO) of independent African and Middle East countries whose peoples are mainly Arabic speaking.
- 2. It is headquartered in Riyadh.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Solomon Islands has signed an agreement with China to allow deployment of soldiers. Solomon Islands is located in-**

- A. Indian Ocean
- B. South China Sea
- C. Pacific Ocean
- D. Mediterranean Sea

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Which of the following is the name of book recently authored by Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu?**

- A. The Book of Happiness
- B. The Book of Life
- C. The Little Book of Joy
- D. none of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**18. MERCOSUR trading block does not include which of the following countries?**

- A. Argentina
- B. Brazil
- C. Paraguay
- D. Chile

**ANSWER: D**

**19. Which of the following countries is not a member of Bucharest nine?**

- A. Estonia

- B. Bulgaria
- C. Romania
- D. Croatia

**ANSWER: D**

**20. Gilbert F. Hougbo has been elected as next director- general of International Labour Organization. He belongs to-**

- A. Malawi
- B. Benin
- C. Congo
- D. Togo

**ANSWER: D**





## DAYS TO REMEMBER

### 1.40 ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY OBSERVED ON 1ST MARCH.

#### Why in news?

- **The Zero Discrimination Day** is held every year on the **1st of March**. The day aims to ensure right to equality, inclusion and protection of all people without any discrimination in their law and policies to live a full life with dignity regardless of any barriers.
- Zero Discrimination Day highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and, above all, a movement for change. Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination.
- **The theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2022: "Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower"**, UNAIDS is highlighting the urgent need to take action against discriminatory laws.
- Zero Discrimination Day was first celebrated on **March 1, 2014**, and was launched by UNAIDS Executive Director at Beijing after UNAIDS launched its **Zero Discrimination Campaign on World AIDS Day in December 2013**.

### 1.41 WORLD CIVIL DEFENCE DAY OBSERVED ON 1ST MARCH.

#### Why in news?

- **World Civil Defence Day** is annually observed across the globe on **1st March** to honour the significance of Civil Defence and the personnel who have sacrificed their lives for it.
- The purpose of the Day is to promote public awareness about civil defence, civil protection and emergency management in order to better prepare the civilian population to protect itself in the event of an emergency and to reduce the risk of disaster.
- **The theme of World Civil Defence Day 2022** is "Civil defence and management of displaced populations in face of disasters and crises; role of volunteers and the fight against pandemics".

### 1.42 WORLD WILDLIFE DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH.

#### Why in news?

- The **World Wildlife Day** is observed every year on **March 3** to raise awareness about the world's wild fauna and flora.
- The day also reminds us of the need to fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species causing various wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.
- **Theme of the day:** World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2022 under the theme "**Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration**", as a way to draw attention to the conservation status of some of the most critically endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and to drive discussions towards imagining and implementing solutions to conserve them.
- The day was proposed by **Thailand and recognised in 2013** by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- March 3 has been chosen as it is the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.

### 1.43 NATIONAL SAFETY DAY OBSERVED ON 4TH MARCH.

#### Why in news?

- The **National Safety Day (NSD)** is celebrated every year on the **4th of March** to commemorate the foundation of the **National Safety Council (NSC) of India**.
- The day aims to raise public awareness of all safety principles, including road safety, workplace safety, human health safety, and environmental safety. The year 2022 marks 51st National Safety Day.
- This year, the National Safety Council of India announced the theme to be '**Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture**'.

- The first National Safety Day was observed in **1972**. The National Safety Council was set up on **4th March 1966** by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, to develop and implement a voluntary routine in the areas of safety, health, and the environment.

#### 1.44 NATIONAL SECURITY DAY OBSERVED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH.

##### Why in news?

- March 4 is observed as National Security Day in India. It is also known as **Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas** and is celebrated to honour the National Security Day.
- The day aims to show gratitude to our security forces which include military, para-military, commandos, police officials, guards, and India's security forces and to those who maintain peace and security of our country.
- March 4 marks the day when the National Safety Council of India was established in 1966. The Ministry of Labour under the Government of India took this decision and **National Security Day was celebrated for the first time in 1972**.
- **National Security Council**, the apex agency looks into the country's political, economic, energy and strategic security concerns which were **established** by the then Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee on **November 19, 1998**.

#### 1.45 WORLD OBESITY DAY OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 4TH MARCH

##### Why in news?

- **World Obesity Day** is observed every year on **March 04**. It is observed to spread awareness about obesity and encourage action towards its elimination.
- The day is organised by the World Obesity Federation, a non-profit body that is in official relations with the **World Health Organisation**.
- The **theme** of World Obesity Day 2022 is **'Everybody Needs to Act'**. The campaign aims to improve the world's understanding, prevention and treatment of obesity.
- **Significance**-Obesity is one of the biggest health crises in the world, affecting 800 million people with millions more at risk, according to worldobesity.org.
- **Background**: World Obesity Day goes way back to the year **2015**, wherein a non-profit organization worked closely with World Health Organisation and Lancet Commission in helping spread awareness.
- Later in **2016**, the focus was shifted to childhood obesity, while later in 2017, the idea was to treat obesity now and avoid consequences later.

#### 1.46 JAN AUSHADHI DIWAS CELEBRATED ON 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH.

##### Why in news?

- The **Jan Aushadhi Diwas** is celebrated on **7 March 2022** by the **Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)**. The day is observed to spread awareness about the usages of generic medicines and the benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. The theme of the 4 Janaushadhi Diwas is **"Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi"**.
- On this occasion, Doctors, Health Workers, Nurses, Pharmacists, and Jan Aushadhi Mitra will discuss the Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. The government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to **10,500 by March 2025**.
- Janaushadhi Kendras is the world's biggest retail pharma chain having around 6,200 outlets in 700 districts of the country. It also provides a good source of self-employment with sustainable and regular earnings. The first Jan Aushadhi Diwas was celebrated on **7th of March 2019**.

#### 1.47 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED ON 8TH MARCH.

##### Why in news?

- **International Women's Day (IWD)** is celebrated globally on **March 8** every year. The day recognises the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The event celebrates women's achievements and raises awareness about women's equality and lobbies for accelerated gender parity.
- The theme of 2022 International Women's Day is "**gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**".
- International Women's Day is celebrated to recognise the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Organisations like colleges and institutions across the world celebrate International Women's Day by holding public speeches, rallies, exhibitions, workshops and seminars on themes and concepts, debates, quiz competitions and lectures.
- The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in the International Women's Year, **1975**.
- In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace.

### 1.48 UN CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN JUDGES.

#### Why in news?

- The United Nations(UN) celebrated the **first-ever annual observance of the International Day of Women Judges on 10th March 2022**.
- Starting from 2022 the 10th March will be annually celebrated across the globe as International Day of Women Judges to promote the full and equal participation of women at all levels of the judiciary.
- The day also celebrates the progress that has been made and raises awareness about the challenges ahead.
- The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution in April 2021 and proclaimed the 10th March of every year as the International Day of Women Judges. The resolution was drafted by the State of Qatar.
- **Gender Equality & Women Judges:**
- Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls - **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5** is one of the crucial steps to achieve progress across all the SDG.
- **Observance in India:**
- The Supreme Court of India commemorated the first-ever International Day of Women Judges with special programmes organised by the Supreme Court Registry.
- **First Women Judge of SC:** In 1989, **M. Fathima Beevi** (from Kerala) became the first female judge in the Supreme Court, a position she held till her retirement on 29 April 1992.

### 1.49 WORLD KIDNEY DAY ON MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>

#### Why in news?

- World Kidney Day(WKD) is annually **observed across the globe on the 2nd Thursday of March** to create awareness about several kidney diseases and to educate about the significance of kidneys in our overall health.
- The day also aims to advance kidney health education and focuses on preventive interventions to prevent the onset and progression of kidney diseases.
- World Kidney Day 2022 falls on 10th March 2022.
- The **theme** of World Kidney Day 2022 is "Kidney Health for All: Bridge the knowledge gap to better kidney care".
- World Kidney Day was first launched on 9th March 2006 and the day was fully inaugurated on 8th March 2007.

#### About Chronic Kidney Disease:

- Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a **progressive loss in kidney function over a period of months or years**.
- About 85 crore people across the globe have some form of a kidney illness. Based on rough estimates, about 10 crore people have chronic kidney disease (irreversible kidney failure) in India.

- Between 8 and 10% of the adult population have some form of kidney damage, and every year millions die prematurely of complications related to CKD.
- High blood pressure (hypertension) and diabetes are the most common causes of kidney disease.

### 1.50 WORLD GLAUCOMA DAY OBSERVED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH.

#### Why in news?

- World Glaucoma Day is annually observed across the globe on 12th March to create awareness about Glaucoma, the one of the most common cause of irreversible blindness.
- World Glaucoma Week(WGW), a global initiative of the World Glaucoma Association (WGA) and World Glaucoma Patient Association is also annually observed to create awareness about Glaucoma.
- The week highlights glaucoma as the leading cause of preventable irreversible blindness worldwide. WGW 2022 is celebrated from 6th to 12th March 2022.
- **Theme:** The theme of WGW 2022 is "**The world is bright, save your sight**".

#### About Glaucoma

- Glaucoma is a group of eye conditions that damage the optic nerve.
- It is a chronic, progressive, degenerative disorder of the optic nerve that produces characteristic visual field damage.
- It can occur at any age, but it is most common in older adults.
- It is estimated that around 80 million people have glaucoma worldwide. Approximately 50% of individuals with glaucoma are unaware that they have the disease.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that 4.5 million people are blind due to glaucoma.
- In India (2019), **glaucoma** is the leading cause of irreversible blindness, with at least 12 million people affected and nearly 1.2 million people blind from the disease.

### 1.51 WORLD ROTARACT DAY CELEBRATED ON 13<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH.

#### Why in news?

- **World Rotaract Day** is celebrated on the **13th of March** every year to acknowledge the services provided by the rotaractors across the world.
- The theme of World Rotaract Day 2022 is "**Rotary Making a Difference**".
- World Rotaract Week will be held from **11 March 2022 to 18 March 2022**.
- Rotary Club is the community service organization for young men and women. They take part in international service projects, in a global effort to bring peace and international understanding to the world.

#### What is Rotaract?

- Rotaract means rotary in action. **Rotary** is an **organization of business and professional people who unite worldwide to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world**.
- World Rotaract Day is commemorated to honour the beginning of the first such club, Rotary International, in 1968 at North Carolina, USA.
- Now it has transformed into a major Rotary-sponsored organization with more than 9,539 clubs spread around the world.

### 1.52 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MATHEMATICS OBSERVED ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH.

#### Why in news?

- **International Day of Mathematics (IDM)** is observed globally on the **14th of March** every year. It is also known as the **Pi Day** because the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (**pi**) can be rounded down to **3.14**.
- It aims to educate people about the essential role of mathematics in science and technology, improve quality of life, empower women and girls, and contribute to sustainable development.

- This is a relatively new event that was created just a couple of years back. The theme for 2022 IDM is “**Mathematics Unites**”.

#### History of the day:

- The proclamation of **March 14** as the International Day of Mathematics was adopted in the **205th** session of the UNESCO’s Executive Council.
- The day was then adopted in the 40th session of the General Conference of UNESCO in **November 2019**. Later in 2020, the world celebrated its First International Day of Mathematics on **March 14, 2020**.

### 1.53 WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATED GLOBALLY ON 15TH MARCH.

#### Why in news?

- **World Consumer Rights Day** is celebrated on **March 15** every year.
- The day marks an opportunity to urge that all consumers’ rights be recognised and safeguarded, as well as to protest market abuses and social injustices that jeopardise those rights. The day highlights the power of consumers and their rights for a fair, safe and sustainable marketplace for everyone.
- This year the International Consumer Rights Day will be celebrated on the **theme** of “**Fair Digital Finance.**” The Department of Consumer Affairs will commemorate this day with multiple events being held in New Delhi.
- **History of the day:**
- World Consumer Rights Day is inspired by President **John F Kennedy’s** special message to the US Congress that was delivered on **15th March 1962**. In this message he formally addressed the issue of consumer rights becoming the first world leader to do so.
- The consumer movement first marked that date in 1983 and now uses the day every year to mobilise action on important issues and campaigns.

### 1.54 UN DECLARES MARCH 15 AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY TO COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA.

#### Why in news?

- The **U.N. General Assembly** approved a resolution to proclaim **March 15** as the **International Day to Combat Islamophobia** every year, starting from 2022.
- The resolution, adopted by the 193-member UN General Assembly, was introduced by Pakistan’s ambassador Munir Akram on behalf of the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**, on March 15, 2022.
- It marks the day when a gunman entered two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 51 worshippers and wounding 40 others in the terror attack.
- The **resolution, introduced by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**, was co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen.
- **The objective of the day:** The main objective of International Day to Combat Islamophobia will be curtailing systematic hate speech and discrimination against Muslims; respect for religious symbols and practices; along with the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief.

### 1.55 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NOWRUZ CELEBRATED ON MARCH 21.

#### Why in news?

- The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Nowruz is annually observed across the globe on 21st March to create awareness about Nowruz, which promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families as well as reconciliation and neighbourliness.
- The word Nowruz (Novruz, Navruz, Nooruz, Nevruz, Nauryz), means "new day".

- Nowruz marks the **first day of spring** and is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox, when the sun crosses the celestial equator and night and day are equal in length, which usually occurs on 21 March.

**Background:**

- The celebration of Nowruz in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Turkey was inscribed as an element in 2009, and extended in 2016, on the **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution in February 2010 and proclaimed the 21st March of every year as the International Day of Nowruz.
- The first International Day of Nowruz was celebrated on 21st March 2010.

**Significance:**

- Since Nowruz contributes to cultural diversity and friendship among peoples and different communities, it fits closely with the mandates of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**About Nowruz:**

- The festival of Nowruz is named after the Persian king, **Jamshed**, who created the Persian or Shahenshahi calendar.
- The Nowruz is celebrated as **the beginning of the new year by more than 300 million people** across the globe, and it has been celebrated for more than 3000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and other regions.
- It is also **known as Novroz in the Ismaili Muslim tradition and Naw-Roz in the Bahai faith**.

**Nowruz in India**

- In India, the festival is mostly celebrated around August 16-17 by the Parsi community following the **Shahenshahi calendar which does not comprise of leap year**.
- **Celebration of Nowruz:** An important tradition practised during Nowruz is the gathering around 'the Table, decorated with objects that symbolize purity, brightness, livelihood and wealth, to enjoy a special meal with loved ones.

## 1.56 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS (IDF) OBSERVED ON MARCH 21.

**Why in news?**

- Since 2013, the International Day of Forests (IDF) has been observed annually on March 21 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests.
- The IDF 2022 was observed on the **theme 'Forests and sustainable production and consumption'**.
- It is being organized by the **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)**, and the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations in the field.
- This year's caters to the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12** i.e. **Responsible Consumption and Production**.
- On this day, Countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.
- The theme for each IDF is chosen by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

**Celebrations:**

- FAO along with International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and IUFRO World Congress 2024, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) conducted a high-level panel discussion to celebrate IDF 2022.
- FAO is a specialized agency of the UN that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- IUFRO is a world-wide organization devoted to forest research and related sciences
- SLU is a governmental agency and international university. It is Sweden's host organization of the IUFRO World Congress 2024 on 23-29 June in Stockholm, in collaboration with IUFRO and the Nordic and Baltic partner countries.

### Some statistics about Forests:

- It is estimated that more than half the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) depends on ecosystem services, including those provided by forests.
- More than half the total world population is estimated to use non-timber forest product support their well-being and livelihoods.
- Forests cover nearly one-third of the Earth's land surface and provide people with goods and help combat climate change, protect biodiversity, soils, rivers and reservoirs.
- The world has lost 420 million hectares of forest, an area bigger than India, since 1990, and deforestation continues at about 10 million hectares per year, mainly due to agricultural expansion.
- According to a UN estimate, more than 1.6 billion people are directly dependent on forests for food, medicines, shelter, energy, shelter, income etc.

## 1.57 WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY OBSERVED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH.

### Why in news?

- World Oral Health Day(WOHD) is annually observed across the world on 20th March to create awareness about the importance of oral health. The day also aims to reduce the burden of oral diseases, which affect individuals, health systems and economies everywhere.
- Purpose: To empower people with the knowledge, tools and confidence to secure good oral health.
- The **three-year campaign theme 2021-2023** of World Oral Health Day is **"Be Proud of Your Mouth"**.
- The campaign provides an opportunity to explore the links between oral health, general health and quality of life.
- World Oral Health Day(WOHD) is an initiative of the FDI **World Dental Federation** (FDI), an organization that unites the world of dentistry with the aim of achieving optimal oral health for everyone.
- The **WOHD was first declared in 2007** and was originally celebrated on 12 September, which marks the birth anniversary of Dr Charles Godon, Founder of FDI.
- The campaign was fully activated in 2013 and the date was changed to 20th March to avoid conflict with the FDI World Dental Congress which takes place in September.
- The date 20<sup>th</sup> March was chosen to reflect that, Seniors must have a total of 20 natural teeth at the end of their life to be considered healthy and Children should possess 20 baby teeth. Healthy adults must have a total of 32 teeth and 0 dental cavities, this expressed on a numerical basis can be translated as 3/20 hence March 20.

### India's National Oral Health Programme(NOHP)

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW), Government of India has initiated a National Oral Health Programme to provide integrated, comprehensive oral health care in the existing health care facilities.
- Objective:
- To improve the determinants of oral health,
- To reduce morbidity from oral diseases,
- To integrate oral health promotion and preventive services with the general health care system, and
- To encourage the Promotion of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) model for achieving better oral health.

## 1.58 WORLD PUPPETRY DAY OBSERVED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH.

### Why in news?

- World Puppetry Day was observed on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022. It aims to recognize puppetry as a global art form and to pay tribute to and honor puppeteers from around the world.
- The World Puppetry Day was established in 2003 by the Union Internationale de la Marionnette (UNIMA) also known as the International Puppetry Association.

- On this day, **Sangeet Natak Akademi** under the Ministry of Culture is organizing a puppet festival '**Putul Utsav**' in five cities in India, which include Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Hyderabad (Telangana), Angul (Odisha), New Delhi and Agartala (Tripura).
- **Theme-** 'Azadi ke Rang, Putul Ke Sang'.
- The festival will retell the stories of freedom struggles of India through the medium of puppets.
- Various forms of puppetry art such as String, Shadow, Rod and Hand puppets will be showcased.
- Puppetry in India was traditionally a temple-based art, whose themes were borrowed from puranic literature, mythology, epics and local legends.

#### **About Union Internationale de la marionnette (UNIMA):**

- UNIMA is a non-governmental organization affiliated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- Founded- 1929
- Headquarters- Charleville-Mézières , France

### **1.59 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH CELEBRATED GLOBALLY AS WORLD WATER DAY.**

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

- **World Water Day** is celebrated globally on **22nd March** every year. The day aims to highlight the importance of freshwater. It is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- The World Water Day theme 2022 is “**Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible**”. Groundwater is a crucial resource that provides almost half of all drinkable water across the world.
- This year, the focus is groundwater, an invisible resource with an impact visible everywhere. Relevant issues include water scarcity, water pollution, inadequate water supply, lack of sanitation, and the impacts of climate change that are looked upon on this day.
- **World Water Day: History**
- The idea for this international day goes back to **1992**, the year in which the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro took place.
- That same year, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted a resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in **1993**.

### **1.60 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE RIGHT TO THE TRUTH: 24TH MARCH.**

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

- United Nations has recognised March 24 to be observed as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims every year.
- The day aims to pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives or lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all.
- This day is observed on **24th March every year** to pay tribute to “**Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero**” as he was murdered on 24 March 1980.
- He was actively engaged in criticizing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.
- The day was proclaimed by the United Nations in December 2010, to say no to all forms of violence, injustice and oppression against humanity.

### **1.61 WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY OBSERVED ON 24TH MARCH.**

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

- **World Tuberculosis Day** is observed every year on **24 March** to create awareness among the public about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.
- The date marks the day in **1882** when **Dr Robert Koch** announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.



- The **theme** of World TB Day 2022 – ‘**Invest to End TB. Save Lives.**’ –conveys the urgent need to invest resources to ramp up the fight against TB and achieve the commitments to end TB made by global leaders.

### About Tuberculosis

- Tuberculosis (TB) is a potentially serious infectious disease that mainly affects your lungs.
- The bacteria that cause tuberculosis are spread from one person to another through tiny droplets released into the air via coughs and sneezes.
- Tuberculosis can also affect other parts of your body, including your kidneys, spine or brain.
- When TB occurs outside your lungs, signs and symptoms vary according to the organs involved. For example, tuberculosis of the spine can cause back pain, and tuberculosis in kidneys might cause blood in the urine.

## 1.62 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF SLAVERY AND THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE OBSERVED ON 25TH MARCH.

### Why in news?

- The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is annually observed across the globe on 25th March to commemorate the memory of the victims of Transatlantic Slave Trade.
- The day also offers the opportunity to honour and remember the people who have suffered and died because of the slavery system.
- The **theme** of 2022 International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is "**Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism**".
- The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution 62/122 on 17th December 2007 and declared 25th March of every year as International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.
- The first-ever International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade was observed on 25th March 2008.
- The resolution also called for the establishment of an outreach programme to mobilize educational institutions, civil society and other organizations to inculcate in future generations the "causes, consequences and lessons of the transatlantic slave trade, and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice".

## 1.63 NATIONAL DOLPHIN DAY TO BE OBSERVED ON OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> FROM THIS YEAR

### Why in news?

- October 5 has been designated as National Dolphin Day by the union environment ministry and it will be observed annually starting from this year.
- The National Board for Wildlife's (NBWL) standing committee took this decision to designate October 5 as **National Dolphin Day**.
- The day will focus on generating awareness as it is an integral part of dolphin conservation including the Gangetic Dolphin.
- People's participation to conserve Dolphins will also be focused upon on this day.
- Focus will also be given to improving the Ganga and its tributaries' water quality and flow so that Gangetic dolphins can survive.

### About Gangetic Dolphins

- The Gangetic dolphin acts as an **indicator species**. The status of this species provides information on the ecosystem's overall condition along with information related to the other species that are present in that ecosystem.

- Gangetic Dolphins have been categorized as **endangered species** under the **International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List**. In 2012 and 2015, the Uttar Pradesh forest department along with WWF- India recorded 1,272 dolphins in the Ganga, Chambal, Yamuna, Betwa, Ken, Sharda, Son, Gahagra, Geruwa, Rapti, and Gandak.
- The Gangetic Dolphins are **threatened due to water diversion, pollution, habitat fragmentation**, etc.

### 1.64 WORLD THEATRE DAY 2022 CELEBRATED ON 27TH MARCH.

#### Why in news?

- **World Theatre Day** is celebrated annually on **March 27**, promoted by the **International Theatre Institute (ITI)** through its centres, and supported by theatre communities all over the world. This year, the World Theatre Day celebration will focus on the young, the next generation, the emerging artists, who have been a strong special focus of ITI in the recent past.
- Through this 60-year-old ITI flagship event, ITI wishes to offer the next generation of artists and art professionals a platform to exchange ideas and present themselves to the world.
- The day was initiated by ITI, following President Arvi Kivimaa's **June 1961** proposal at the ninth World Congress of the ITI in Vienna — on behalf of the ITI's Finnish Centre — for a World Theatre Day to be instituted. The proposal was supported by the Scandinavian centres of the ITI and publicized with enthusiasm.
- Since **1962**, World Theatre Day has been celebrated by ITI Centres, ITI Cooperating Members, theatre professionals, theatre organizations, theatre universities and theatre lovers all over the world on the **27<sup>th</sup> of March**.

### 1.65 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH DETAINED AND MISSING STAFF MEMBERS OBSERVED ON MARCH 25.

#### Why in news?

- The United Nations(UN)'s International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is annually observed across the globe on 25th March to recognise the dangers encountered by the UN staff members in their line of work.
- 25th March marks the anniversary of the **abduction of Alec Collett**, a former British journalist who was working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in 1985.
- His remains were found in Bekaa Valley in Lebanon in 2009.
- **Purpose of the day:** To mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as our colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press.
- In September 1993, the UN Security Council adopted the first resolution on Staff security.
- Subsequently, the negotiations took place in the 6th (Legal) Committee of the UN General Assembly(UNGA) on an international legal convention to protect UN personnel.
- Following the negotiations, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel was adopted by the UNGA on 9th December 1994.

**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. What is the theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2022 held on 1st March?**

- A. Laws for Equality
- B. No legal discrimination against anyone
- C. Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower
- D. Legal Equality for all.

**ANSWER: C**

**2. World Civil Defence Day is annually observed globally on-**

- A. 2nd march
- B. 1st March
- C. 29th Feb
- D. 26th Feb

**ANSWER: B**

**3. The theme for World Wildlife Day 2022 is-**

- A. Wildlife-key to all life
- B. Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration
- C. Each specie counts
- D. Together towards a better world

**ANSWER: B**

**4. National Safety Day is celebrated every year on**

- A. 1st March
- B. 2nd March
- C. 3rd March
- D. 4th March

**ANSWER: D**

**5. National Security Day, also known as Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas is celebrated every year on March 4th. It was first celebrated in-**

- A. 1962
- B. 1972
- C. 1982
- D. 1952

**ANSWER: B**

**6. World Obesity Day is observed every year on**

- A. 1st March

- B. 2nd March
- C. 3rd March
- D. 4th March

**ANSWER: D**

**7. Jan Aushadhi Diwas is celebrated every year on-**

- A. 4th March
- B. 5th March
- C. 6th March
- D. 7th March

**ANSWER: D**

**8. The theme of 2022 International Women's Day is-**

- A. The other half is equally important
- B. Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow
- C. All Humans are equal
- D. Breaking the glass ceiling in businesses

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Consider the following statements regarding International Day of Women Judges-**

- 1. It was first observed by United Nations in 2022.
- 2. It is in line with Sustainable Development Goal-2 for Gender Equality.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**10. World Kidney Day is observed globally on-**

- A. 2nd Monday of March
- B. 2nd Tuesday of March
- C. 2nd Wednesday of March
- D. 2nd Thursday of March

**ANSWER: D**

**11. The theme of World Glaucoma Week 2022 is-**

- A. Ensure the sight is right.
- B. The world is bright, save your sight

- C. Ensure Insights on your Sight
- D. If Sight is right, future is bright

**ANSWER: B**

**12. World Rotaract Day is celebrated every year on-**

- A. 11th March
- B. 12th March
- C. 13th March
- D. 14th March

**ANSWER: C**

**13. International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is observed globally on the 14th of March. The theme for 2022 IDM is-**

- A. Mathematics for life
- B. Mathematics for future
- C. Mathematics unites
- D. Mathematics for all

**ANSWER: C**

**14. The theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2022, celebrated globally on 15th March is-**

- A. Every consumer counts
- B. Leave no consumer behind
- C. Fair Digital Finance
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**15. United Nations has declared which day as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia?**

- A. 12th March
- B. 13th March
- C. 14th March
- D. 15th March

**ANSWER: D**

**16. Consider the following statements regarding Nowruz-**

1. Nowruz marks the first day of spring and is celebrated on the day of Spring Equinox.
2. It is listed in Indian list of UNESCO'S Intangible cultural heritage.

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

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: C**

**17. International Day of Forests is observed on-**

- A. 18th March
- B. 19th March
- C. 20th March
- D. 21st March

**ANSWER: D**

**18. World Oral Health Day is observed on-**

- A. 18th March
- B. 19th March
- C. 20th March
- D. 21st March

**ANSWER: C**

**19. World Puppetry Day is globally observed on-**

- A. 18th March
- B. 19th March
- C. 20th March
- D. 21st March

**ANSWER: D**

**20. Consider the following statements regarding World Water Day-**

1. The theme for World Water Day 2022 is "Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible".
2. It is celebrated globally on 22nd March every year.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**21. The International Day for the Right to the Truth is celebrated on-**

- A. 21st March
- B. 22nd March
- C. 23rd March

D. 24th March

**ANSWER: D**

**22. The World Tuberculosis Day was observed on 24th March recently. Its theme this year was-**

- A. It's time to End TB
- B. TB is curable
- C. Invest to End TB. Save Lives.
- D. The clock is ticking

**ANSWER: C**

**23. UN's International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is annually observed on-**

- A. 22nd March
- B. 23rd March
- C. 24th March
- D. 25th March

**ANSWER: D**

**24. Consider the following statements about Gangetic Dolphins-**

- 1. These are categorized as endangered species and are also indicator species for river ecosystem.
- 2. April 5 has been designated as National Dolphin Day by the union environment ministry.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**25. World theatre Day 2022 is celebrated every year on-**

- A. 25th March
- B. 26th March
- C. 27th March
- D. 28th March

**ANSWER: C**

**26. UN's International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is annually observed on-**

- A. 22nd March
- B. 23rd March
- C. 24th March
- D. 25th March

**ANSWER: D**

## PERSON IN NEWS

### 1.66 MADHUBI PURI BUCH BECOMES 1ST WOMEN TO BE APPOINTED AS SEBI CHAIRPERSON.

#### Why in news?

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Madhabi Puri Buch as the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson for an initial period of three years from 1st March 2022.
- She will be the **1st woman to head the SEBI**, securities market regulator and she is also the **1st person from the private sector to head SEBI** and also **1st non-IAS to be appointed as the SEBI chairman**.
- She will be the 10<sup>th</sup> chair of the board.
- She succeeds Ajay Tyagi, who served as a chairman for 5 years. His tenure ends on 28th February 2022.
- Her tenure as a whole-time member of SEBI ended in October 2021.

#### About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

- Establishment - 12th April 1992 (In accordance with SEBI Act, 1992) and headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### 1.67 PROF. BHUSHAN PATWARDHAN NAMED AS CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (NAAC).

#### Why in news?

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has appointed educationist and research scientist **Professor Bhushan Patwardhan** as chairman, of the executive committee of the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru**. The position was vacant after Prof Jagadish Kumar was appointed as chairman of UGC.
- **Prof Patwardhan** is currently a national research professor designated by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, and a distinguished professor at the Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU).

#### About the National Assessment and Accreditation Council

- NAAC is an **autonomous body** established by the UGC on September 5, 1994, with Prof Ram Reddy as founding chairman and Prof Arun Nigavekar as its first director.
- NAAC **undertakes assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions** (HEI) such as colleges, universities, or other recognized institutions to assess the quality status of these institutions.
- NAAC grades are based on predefined criteria of assessment of quality and performance denoting Very good (A), Good (B), Satisfactory(C), and Unsatisfactory (D) levels respectively. NAAC accreditation is a globally accepted indicator of the credibility and quality of the institution and has bearing on the academic, financial, and perceptual benefits.

### 1.68 CHIEF JUSTICE DN PATEL APPOINTED CHAIRPERSON OF TELECOM DISPUTES SETTLEMENT AND APPELLATE TRIBUNAL.

#### Why in news?

- Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification regarding the approval of his appointment by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), stating that he will serve the Chair for a period of 4 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 70 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.
- The conditions of his service will be governed by the provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 and the Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2021.
- Chief Justice DN Patel was appointed as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on June 7, 2019 and is now given the Chair of TDSAT, days before his retirement on March 12, 2022.

#### About Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal



- Created in accordance with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act (TRAI), 1997 (Amended in 2000) authorized by TRAI.
- **Objective:** To adjudicate disputes and dispose of appeals with a view to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector and to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector.
- Powers and Jurisdiction: TDSAT has jurisdiction over Telecom, Broadcasting, IT and Airport tariff matters under the TRAI Act, 1997 (as amended in 2000), the Information Technology Act, 2008 and the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 respectively.
- Establishment: 2000
- Headquarters- New Delhi

### 1.69 T RAJA KUMAR NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE.

#### Why in news?

- **T Raja Kumar**, a Singaporean, has been named president of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, the world's anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing agency. His appointment is for a set two-year term, which begins on **July 1**. During the **FATF** plenary, he was chosen to succeed **Dr Marcus Pleyer of Germany**.
- **Mr Raja's** nomination marks the **first time Singapore has assumed the president** of the organization.
- **Mr Raja** is a senior advisor at MHA and has been the leader of Singapore's FATF mission since **January 1, 2015**. Since **July 2018**, he has also been a member of the steering group, which advises the FATF president.
- The **FATF is an intergovernmental organisation** set up by the **G7 in 1989** to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorism, and proliferation finance.

### 1.70 SAVITRIBAI AND JYOTIRAO PHULE.

#### Why in news?

- A controversy erupted after Maharashtra governor's remarks on Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule.
- Their contributions:
- They stand out as an extraordinary couple in the social and educational history of India.
- Started a school for girls, **Shudras and Ati-Shudras** in Poona (1848)
- Opened a **care centre for pregnant widows** (1853) to have safe deliveries and to end the practice of infanticide owing to social norms.
- The **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha** was started in their own house in Pune.
- Established **Satyashodhak Samaj** (The Truth-Seeker's Society) in 1873, that advocated for social changes that went against prevalent traditions like inter-caste marriages, eradication of child marriages, and widow remarriage etc.

### 1.71 AJAY BHUSHAN PANDEY APPOINTED AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING AUTHORITY.

#### Why in news?

- Government has appointed **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**, former Finance & Revenue secretary of India, Ministry of Finance, as new Chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till he attains the age of 65 years.
- The ACC has also appointed 2 full-time members for NFRA,
- Praveen Kumar Tiwari, former Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General, a retired Indian Audit and Accounts Service official.
- Smita Jhingran, Principal Director General at Central Board of Direct Taxes, an Indian Revenue Service officer.

**About the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA):**

- An independent regulatory body set up by the Government of India as envisaged under the provisions of Section 132, Companies Ad, 2013 to oversee the quality of accounting and auditing standards in India.
- Establishment - 01st October, 2018

**1.72 DEBASISH PANDA NAMED AS CHAIRMAN OF IRDAI.****Why in news?**

- **Debasish Panda** has been appointed as the chairman of the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.
- He is a former financial services secretary. The post of Chairman of IRDAI was lying vacant since May 2021 when **Subhash Chandra Khuntia** completed his term.
- Panda, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, retired as financial services secretary in January this year after a two-year stint.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Panda's appointment as chairperson of the insurance regulator initially for a period of three years from the assumption of charge.

**1.73 US ASTROPHYSICIST EUGENE PARKER PASSED AWAY.****Why in news?**

- Recently, American Astrophysicist Eugene Newman Parker (Eugene Parker), who contributed to the solar physics, has passed away at the age of 94 at a retirement community in Chicago, Illinois, United States of America(USA).
- He was born on 10th June 1927 in Houghton, Michigan, USA.

**About Eugene Parker:**

- Eugene Parker witnessed the launch of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Parker Solar Probe in 2018, the first NASA Mission named after a living person and **became the first person to witness the launch of a spacecraft named after them**.
- He was a visionary in the field of heliophysics, which focuses on the study of the sun and other stars & he is well known for this theory on the existence of solar wind, a supersonic flow of particles off the sun's surface.
- He virtually created the field of heliophysics in the 1950s.

**1.74 FORMER SIKKIM CM B B GURUNG PASSES AWAY.****Why in news?**

- Bhim Bahadur Gurung (B.B. Gurung), Former and 3rd Chief Minister(CM) of Sikkim has passed away at his residence in Lumsui in Gangtok, Sikkim. He was born on 11th October 1929 at Chakung (present-day West Sikkim), Sikkim.

**About B.B. Gurung**

- B. B. Gurung served as a teacher and a staff reporter in a Calcutta(Kolkata)-based newspaper the Amrita Bazar Patrika and he also edited the first news-based Nepali Journal of Sikkim, called Kanchenjunga.
- He started his political career with Sikkim Rajya Congress Party in 1947 and was later appointed as the General Secretary in 1958.
- In 1967, he was elected as Executive Councillor of the Sikkim Rashtriya Congress Party and remained in the party until 1971.
- He was elected to the Vidhan Sabha and served as the speaker of the First Sikkim Legislative Assembly from 1977 to 1979.
- He served as the 3rd CM of Sikkim from 11 May to 24 May 1984, the shortest term in the history of Sikkim.
- Between 2014 and 2015 he served as the political advisor to the CM of Sikkim.

**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. Who has become 1st woman to be appointed as Securities and Exchange Board of India chairperson?**

- A. Vandana Luthra
- B. Madhubi Puri Buch
- C. Aditi Gupta
- D. Falguni Nayar

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Who has been recently appointed as chairman of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)?**

- A. Ravi Mittal
- B. Dinesh Prasad Saklani
- C. Bhushan Patwardhan
- D. Samiran Gupta

**ANSWER: C**

**3. How has been recently appointed Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal?**

- A. Sanjay Karol
- B. DN Patel
- C. Pankaj Mittal
- D. Rajesh Bindal

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Who has been recently named as President of the Financial Action Task Force?**

- A. Emma Terho
- B. Marcus Pleyer
- C. Nitin Chugh
- D. T Raja Kumar

**ANSWER: D**

**5. Consider the following statements with respect to Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule-**

- 1. They started Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha in their own house in Pune.
- 2. They established Satyashodhak Samaj in 1833 that advocated for social changes against prevalent traditions.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Who has been appointed as Chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority?**

- A. Praveen Kumar Tiwari
- B. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- C. Smita Jhingran
- D. Ravi Mittal

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Who has been recently named as Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)?**

- A. Ravi Mittal
- B. Subhash Chandra Khuntia
- C. Debasish Panda
- D. Ajay Bhushan Pandey

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Eugene Newman Parker, who passed away recently, was a famous-**

- A. Painter
- B. Astrophysicist
- C. Baseball player
- D. Musician

**ANSWER: B**

**9. B B Gurung, who passed away recently, was a former chief minister of-**

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

**ANSWER: D**

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1.75 CANADA APPROVES WORLD'S 1ST PLANT-DERIVED COVID-19 VACCINE.

#### Why in news?

- **Canada** became the **first country in the world** that has authorized the use of a plant-based **COVID-19 vaccine**.
- The two-dose vaccine of **Medicago Inc. (a biopharma company owned by Mitsubishi Chemical and Philip Morris)**, can be given to adults who are aged between **18 to 64**, but little data is available on the shots received by people aged 65 and above.
- The decision to authorize the vaccine was based on a study conducted on **24,000 adults** that showed the efficacy rate of the vaccine is **71%** at preventing COVID-19 – although the tests were conducted before the omicron variant emerged. **Covifenz** is the name given to this vaccine.
- Canada agreed to buy 20 million doses of this plant-based vaccine, with an option to purchase 56 million additional doses.

### 1.76 HERMETIC WIPER STRIKES UKRAINE.

#### Why in news?

- It is a data-wiper malware that has been detected in computers in Ukraine.
- When downloaded, it can erase all the data on a device it targets, in a manner that data becomes irretrievable.
- Malware is collective name for a number of malicious software variants, including viruses, ransomware and spyware.

### 1.77 NASA BEGINS ASSEMBLY OF EUROPA CLIPPER SPACECRAFT.

#### Why in news?

- The Europa Clipper which is formerly known as the Europa Multiple Flyby Mission is an **interplanetary mission** being developed by NASA and **also includes an orbiter**.
- The spacecraft, which is scheduled to launch in October 2024, is being designed to study the moon Europa through a series of flybys while in Jupiter's orbit.
- Follow-up studies to those conducted by the Galileo spacecraft during its eight-year orbit around Jupiter will be done by the Europa Clipper. Galileo had revealed the existence of a subsurface ocean beneath Europa's ice crust.
- This project started as a joint mission between the Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) and Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and will be developed with a scientific payload of nine instruments supplied by APL, JPL, the University of Texas at Austin, Southwest Research Institute, University of Colorado Boulder, and Arizona State University.

#### Launch of Europa Clipper Spacecraft

- During a 21-day launch window in October 2024, this mission will be launched on a Falcon Heavy. Gravity assists from Mars will be received by this spacecraft in February 2025, in December 2026 from Earth before arriving at Europa in April 2030.

#### Objectives of this spacecraft

- The objective of this mission is to explore Europa, aid in selecting a landing site for the future Europa Lander, and investigate its habitability. The focus of this investigation is to learn about the three basic requirements for life: liquid water, energy, and chemistry.
- Basically, it will study the ocean and the ice shell and characterize nature and confirm the existence of water within or beneath the ice, as well as process the surface-ice-ocean exchange. The chemistry and distribution of key compounds along with the links to ocean composition will also be studied. The geological characteristics as well as surface feature formation, including sites of current or recent activity, will also be looked into.

### 1.78 C-DAC INSTALLED "PARAM GANGA" SUPERCOMPUTER AT IIT ROORKEE.

#### Why in news?

- The **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** has designed and installed a supercomputer named "**PARAM Ganga**", at **IIT Roorkee**, under Phase II of National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). PARAM Ganga has a supercomputing capacity of **1.66 Petaflops**.

#### About National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)

- NSM is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The mission is implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
- The NSM Mission aims to build and deploy 24 facilities with cumulative compute power of more than 64 Petaflops.
- Till date 11 systems have been deployed by C-DAC at IISc, IITs, IISER Pune, JNCASR, NABI-Mohali and C-DAC under NSM Phase-1 and Phase-2 with a cumulative computing power of more than 20 Petaflops.

### 1.79 RESEARCHES BUILD CHIP TO PREVENT SIDE CHANNEL ATTACKS ON IOT DEVICES.

#### Why in news?

- Indian researchers have **built a low-energy security chip to prevent side channel attacks (SCA) on IoT** (Internet of Things) devices.
- SCA aims to extract sensitive information like cryptographic keys, proprietary machine learning models and parameters by measuring things like timing information, power consumption and electromagnetic leaks of a system.
- They are also referred to as sidebar attack or an implementation attack.
- They are **difficult to detect** and **defend against**.
- **Types of SCAs:** Timing attack, Electromagnetic (EM) attack, Acoustic, Power, Optical, memory Cache, hardware weaknesses.

### 1.80 CHANDRAYAAN-2 MAKES FIRST OBSERVATIONS OF DISTRIBUTION OF ARGON-40 IN MOON'S ATMOSPHERE.

#### Why in news?

- Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2 (CHACE-2), a mass spectrometer onboard Chandrayaan-2 mission, has made the first-of-its-kind observations of the **global distribution of Argon-40 in the lunar exosphere**.
- Earlier, NASA's Apollo-17 had detected presence of Ar-40 in the lunar exosphere confined only to near-equatorial region of Moon.
- **Exosphere' is outermost region of upper atmosphere** where the constituent atoms and molecules rarely collide with each other and can escape into space.
- **Significance** - observations provide details on the spatial variations in Ar-40 through the lunar day covering the equatorial and mid latitude regions of the Moon.
- Observations are also indicative of unknown or additional loss processes, Moon quakes or regions with lower activation energies.

#### Chandrayaan-2 mission

- It is an Indian lunar mission to explore the uncharted south pole of Moon by landing a rover. Its **lander is 'Vikram'** and **rover is 'Pragyan'**.
- Launched by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-III in 2019.
- Though mission spacecraft failed its soft landing on the Moon's surface, its Orbiter continues to successfully collect insights about the Moon.
- **About Chandrayaan-1**

- It was the first lunar space probe of ISRO and found water on the Moon.
- It mapped Moon in infrared, visible, and X-ray light from lunar orbit and used reflected radiation to prospect for various elements, minerals, and ice.
- **About Argon**
- It is an inert, colorless and odorless element, and a noble gas.
- Argon-40 is isotope of Argon that originates from the radioactive disintegration of Potassium-40 (K-40) present below the lunar surface.

### 1.81 ISRO TO SELECT 150 STUDENTS FOR YUVIKA PROGRAMME.

#### Why in news?

- A special programme for school students "YUva Vigyani KARYakram" (YUVIKA) or "Young Scientist Programme" is organized by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- It will provide basic knowledge related to space technology, space science and space applications to young students, especially rural areas students.
- **Objective**-To create awareness about the emerging trends in science and technology amongst the young minds.
- Under the YUVIKA-2022 residential programme, 150 students who are studying in Class IX as on March 1, 2022 will get selected across India from different schools. ISRO outlined the programme to "catch them young".
- It will start from May 16 2022 to May 28 2022 (two weeks) and the program include talks, experience-sharing by eminent scientists, experimental demonstration, facility and lab visits etc.
- It will also encourage more students to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based research /career.
- The programme will be held at five ISRO centres —
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram
- U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru •
- Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad
- National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad
- North-East Space Application Centre (NE-SAC), Shillong.

### 1.82 SPACE JUNK HITS MOON SURFACE CREATES BIG NEW CRATER ON MOON.

#### Why in news?

- As per astronomers, Space junk dug new crater on Moon.
- It was the **first unintentional case of space Junk hitting the moon surface** that created a new crater (around 65 feet wide) on Moon.
- Piece of space **junk was part of Chang'e 541 -a lunar mission launched by the China.**
- Craters on the moon are of a more permanent nature than those on earth. This is because:
- Absence of atmosphere means there is no wind system on moon, and hence no cause for erosion of existing craters.
- Absence of tectonics prevents the moon's surface from forming new rocks, or causing a shift in the existing surface patterns.
- Absence of volcanism makes it impossible for craters to be covered.
- **Space debris**, also called space Junk, artificial material that is orbiting Earth but is no longer functional.
- This material can be as large as discarded rocket stage or as small as a microscopic chip of paint.
- Space debris orbits around the earth at 25,265 kph in low Earth orbit.
- **Risk associated** with Space Debris: Astronaut suits/equipment are not designed to deal with it; re-entering into the earth may pose risk to life, Increase the cost of operation etc

#### Kessler Syndrome

- It is a phenomenon in which the amount of junk in orbit around Earth reaches a point where it just more and more space debris, causing big problems for satellites astronauts and mission planners.

### 1.83 EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY INTRODUCES VIGIL- EARTH'S SOLAR DEFENDER.

#### Why in news?

- Recently the **European Space Agency (ESA)** introduced its new one-of-a-kind **mission named "Vigil"**, which is meant **to protect the Earth from sun**. 'Vigil' is derived from the Latin word 'vigilia' meaning wakefulness, while 'vigilis exceptus' means sentry, or guard.
- The **mission was previously named "Lagrange"** after the location the mission spacecraft will be sent but later the name has been changed to 'Vigil'.
- The Vigil spacecraft will be launched to the **fifth Lagrange(L5)** point which is 150 million kilometres from both Earth and the sun.

#### Lagrange Points:

- Lagrange points are the locations in outer space that are gravitationally stable as compared to other locations.
- The L5 is the fifth Lagrange point which is located at an equal distance from both the Sun and Earth. **The James Webb Space Telescope and the Gaia spacecraft**, launched by ESA are located at the second Lagrange point (L2).

#### Functions of ESA Vigil:

- The spacecraft at L5 would stream a constant feed of near-real-time data on hazardous solar activity, before rolling into Earth's view.
- The ESA Vigil positioned in an unvisited position in space will **help to warn earth about the oncoming solar storms** which can damage power grids, disrupt telecommunications and threaten satellites and the vital services they provide.
- This will **provide more time to protect spacecraft in orbit, infrastructure on the ground and explorers now and in the future**, unshielded by Earth's magnetic field and vulnerable to our star's violent outbursts.
- As part of ESA's Vision for the future, the new Protect 'accelerator' will ensure the resilience of technologies on which modernity depends.
- ESA Vigil Mission Patch:
- The design of the patch features a stylised wing of protection which shelters Earth from the sun's hazardous radiation.
- The L5 point is emphasised with the five stars shown just above the blue Earth.

### 1.84 ISRO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS GROUND TEST OF SOLID BOOSTER STAGE FOR SMALL SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE (SSLV).

#### Why in news?

- The testing was carried out at Satish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).
- The successful test of the solid booster stage has given sufficient confidence to proceed with the first developmental (flight of SSW (SSLV-01)). > ISRO usually declares a launch vehicle operational after two successful development flights.

#### About SSLV

- It is a **three-stage** all solid vehicle with the capability to launch up to 500 kg satellite mass into 500 km low earth orbit (LEO).
- It aims to cater to the emerging market for the launch of small satellites into LEDs.
- It is the smallest vehicle at 110-ton mass at ISRO.
- **Advantages of SSLV**
- Reduced turnaround time (take only 72 hours to integrate, unlike the 70 days taken now).
- Cost-effective- cost will be only around Rs 30 crore
- Requires lesser infrastructure and manpower, as it can be assembled by a team of team of six experts within seven days.



- Unlike the PSLV and GSLV, the SSLV can be assembled both vertically and horizontally.
- Accommodate multiple satellites e.g., nano, micro, and small satellites.
- **New Space India Limited**, PSU under Department of Space will be the **sole nodal agency** responsible for providing end-to-end SSLV Launch services for customer satellites horn contractual, technical, programmatic, launch campaign etc.

### 1.85 INDIA'S FIRST AI & ROBOTICS TECHNOLOGY PARK (ARTPARK) LAUNCHED IN BENGALURU.

#### Why in news?

- The country's first **Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK)** was launched in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- It is promoted by a not-for-profit foundation set up by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, with a seed capital of **Rs. 230 crore** from the State and Central governments.
- ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park) along with AI Foundry is going to launch a **\$100 million** venture fund to support AI and robotics innovations in India. The fund will be backed by the government, private companies, and VCs.
- The lab has technical teams working in collaboration with multiple labs at IISc. It will also work with other technical institutes and bodies, including the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, IIT Jodhpur, the University of Aalto in Finland, Indian Council of Medical Research and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

#### About the ARTPARK:

- ARTPARK intends to use futuristic technologies to connect the unconnected will work with a focus on **creating a globally leading Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Innovation ecosystem in India**.
- The ARTPARK has the objective of channelizing innovations to create a societal impact by executing **ambitious mission-mode R&D projects in healthcare, education, mobility, infrastructure, agriculture, retail, and cyber-security** aiming to solve problems unique to India.

### 1.86 . NATIONAL MISSION ON INTERDISCIPLINARY CYBER PHYSICAL SYSTEM.

#### Why in news?

- Recently information was given by Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences on achievements under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical system.

#### About National Mission On Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical system

- The NM-ICPS is a **comprehensive Mission** which would address technology development, application development, human resource development & skill enhancement, entrepreneurship and start-up development in Cyber Physical System (CPS) and associated technologies.
- The Mission aims at establishment of **15 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH), six Application Innovation Hubs (AIH) and four Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRP)**.
- These Hubs & TTRPs will connect to **Academics, Industry, Central Ministries and State Government** in developing solutions at reputed academic, R&D and other organizations across the country in a hub and spoke model.
- The Hubs & TTRPs have **four focused areas** along which the Mission implementation would proceed, namely:
  - Technology Development,
  - HRD & Skill Development,
  - Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Start-ups Ecosystem Development, and
  - International Collaborations.

#### Cyber-Physical Systems

- Cyber-physical systems **integrate** sensing, computation, control and networking **into physical objects and infrastructure**, connecting them to the Internet and to each other.

- Few Potential applications: **Driverless cars** that communicate securely with each other **on smart roads**, Sensors in the home to **detect changing health conditions**, improving **agricultural practices** and enabling scientists to address issues arising out of climate change etc.
- Advances in cyber-physical systems will enable capability, adaptability, scalability, resiliency, safety, security and usability that will far exceed the simple embedded systems of today.



**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. Which of the following became the first country in the world to authorize the use of a plant-based COVID-19 vaccine?**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Hermetic wiper, seen recently in news, is a -**

- A. Malware
- B. Snake species
- C. Recently discovered mega-galaxy
- D. Cyclone in atlantic ocean

**ANSWER: A**

**3. Consider the following statements regarding Europa Clipper mission-**

- 1. It is being designed to study the moon of Saturn, Europa.
- 2. It is an interplanetary mission being developed by NASA.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

**4. C-DAC has recently designed and installed a supercomputer named "PARAM Ganga", at-**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**5. With respect to cyber attacks, acronym SCA stands for -**

- A. Side Channel Attack
- B. Supplementary Cyber Attack
- C. System Channel Attack
- D. Systematic Cyber Attack

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Consider the following statements about Chandrayaan 2 Mission-**

1. It comprised of a lander called ' Pragyan ' and rover called ' Vikram '.
2. It was launched by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-III in 2019.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

**7. YUVIKA Programme, seen recently in news, is associated with-**

- A. Bringing awareness among rural population about WASH strategies.
- B. Providing shelter and employment opportunities to destitute women.
- C. Promoting space related knowledge in young students.
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Craters on the moon are of a more permanent nature than those on earth due to which of the following reasons?**

- A. Absence of volcanism
- B. Absence of tectonics
- C. Absence of atmosphere
- D. All of the above

**ANSWER: D**

**9. A new mission named "Vigil", which is meant to protect the Earth from sun has been launched by?**

- A. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- B. European Space Agency
- C. China National Space Administration
- D. Roscosmos

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Consider the following statements regarding Small Satellite Launch Vehicle(SSLV)-**

1. It is a two-stage all solid vehicle with the capability to launch up to 900 kg satellite mass.
2. The SSLV can be assembled both vertically and horizontally.

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

- A. Only 1

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

**ANSWER: B**

**11. India's first AI & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) has been launched in-**

- A. Bhopal
- B. Pune
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Bengaluru

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Consider the following statements regarding National Mission On Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical system-**

- 1. It aims to establish 15 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH), 6 Application Innovation Hubs (AIH) and 4 Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRP).
- 2. It comes under the ambit of Department of Science & Technology.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

## DEFENCE

### 1.87 CITY OF DESTINY-VISAKHAPATNAM GETS GUIDED-MISSILE STEALTH DESTROYER.

#### Why in news?

- On February 27, 2022, India's indigenous INS Visakhapatnam was dedicated to the City of Destiny, Visakhapatnam, formally.
- The destroyer was dedicated by Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Jagan Mohan Reddy, in a formal ceremony at the Naval Dockyard.
- It has been designed, developed and built indigenously in India.
- It is on her first visit to the City of Destiny for Ex MILAN-22 and Presidential Fleet Review.

#### About INS Visakhapatnam

- INS Visakhapatnam was commissioned in 2021. It will help the Indian Navy in dealing with emerging threats in Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- This destroyer is made in India and has onboard state of the art weapons and sensors as well as modern surveillance radars. The destroyer will also augment the mobility, flexibility and reach of Indian Navy.

#### Project 15B

- INS Visakhapatnam is India's first among four stealth guided missile destroyers under Project 15B. It has 75 percent indigenous content.
- It has been constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.

#### Features of the destroyer

- This destroyer is the most technologically advanced guided destroyer worldwide. It has a displacement of 7,400 tonnes.
- It is the most potent warship to be constructed in India.
- It measures 163m in length while 17m in breadth.
- It has the capability of speed in excess of 30 knots. It has anti-submarine warfare capabilities.
- It is propelled by four powerful Gas Turbines, in a Combined Gas and Gas (COGAG) configuration.
- It has stealth features. It comprised of reduced Radar Cross Section (RCS), full beam superstructure design, plated masts, and efficient shaping of hull.
- It is also equipped to be deployed to fight in Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare conditions.

### 1.88 RUSSIA ACCUSED OF USING THERMOBARIC WEAPONS.

#### Why in news?

- Human rights groups Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, and Ukraine's ambassador to the USA, accused Russia of using thermobaric weapons in the ongoing war against Ukraine.

#### About thermobaric weapon

- A thermobaric weapon is one of the most devastating weapons as they cause significantly greater destruction than a conventional bomb of comparable size.
- It uses **oxygen from the surrounding air** to generate a high-temperature explosion.
- It is **also known as an aerosol bomb, fuel-air explosive (FAE), or vacuum bomb.**
- The **fuel-air explosive** is one of the best-known types of thermobaric weapons. Different **fuels** can be used, including **toxic powdered metals & organic matter containing oxidants.**
- It **can be fitted to hand-held launchers**, can be fired **as rockets from tank-mounted launchers**, or **dropped from aircraft.**

#### Mechanism

- These weapons generally work in two stages.
- As the weapons hit the target, a first explosion occurs and it will open the bomb's fuel container, releasing a cloud of fuel and metal particles that spreads over a large area.
- Then a second explosion occurs to ignite the aerosol cloud into a giant ball of fire and send out intense blast waves that can cause huge destruction.

### Comparison with conventional weapons

- Conventional explosives consist of flue-oxidizer premix-like black powder which contains fuel and oxidizer in the ratio of 25:75. On the other hand, thermobaric weapons are almost 100% fuel and rely on atmospheric oxygen.
- The blast wave of a thermobaric weapon lasts longer than that of a conventional condensed explosive. However, their dependence on atmospheric oxygen makes them unsuitable for use underwater, at high altitudes, and in adverse weather.

### International law

- Thermobaric munitions are **not explicitly prohibited for use against military targets**.
- However, their **use against civilian populations** in built-up areas, schools, or hospitals, could attract **action under the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907**.
- The use of weapons in **indiscriminate attacks** – those that cannot distinguish between combatants and civilians – is **forbidden by the Geneva Conventions**. A thermobaric weapon might be targeted specifically at military installations but it will kill civilians too.

## 1.89 INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS FLYING TRAINER HANSA-NG COMPLETES THE SEA LEVEL TRIALS.

### Why in news?

- India's first indigenous Flying Trainer HANSA-NG designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore under the aegis of **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research**, has successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry.
- The aircraft was flown to Puducherry covering 140 nautical miles in one and half hours at a cruising speed of 155 km/hr on 19<sup>th</sup> February 22.
- The objectives of sea level trials were to evaluate handling qualities, climb / cruise performance, balked landing, structural performance including positive & negative G, power plant and other systems performance.
- **HANSA-NG** is one of the most advanced flying trainer powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine with unique features like Just-In-Time Prepreg (JIPREG) Composite light weight Airframe, Glass Cockpit, Bubble Canopy with wide panoramic view, electrically operated flaps etc.
- HANSA-NG is designed to meet the Indian flying club needs and it is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption. NAL has already received more than 80 nos. of Lols (Letter of Intents) from various flying clubs.

## 1.90 INDIAN NAVY SUCCESSFULLY TESTS EXTENDED RANGE BRAHMOS SUPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILE.

### Why in news?

- On 5 March 2022, the Indian Navy successfully tested the accuracy of an extended range of **Brahmos supersonic cruise missile** from the stealth destroyer INS Chennai.
- Both Brahmos missile and INS Chennai are indigenously built and highlight the cutting-edge of Indian missile and ship-building prowess.
- INS Chennai is a stealth guided missile destroyer of the Indian Navy constructed by the Mazagon Dock Limited at Mumbai.

### About Brahmos Missile:

- BrahMos is a **joint venture between** the Defence Research and Development Organisation of **India** (DRDO) and the NPOM of **Russia**.
- It flies at a speed of **2.8 Mach** or almost three times the speed of sound. It has a range of 290 km (as per Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) regulations) and can carry a 200-kg warhead.
- It can be launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface and sea based targets.

## 1.91 IRAN SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES SECOND MILITARY SATELLITE NOOR-2.

### Why in news?

- **Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** successfully launched a military satellite, Noor-2, into orbit at an altitude of **500 kilometres (311 miles) from the earth**. This is the second military satellite launched by the **Islamic Republic**.
- The first military satellite, Noor, was launched in April 2020 at an orbit of 425km (265 miles) above the earth's surface. Noor means light in the Persian language.
- Putting the second satellite in space would be a major advance for Iran's military, raising concerns about the country's nuclear and missile programs.
- The three-stage Qased, or "Messenger", the carrier launched the Noor 2, from the Shahroud spaceport.

## 1.92 PHOSPHOROUS BOMBS USED IN UKRAINE.

### Why in news?

- Recently, Ukrainian police have accused Russian forces of launching **phosphorous bomb** attacks in the eastern regions of **Lugansk & and Donetsk**, collectively called the **Donbas**.
- International law **prohibits the use of white phosphorus** shells in heavily populated civilian areas but allows them in open spaces to be used as cover for troops.

### About White Phosphorus Bombs

- **White Phosphorus:**
- It is a **colourless, white or yellow**, waxy solid. It **does not occur naturally**. It is manufactured using phosphate rocks.
- It is a **highly combustible substance** that reacts with oxygen in the air. It can **catch fire at temperatures as low as 10 to 15 degrees** above room temperature.
- **Applications:**
- Their primary aim is **to create thick smoke** that can hide military forces or mark targets.
- Other applications may include as a component in fertilisers, food additives and cleaning compounds. Initially, it was also used in pesticides and fireworks, but many countries have banned its use in several sectors.
- White phosphorus munitions can cause injuries in two main ways: **burn injuries and vapour inhalation**.
- The **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**, which is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, has **not listed White Phosphorous in any of** the three Schedules of Chemical Weapons.

### About Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- It is an **international organization** established by the **Chemical Weapons Convention, 1997** to implement and enforce the terms of the non-proliferation treaty, which prohibits the use, stockpiling or transfer of chemical weapons by signatory states.
- By the 2001 Relationship Agreement between the OPCW and the United Nations, the OPCW reports on its inspections and other activities to the UN through the office of the Secretary-General.
- The organisation was awarded the **2013 Nobel Peace Prize** "for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons".
- **Chemical Weapons Convention prohibits:**
- Developing, producing, acquiring, stockpiling, or retaining chemical weapons.
- The direct or indirect transfer of chemical weapons.
- Chemical weapons use or military preparation for use.
- Assisting, encouraging, or inducing other states to engage in CWC-prohibited activity.
- The use of riot control agents "as a method of warfare."

## 1.93 MAN-PORTABLE AIR-DEFENSE SYSTEMS-MANPADS

### Why in news?

- Western countries are sending MANPADS to Ukraine for assistance in war.

### About MANPADS



- **Short-range, lightweight and portable surface-to-air missiles** that can be fired by individuals or small groups to destroy aircraft or helicopters.
- Can be **shoulder-fired, launched from atop a ground-vehicle, fired from a tripod or stand, and from a helicopter or boat.**
- Have **'fire and forget' guidance systems.**

### 1.94 BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION (BTWC).

#### Why in news?

- India at the UNSC advocated for the BTWC saying that it is important to ensure its implementation in letter and spirit.

#### About BTWC or Biological Weapons Convention (BWC):

- It was the **first multilateral treaty categorically banning a class of weapon.**
- The treaty **prohibits the development, stockpile, production, or transfer of biological agents** and toxins of "types and quantities" that have no justification for protective or peaceful use.
- Membership: 183 (including India) .

### 1.95 RELATIVISTIC KLYSTRON AMPLIFIER: CHINA DEVELOPS LASER WEAPON TO DESTROY SATELLITES IN SPACE.

#### Why in news?

- The researchers from **China** have developed a microwave machine 'Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)' to jam/destroy satellites or sensitive electronics in satellites in space. It will **function as a high-powered laser weapon.**
- The device can generate a wave burst of 5 Megawatts (MW) in the Ka-band. This band is a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum used for civil and military purposes.
- RKA can be mounted onto satellites for attacking enemy assets in space.
- Notably, China is currently denying that their RKA is a Directed Energy Weapon (DEW), which is a system that **uses concentrated electromagnetic energy** to destroy enemy equipment in a physical conflict.
- However, if RKA were built at scale, it could generate beams strong enough to go through metallic objects moving at high speeds.

### 1.96 9TH INDIA-SEYCHELLES JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE 'LAMITIYE-2022' BEGINS.

#### Why in news?

- The **9th** edition of the Joint Military Exercise '**LAMITIYE-2022**' between the **Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)** will be held from March 22 to 31, 2022 at **Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Seychelles.**
- The Indian Army contingent will be represented by the 2/3 GORKHA RIFLES group (PIRKANTHI Battalion).
- Exercise LAMITIYE is a **biennial** training event, been conducted in Seychelles since 2001.
- The objective of this joint training exercise is to build and promote bilateral military relations, sharing experiences gained during various operations; exchanging skills and good practices between both armies.

### 1.97 KINZHAL MISSILES.

#### Why in news?

- Russia has claimed to have used **Kinzhal missiles** for the first time in Ukraine.
- Kinzhal, which means dagger, is an **air-launched hypersonic missile with a reported range of 1,500-2,000km.** It can **carry nuclear payload of 480 kg.**
- Hypersonic describes any speed **faster than five times that of sound.**
- Hypersonic weapons are normally defined as fast, low-flying, and highly maneuverable weapons designed to be too quick and agile for traditional missile defence systems to detect in time.

## 1.98 EX-DUSTLIK BETWEEN INDIAN AND UZBEKISTAN ARMIES BEGINS.

### Why in news?

- The **3rd edition** of the joint training exercise named **EX-DUSTLIK** between the **Indian army and Uzbekistan army** begins at **Yangiariq, Uzbekistan from 22 to 31 March 2022**. The last edition of DUSTLIK was conducted in **Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) in March 2021**.
- The Indian contingent will be represented by the Grenadiers Regiment and will join the Uzbekistan Army contingent represented by troops of the North-Western Military District.

### **About the Exercise:**

- The joint exercise would focus on Counter-Terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain under a United Nations Mandate.
- The training schedule will focus primarily on sharing of tactical level drills and learning of best practices from each other.
- The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between two armies.

## 1.99 FOR THE FIRST TIME, DEFENSE ACQUISITION COUNCIL (DAC) APPROVES PROCUREMENT UNDER IDEX.

### Why in news?

- For the first time, DAC has cleared the **procurement of 14 items worth Rs 380 crore from Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) start-ups and MSMEs**. These items will be procured by Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.
- The iDEX was **launched in 2018** with the objective of **incorporating cutting-edge and disruptive technologies** in the Armed Forces in a quick time-frame by emphasizing on the startup ecosystem and ensuring self-reliance and indigenization.
- iDEX is funded and managed by a **"Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) formed as a "not for profit" company** as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 for this purpose.
- To boost 'Atmanirbhar Bharat; these proposals have been approved under 'Buy (Indian IDDM- (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured))' category part of the initial Defence Procurement Procedure-2016. The procedure was further updated in 2020.

### **About DAC**

- It is the **highest decision-making body** in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard.
- **Minister of Defence** is the **Chairman of the Council**.

### **Other Government initiatives for Arm procurement**

- **Indigenisation portal- SRIJAN** to provide development support to MSMEs/Startups/Industry.
- **Defence Industrial Corridors** in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- **Defence Investor Cell:** To provide information including addressing queries related to investment opportunities, procedures and regulatory requirements.

## 1.100 NORTH KOREA TEST FIRES Hwasong-17 INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE.

### Why in news?

- Hwasong-17: Intercontinental ballistic missile was test fired by North Korea has test fired its biggest-yet Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), Hwasong- 17 as per the orders of their Supreme leader Kim Jong Un.
- The Hwasong-17 was launched directly from a Transporter Erector Launcher (TEL) vehicle, with 11 axles.
- The missile flew 1,090 km (681 miles) at a maximum altitude of 6,248.5 km (3,905 miles) and hit a target in the Sea of Japan after travelling 67.5 minutes in air.

- Its predecessor, the Hwasong-15, which was tested in November 2017 reached an altitude of about 4,475 km and covered 950 km over 53 minutes.
- **About Hwasong-17:**
- Diameter — 2.5 metres.
- Mass — when fully fuelled, is between 80,000 to 110,000 kg.
- Fuel type — Two-stage, liquid fuelled.

### 1.101 GSAT 7B AND INDIA'S OTHER MILITARY SATELLITES.

#### Why in news?

- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), key procurement panel **chaired by Defence Minister**, has accorded **Acceptance of Necessity** (first step of procurement) for the indigenously designed, developed and built GSAT 7B.
- Proposed **to be launched in next 2-3 years**, GSAT 7B will be a state-of-the-art, multiband, military-grade satellite for the Army.
- It will act as a force multiplier and fail-safe communication support to the force as it moves deeper into network-centric warfare scenario.
- GSAT 7 series satellites are **advanced geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO)** satellites developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to meet the communication needs of the defence services.
- GSAT 7 satellite (launched 2013) is used by Indian Navy while GSAT 7A (2018) is designed (or Indian Air Force).
- Currently, the Army is using 30% of the communication capabilities of the GSAT 7A.
- Other military satellites of India:
- **Electromagnetic Intelligence Gathering Satellite (EMISAT)**: Has an Electronic Intelligence (BUNT) package called Kautilya, allowing interception of ground-based radar and carries out electronic surveillance across India.
- **RISAT 2BR1** synthetic aperture radar imaging satellite: Capability to operate in different modes including very high resolution imaging modes.

### 1.102 PARAM SHAKTI SUPERCOMPUTER.

#### Why in news?

- IIT Kharagpur has launched **PARAM Shakti**, a Petascale Supercomputer.
- A supercomputer is a very fast computer used in advanced scientific applications.
- PARAM Shakti was developed under the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**.
- NSM is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Department of Science and Technology and implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (BSc), Bangalore.
- NSM envisages empowering our national academic and R&D institutions by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising of more than 70 high- performance computing (HPC) facilities.

**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. Consider the following statements regarding INS Vishakhapatnam-**

1. It is India's first among four stealth guided missile destroyers under Project 75I.
2. It has been constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi.

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

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

**ANSWER: D**

**2. Consider the following statements regarding thermobaric weapons-**

1. The blast wave of a thermobaric weapon lasts longer than that of a conventional condensed explosive.
2. It uses oxygen from the surrounding air to generate a high-temperature explosion.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**3. HANSA-NG, seen recently in news is a/an-**

- A. Robot made of nano-graphite in IIT Kanpur
- B. Drone to help in bird census
- C. India's indigenous flying trainer
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**4. With respect to Brahmos missile, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a supersonic ballistic missile developed jointly by India and Russia.
2. It can be launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface and sea based targets.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

5. Which of the following countries have launched second military satellite Noor-2 recently?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Pakistan
- C. Yemen
- D. Iran

ANSWER: D

6. Consider the following statements regarding Phosphorous bombs-

- 1. White phosphorus weapons can cause injuries through burn injuries and vapour inhalation.
- 2. Their primary aim is to create thick smoke that can hide military forces or mark targets.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

7. MANPADS acronym, seen recently in news, stands for-

- A. Medium range Neutralising Defence system
- B. Man-portable air-defense systems
- C. Marine Air portable defence system
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

8. Consider the following statements regarding Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention-

- 1. It was the first multilateral treaty categorically banning a class of weapon.
- 2. India is not a signatory to it.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

9. A microwave machine 'Relativistic Klystron Amplifier', to be used as high-powered laser weapon, has been recently developed by-

- A. USA
- B. Israel

- C. China
- D. North Korea

**ANSWER: C**

**10. 'LAMITIYE' is a biennial defence exercise conducted between India and-**

- A. Mongolia
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Seychelles

**ANSWER: D**

**11. Kinzhal missiles, seen recently in news, have been developed by which country?**

- A. Russia
- B. NATO
- C. Iran
- D. Saudi Arabia

**ANSWER: A**

**12. India conducts EX-DUSTLIK with which of the following countries?**

- A. Tajikistan
- B. Kazakhstan
- C. Uzbekistan
- D. Turkmenistan

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Consider the following statements about Defense Acquisition Council-**

1. It is the highest decision-making body for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the Army, Navy and Air Force and even Indian Coast Guard.
2. The Prime Minister is Chairman of the Council.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Which of the following nations have recently tested Hwasong-17 missile?**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Consider the following statements regarding GSAT 7 satellites series-**

1. They are advanced geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO) satellites developed by ISRO.
2. GSAT 7 is the first dedicated military communication satellite.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Consider the following statements regarding National Supercomputing Mission-**

1. It is jointly implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
2. Recently IIT Kharagpur has inaugurated PARAM Shakti under NCM.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

## ECONOMY

### 1.103 TELANGANA TOPS COUNTRY IN TERMS OF PER CAPITA NET STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT CURRENT PRICES.

#### Why in news?

- Telangana became the top performing state in India with a population over one crore in terms of growth rate of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- It succeeded other states like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- The Gross State Domestic Price (GSDP) of Telangana increased from Rs 359434 crores in 2011-12 to Rs 1,154,860 crores in 2021-22.
- It recorded GSDP growth by 31.12 per cent from 2011-12. It is one of the highest growth rates for any state in the country.
- In terms of the percentage growth in GSDP, Telangana has shown the most rapid increase in its growth rate by around 17% from 2020 to the present.
- Telangana provided more impetus to policies to transform the agricultural sector and simultaneously boost the growth for the IT (Information Technology) and the pharma sectors.
- Major projects including Rythu Bandhu scheme for farmers, world's largest lift irrigation Kaleshwaram project to provide water to the fields and Arogya Laxmi scheme for pregnant and lactating women

### 1.104 INVESTMENTS THROUGH P-NOTES DECLINE.

#### Why in news?

- Investments in the Indian capital market through **Participatory notes (P-notes)** dropped to Rs. 87,989 crore at the end of January and experts believe that foreign investors will continue with their negative stance amid the Ukraine crisis.

#### About Participatory notes (P-notes)

- P-Notes are **financial instruments required by investors or hedge funds** to invest in **Indian securities** without having to register with the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- Investors save time, money and scrutiny associated with direct registration.
- P-Notes are among the group of investments considered to be **Offshore Derivative Investments (ODIs)**.
- The P-Notes include investments in equity, derivatives, debt and other hybrid instruments.
- Majority of the investments is in the equity space.
- P-notes are issued by registered **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** to overseas investors who wish to be a **part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly**
- They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.
- These investments are also **beneficial to India** as they provide access to quick **money to the Indian capital market**.

### 1.105 SPECIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROMOTION DRIVE FOR WOMEN – “SAMARTH” LAUNCHED.

#### Why in news?

- On the occasion of International Women's Day 2022, Union Minister for MSME, Shri Narayan Rane along with Minister of State for MSME, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women - "**SAMARTH**".
- Under the Samarth initiative of the Ministry, following benefits will be available to aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs:
- **20% Seats in free Skill Development Programs** organized under skill development schemes of the Ministry will be allocated for Women. More than **7500 women** will be benefitted.



- **20% of MSME Business Delegations** sent to domestic & international exhibitions under the schemes for Marketing Assistance implemented by Ministry will be dedicated to women owned MSMEs.
- **20% Discount** on annual processing fee on **NSIC's Commercial Schemes**
- **Special Drive for registration** of women-owned MSMEs under **Udyam Registration**.
- **Objective**-Through this initiative, Ministry of MSME is focusing on providing Skill Development and Market Development Assistance to women and more than 7500 women candidates from rural and sub-urban areas will be trained in the FY 2022-23. Besides, thousands of women will be getting marketing opportunities to showcase their products in domestic and international exhibitions.

### 1.106 FINANCE MINISTER SAYS EQUALISATION LEVY LEVIED BY INDIA IS A SOVEREIGN RIGHT.

#### Why in news?

- FM has justified the 2% equalisation levy (EL) imposed by India on the supply of services by multinational enterprises (MNEs), saying it is a sovereign right to tax revenues earned from operations in the country.
- Tech giants and e-commerce firms have been asking India to withdraw the 2% EL on non-resident companies.
- **Equalisation Levy** was conceptualized in 2015, as an interim measure, as one of the three measures to tackle the emerging issue from digital transactions proposed by the OECD in Pillar 1 action plan of **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) project**.
- The **equalization levy** is aimed at taxing foreign companies which have a significant **local client base in India** but are billing them through their **offshore units**, effectively **escaping the country's tax system**.
- **BEPS** refers to **tax planning strategies used by multinational enterprises that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to avoid paying tax**.
- Subsequently **OECD/G20 inclusive framework** on BEPS provides a **solution for global tax consists of two pillars**:
- **Pillar One**: Applied to about 100 biggest and most profitable MNEs (global turnover above 20 billion euros and profitability above 10%), it **reallocates part of their profits to places where they sell products or provide services**.
- **Pillar Two**: Applied to larger MNEs, i.e., companies with over EUR 750 million of annual revenue, it subjects them to the **global minimum corporate tax of 15%** from 2023.

### 1.107 RBI RELEASES BOOKLET BE(A)WARE ON MODUS OPERANDI OF FINANCIAL FRAUDS.

#### Why in news?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a booklet titled "BE(A)WARE".
- It provides information on the common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken while carrying out various financial transactions.
- The booklet will enhance public awareness about financial frauds perpetrated on innocent customers.
- It also provides safeguards against commonly used fraudulent techniques like SIM swaps, phishing links, lottery, fake loan websites and digital apps etc.
- According to the Ombudsman Offices & Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPCs) of RBI, sharing of confidential information by the customers, knowingly or unknowingly is one of the major causes leading to the financial frauds in India.

### 1.108 INDIA'S FIRST 100% WOMEN-OWNED INDUSTRIAL PARK INAUGURATED IN HYDERABAD.

#### Why in news?

- India's first 100 percent women-owned 'FLO (FICCI Ladies Organisation) Industrial Park (FIP)' in Hyderabad, Telangana powered by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organisation (FLO) in partnership with Telangana government was inaugurated with the commencement of operations by 25 women-owned and operated units represent 16 diverse Green Category Industries at the Park.

- It is the flagship project at a national level with participation open to Chapter Members, and the national members of FLO.

**About FIP:**

- FIP in Hyderabad, Telangana is around 50 acres and was established by FLO in association with Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) with an investment of Rs.250 crore. The FIP began operations with 25 Green Projects in Hyderabad.
- The FIP includes amenities from the electronic sector to packaging, medical services, wellness, engineering and food processing to demonstrate the power of women entrepreneurs.
- The park will also offer a home environment for women entrepreneurs including creches and playschools.
- This paves way for female entrepreneurs to run and operate their business from this park.

**About FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)**

- Establishment - 1983 (a division of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and industry (FICCI))  
Headquarters - New Delhi, Delhi
- President - Ujjwala Singhania

### 1.109 UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE (UPI) PAYMENTS WITHOUT INTERNET, SMARTPHONE: UPI123PAY LAUNCHED.

**Why in news?**

- It has been launched by: RBI and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- UPI123pay is a three-step method to initiate and execute services for users which will work on Feature phones.
- It can be used to make digital payments **without the need for an internet connection**.
- Users can perform a few offline steps and easily make UPI payments.
- This helps in digital innovations which will further deepen the digital ecosystem and financial inclusion in the country.
- Additionally, RBI launched **DigiSaathi** - a 24x7 Helpline to address the queries of digital payment users across products.

### 1.110 NABFID TO BE REGULATED AS ALL INDIA FINANCIAL UNDER RBI ACT.

**Why in news?**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) will be regulated and supervised as an **All India Financial Institution** by it under the Sections 45L and 45N of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934.
- NaBFID has been set up as a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.
- It shall be the 5<sup>th</sup> AIFI after Export Import (EXIM) Bank, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Housing Bank (NHB) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

**Background:**

- The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Act, 2021, received the assent of the President on March 28, 2021 and came into force with effect from April 19, 2021.

**Key points**

- The Bill seeks to **establish NaBFID as the principal development financial institution (DFIs) for infrastructure financing**.
- DFIs are set up for providing long-term finance for commercial banks that are beyond the acceptable limits of commercial banks and other ordinary financial institutions.
- Unlike banks, DFIs do not accept deposits from people and source funds from the market, government, as well as multilateral institutions, and are often supported through government guarantees.

### About NaBFID

- NaBFID is being set up as a corporate body with authorized **share capital of one lakh crore rupees**.
- Shares of NaBFID is held by central government, multilateral institutions, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, insurers, financial institutions, banks, and any other institution prescribed by the central government.
- **Initially, the central government will own 100% shares of the institution** which may subsequently be reduced up to 26%.

### Objectives of NaBFID

- Financial objectives - This will directly or indirectly lend, invest, or attract investments for infrastructure projects located entirely or partly in India.
- Developmental objectives - This includes the development of the market for bonds, loans, and derivatives for infrastructure financing.

### Functions

- NaBFID extends loans and advances for infrastructure projects, refinances existing loans, attracts investment from private sector investors and institutional investors for infrastructure projects, organises and facilitates foreign participation in infrastructure projects, facilitates negotiations with various government authorities for dispute resolution in the field of infrastructure financing, and provides consultancy services in infrastructure financing.

### Governance:

- NaBFID will be governed by a Board of Directors and members that includes,
- **Chairperson appointed by the central government in consultation with RBI.**
- Managing Director (MD) along with 3 Deputy Managing Directors.
- A body constituted by the central government will recommend candidates for the post of the Managing Director and Deputy Managing Directors.
- **Two directors** nominated by the central government with up to three directors elected by shareholders and also few independent directors (as specified).
- The Board will appoint independent directors based on the recommendation of an internal committee.

## 1.111 BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS ASKS SOY PRODUCT MAKERS TO GET QUALITY CERTIFICATION, USE INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION (ISI) MARK.

### Why in news?

- **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** organised a webinar on 'Indian standards on soy products to create awareness about soy products.
- The use of soya bean is getting increased acceptance in the form of textured vegetable protein (popularly known as soy badi or soy nuggets), Soy milk, Tofu, soy dahi, etc.
- To maintain the quality and safety of these products, BIS has published seven Indian standards for soy products like fat soy flour, soy milk, soy nuts, soy butter etc.
- Certification will aid in integrating soy products into the Indian diet. It will also benefit the producer by commanding better prices.
- The ISI mark is a standards-compliance mark for industrial products in India since 1955.
- It certifies that a product conforms to an Indian standard (IS) developed by BIS.

### About Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- BIS is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016 for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- **BIS Certification** enables the certificate holder to offer third party guarantee of quality, safety and reliability of products to the customers and is mainly required for import of items.
- **While product certification is otherwise voluntary**, there is, however, **a list of items** which for reasons of public health, safety or mass nature of consumption **are mandatorily certified by BIS**.
- It is **headquartered in New Delhi** and has 5 regional offices.

### 1.112 MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES LAUNCHES MSME INNOVATIVE SCHEME.

#### Why in news?

- The scheme is a holistic approach that combines innovation in incubation, design intervention and protect IPR to create awareness amongst MSMEs about India's innovation and motivate them to become MSME Champions.
- **CHAMPIONS (Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength)** is basically for making the smaller units big by helping and handholding, in particular, by solving their problems and grievances.
- **Details of MSME Innovative Scheme**
- **Incubation**
- **Objective:** To promote and support untapped creativity and to promote adoption of latest technologies in MSMEs.
- **Financial assistance:** Up to Rs. 15 lakh per idea and up to Rs. 1 crore for relevant plant and machines.
- Design
- **Aim:** To provide expert advice and cost-effective solution on real time design problems for new product development, its continuous improvement and value addition.
- **Financial assistance:** Up to Rs. 40 lakh for design project and up to Rs. 2.5 lakh for student project.
- IPR (Intellectual Property Rights)
- **Objective:** To improve the IP culture in India with a view to enhance the awareness of IPRs amongst the MSMEs.
- Also aims to take suitable measures for the protection of ideas, technological innovation and knowledge-driven business strategies developed by MSMEs.
- **Financial assistance** will be provided for Foreign Patent, Domestic Patent, GI Registration etc.

### 1.113 INDIAN RAILWAYS 1<sup>ST</sup> GATI SHAKTI MULTI-MODAL CARGO TERMINAL' (GCT) COMMISSIONED IN ASANSOL DIVISION OF INDIAN RAILWAY.

#### Why in news?

- Under the Prime Minister's GatiShakti initiative, and the Ministry of Railways policy on 'Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal' (GCT), the Asansol Division of Eastern Railway commissioned private siding of Maithan Power at Thaparnagar, Jharkhand.
- This is the first such GCT commissioned by Indian Railways since publication of GCT policy in December 2021.
- In 2009 the Maithan Power Project was started in Jharkhand and the power generation was started in 2011.
- Till now the requirement of coal to the power project was being made through a road which is expected to convert into 120 inward coal rakes per month.
- The new power project will increase the earnings of Indian Railways upto Rs 11 crore per month.

#### About Prime Minister's Gati Shakti-

- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched the GatiShakti initiative in 2021.
- It is Rs. 100 lakh crore 'National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity' project.
- Gati Shakti is a digital platform collaborating 16 Central Ministries and Departments to implement infrastructure connectivity projects.

### 1.114 RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT: INDIA'S WHEAT EXPORTS EXPECTED TO EXCEED 10MT THIS FISCAL YEAR.

#### Why in news?

- Wheat exports from India are expected to grow exponentially in the backdrop of Russia-Ukraine war as wheat crop from India will be available from early March as compared to other global wheat producers.

- **Russia and Ukraine** together account for a **quarter of global wheat supply**.
- So far, wheat exports from India have crossed historical high of 6.5 million tonnes achieved earlier in 2012-13 fiscal.
- This year, it is expected to exceed 10mt.

#### About Wheat

- It is the main cereal crop in India grown in the rabi (winter) season.
- India is the world's second-largest producer of the wheat after china.

#### Climate requirement

- Can be grown in tropical and sub-tropical zones and also in temperate zone and cold tracts of far north.
- Requires cool, moist weather during the major portion of the growing period followed by dry, warm weather to enable the grain to ripen properly.
- Optimum temperature range: 20-25 C.
- During heading and flowering stages, excessively high or low temperatures and drought are harmful to wheat.
- Soils with a clay loam or loam texture, good structure and moderate water holding capacity are ideal for wheat cultivation.

### 1.115 FIRST VIRTUAL SMART GRID KNOWLEDGE CENTRE(SGKC) OF INDIA INAUGURATED IN MANESAR.

#### Why in news?

- The **Union minister for power** has inaugurated the **Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (Virtual SGKC)** and **Innovation Park** in yet another digitisation effort aimed at advancing smart grid technologies and building capacity in the power distribution sector.
- The Union government's new **Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Centre**, which is housed within the **POWERGRID centre in Manesar**, is the first of its type. This platform also hosts the solutions that are physically present at **SGKC's Manesar** headquarters.
- This comprises **advanced metering infrastructure (AMI)**, smart houses, microgrids, and the **Outage Management System (OMS)**, among other things.
- The Virtual **SGKC**, which was established by **Union Minister RK Singh**, would provide a digital footprint of the **SGKC's** physical setup, which was felt to be necessary during **COVID-19**.
- With backing from the Union Ministry of Power and technical aid from **USAID**, **POWERGRID** designed and created the **Virtual SGKC**.
- The platform, as it stands now, coexists with the physical infrastructure and offers remote access to all of **SGKC's** current offerings, as well as others. Currently, the platform hosts more than 50 **solutions** from more than **30 technology partners** across eight theme areas, including **artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain, and IoT**.
- The **SGKC** was formed by **POWERGRID** with backing from the **power ministry** and **National Smart Grid Mission** for demonstration and progress of frontier smart grid technologies, according to the **Union ministry**.

### 1.116 MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED IS NOW THE BIGGEST COAL-PRODUCING FIRM OF INDIA.

#### Why in news?

- The **Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)**, a subsidiary of **Coal India**, has announced that it has become the country's largest coal producer. In the financial year **2021-22**, the company reported it produced **157 million tonnes** of coal.
- The business also generated **7.62 lakh tonnes** of dry fuel on **March 12**. In a statement, the corporation stated that it was the largest production in a single day during the current fiscal year.
- **MCL** has delivered over **166 MT** dry fuel to consumers, a 22 percent increase over the previous financial year, and has removed **195 MCuM (million cubic metres)** of overburden, a **19 percent increase** over the previous financial year, according to a statement.

### 1.117 ILO AND ICAO SIGN AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN AVIATION INDUSTRY.

#### Why in news?

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) have signed a new agreement to boost decent work and reinforce a humanistic-based revival from the COVID-19 pandemic in the aviation industry.
- The agreement has a **five-year duration** and is renewable.
- This agreement will renew the 1953 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning the possible establishment of a joint aviation commission and acts as a follow-up to the request made by ILO constituents during the 2013 Global Dialogue Forum on the Effects of the Global Economic Crisis on the Civil Aviation Industry to refurbish cooperation between the two agencies.
- **Significance:**
- The renewed collaboration between the ILO and the ICAO focuses to guarantee a safe, strong, inclusive and sustainable COVID-19 recovery in the aviation industry.
- Given the serious challenges posed by the pandemic to workers and their rights in the aviation industry, this agreement will be a timely step toward establishing a socially sustainable recovery and decent work in the industry.
- The agreement complies with the ICAO Assembly's Resolutions on the United Nations Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and gender equality and commits to collaborating with the UN system to enhance aviation's contributions to sustainable development, forming a steadfast leadership and committing to advancing women's rights.

#### About International Labour Organization (ILO):

- ILO is the **only tripartite United Nations agency** that brings together governments, employers, and workers from 187 member countries.
- India is a founder member of the International Labour Organization.
- ILO was **established in 1919** and it is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### About International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

- A United Nations (UN) specialized agency established in the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention - 1944) to achieve long-term growth of the global civil aviation system.
- Established in 1947 and 193 Member States.
- Headquarters - **Montreal, Canada.**

### 1.118 SBI TO SET UP INNOVATION, INCUBATION AND ACCELERATION CENTRE AT HYDERABAD.

#### Why in news?

- The State Bank of India (SBI) will set up an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at **Hyderabad, Telangana** which will be operational in six to nine months of on-boarding a consultant.
- This Centre will be the bank's in-house capability to enhance its current performance and drive higher top-line growth through innovation.
- **Features of IIAC:**
- It will help the bank to develop a set of technologies, knowledge, and skills for the introduction of new products and services.
- It will act as a central body to govern and drive fin-tech partnerships and implement change across the bank.
- It will explore emerging innovations, market shifts or technologies that could impact the bank's status quo; pursue large-scale initiatives, will redefine the existing business or create a new business unit or division for the bank; and transfer innovation from prototype to project/product that can be monetised by the bank.

### 1.119 TELANGANA BECOMES FIRST STATE IN INDIA TO IMPLEMENT CROP DIVERSIFICATION INDEX.

### Why in news?

- Telangana turned out to be the first state in India to adopt the Crop Diversification Index (CDI) by way of recording their crop diversification pattern in the form of an index. According to the CDI, Telangana grows 77 varieties of crops, out of which only 10 crops (mostly grains) are chosen for crop diversification.
- The districts of Nirmal, Vikarabad, and Sangareddy emerge as the most diverse, ranking in the top 3 in the state.
- The least diversified districts (bottom 3) in the state in terms of crop diversification would be Peddapalli, Karimnagar, and Suryapet, where paddy is the most cultivated crop, showing a decrease in the cropping areas of maize and an increase in the cropping areas of cotton.

### About Crop Diversification Index (CDI)

- All the areas under the 77 different crops, which include food, non-food, and cash crops, as well as the areas under floriculture practices, have been considered to calculate the index.
- The index has a starting value of **ONE representing the percentage of total cultivated area devoted to a single crop.**
- Many districts in the state have index values ranging from 0 to 5, and the higher the value, the greater the agricultural diversification.
- The index would serve as the baseline for future crop diversification in the state.
- Next to paddy and maize, which are the traditionally grown crops in the state, pulses were the most preferred crops by the farmers.

## 1.120 UPI LITE LAUNCHED BY NATIONAL PAYMENTS COMMISSION OF INDIA.

### Why in news?

- National Payments Commission of India (NPCI) has launched a new UPI service called UPI Lite.
- The feature will allow to **make faster near real-time small value payments without an internet connection** via the money added in the wallet.
- **Upper limit** of a payment: Rs 200.
- According to NPCI, at least 75 per cent of the total volume of retail transactions (including cash) in India are below Rs 100 transaction value.
- Further, 50 per cent of the total UPI transactions are having a transaction value of up to Rs 200. This is why NPCI will only allow offline transactions upto Rs 200.
- **Total limit of UPI Lite balance:** Rs 2,000.
- With UPI lite, users will have the option to scan any QR code and make the payment without internet.

## 1.121 DREDGING CORPORATION OF INDIA (DCI) SIGNS THE HISTORIC SHIP BUILDING AGREEMENT.

### Why in news?

- DCI and Cochin Shipyard signed an agreement to **build India's first domestically-manufactured high-capacity dredger.**
- **Dredging** is the process of desiking river bodies, or removal of soil, mud, and dirt at the shores or the bottom.
- It will **help in bringing down the logistic costs of cargos.**
- DCI is a premier dredging organization catering to the dredging and allied services to Major Ports, Minor Ports, Indian Navy etc.
- Currently, 70% of our dredging requirement is for **maintenance dredging** (maintaining water bodies previously dredged), while the rest accounts for **capital dredging** (desilting for new projects).

## 1.122 GI-TAGGED PRODUCTS LIKE KALA NAMAK RICE HOLD EXPORT POTENTIAL: COMMERCE MINISTER.

### Why in news?

- The ministry said that to promote exports of locally Geographical Indications (GI) tagged agricultural products, the government is identifying new products and export destinations.
- The government, through the Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA), has been facilitating trial shipments of certain products into new markets.
- The products include Kala Namak rice, Naga Mircha etc.

#### About Kala Namak Rice

- Deriving its name from the black husk (kala) and a mild salty (namak) taste, it is considered as one of the finest rice varieties.
- It has been awarded GI Tag from Uttar Pradesh.
- It is a **non-basmati scented rice variety** grown primarily in **tarai region of Uttar Pradesh**.
- It is **highly resistant to rice diseases** such as panicle blast, stem rot and brown spot.
- Water requirement is also low compared to Basmati.
- It is also known as '**Buddha ka Mahaprasad**' (an offering to Lord Buddha).
- It has been **rebranded as Buddha Rice** in order to promote it in Buddhist countries.

### 1.123 KERALA BECOMES FIRST STATE TO INTRODUCE CARBON-NEUTRAL AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.

#### Why in news?

- Kerala became the first state in India to introduce carbon-neutral agricultural practices in select locations for better soil health.
- The Kerala Government in its Budget 2022-23, allocated ₹6 crore for introducing Carbon-neutral farming methods in the state.
- In the first phase, the Agriculture Department will implement the carbon-neutral farming in 13 farms including in tribal areas and steps were also taken to convert the State Seed Farm at Aluva to a carbon-neutral farm.
- In the second phase, model carbon-neutral farms will be developed in all the 140 Assembly constituencies.

#### About Carbon-Neutral Farming

- Carbon-neutral farming is the technique of decreasing carbon emissions and aid carbon storage in the soil, through techniques such as Integrated fanning methods, Crop rotation, Fertigation, Precision Farming methods, Shifting how the soil is irrigated, and restricting the haphazard use of Fertiliser application.

### 1.124 EXPORT POTENTIAL OF NAGA CHILLI TO BE EXPLORED-COMMERCE MINISTRY.

#### Why in news?

- Commerce ministry has put emphasises on state specific agri-products to boost agricultural exports.

#### About Naga chilli

- The chilli from Nagaland is also referred as **Bhoot Jolokia** and **Ghost pepper**, got Geographical Indications (GI) certification in 2008.
- It belongs to genus Capsicum of family Solanaceae.
- It has been considered as **one of the world's hottest chilli** and is constantly on top five in the list of the world's hottest chillies based on the SHUs (Scoville Heat Units).
- SHU measures pungency (spiciness or 'heat") of chilli peppers, and number of times capsaicin needs to be diluted by sugar-water.
- It was used as **chili grenades to immobilize terrorists** and other criminal suspects.

### 1.125 ASSAM KAJI NEMU.

#### Why in news?



- The government is set to give a renewed thrust to use of geographical indications (GI) tag for promotion of unique agricultural products with high commercial potential in the global markets. One of selected product is Assam Kaji Nemu.
- Also known as the **Assam Lemon**, it is a sour citrus fruit and is exclusively used for appetizing, drinks, industries and medicinal uses.
- It is comparatively larger than the regular lemon.
- **Produced all-round the year**, it is cultivated on Loamy and fertile soil.
- Other significant GI of Assam - Joha Rice, Chokuwa rice.

### 1.126 RESERVE BANK INNOVATION HUB.

#### Why in news?

- It has been inaugurated in Bengaluru.
- Set up as a Section 8 company under Companies Act, 2013, with an initial capital contribution of Rs 100 crores.
- RBIH aims to encourage and nurture financial innovation in a sustainable manner through an institutional set-up.
- It creates an ecosystem that focuses on promoting access to financial services and products for the low-income population in the country.
- Hub would bring convergence among various stakeholders (BFSI Sector, Start-up ecosystem, Regulators and Academia) in the financial innovation space.

### 1.127 GOVERNMENT E-MARKETPLACE ACHIEVES RS. 1 LAKH CRORE ANNUAL PROCUREMENT.

#### Why in news?

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) achieved annual procurement of Rs. 1 lakh crore in Financial Year 2021-22

#### **About GeM:**

- One stop portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organizations / PSUs.
- Launch Year: 2016
- Hosted by: Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Benefits: Transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.

### 1.128 GI TAGGED PRODUCTS LIKE BANGALORE ROSE ONION HOLD EXPORT POTENTIAL.

#### Why in news?

- Bangalore Rose onion received the Geographical Indication tag in 2015.
- It is a unique variety of onion that is found only in and around Bangalore, Karnataka.
- It is also known as gulabieerulli.
- It has flat base bulb, spherically shaped, deep scarlet red colour, high pungency and packed with phenols and anthocyanins.
- It has higher levels of protein, phosphorous, iron and carotene.

### 1.129 'HINDUSTAN 228'-19-SEATER AIRCRAFT INTRODUCED BY HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED.

#### Why in news?

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company, introduced a 19-seater aircraft 'Hindustan 228' in a first of its kind attempt to develop small civil transport aircraft under the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam NaagriK) Scheme.
- The Hindustan 228 aircraft can be operated even in semi-prepared and unpaved airstrips.
- Also the multi-utility aircraft can be used as an ambulance, cargo, and parajam or paradrop etc.
- The design of Hindustan 228 is based on the Germany based Dornier GmbH Aircraft. In 1983, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) acquired a production licence for the Dornier 228 and manufactured the aircraft for the Asian market.
- Dornier 228 is a twin-engine general-purpose aircraft, capable of transporting up to 19 passengers or various cargoes.

#### **About UDE DESH KA AAM NAAGRIK (UDAN) scheme**

- The Ude Desh Ka Aam NaagriK (UDAN) scheme was launched as a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016. It is a regional airport development programme of upgrading underserved air routes. Objectives: i. Facilitate regional air connectivity by making it affordable through
- Concessions by Central Government, State Governments and airport operators
- Financial (Viability Gap Funding or VGF) support
- To provide connectivity to un-served and under-served regions through revival of existing air strips and airports.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is designated as the implementing agency.
- It is a key component of National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016.

### **1.130 SHRINKFLATION.**

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

- Cadbury has cut the size of its chocolate product Dairy Milk sharing bar but kept the price same.
- **Shrinkflation** is basically a form of hidden inflation that involves reducing the size of a product while maintaining its sticker price.
- Rather than increase the price of a product, the company simply offers a smaller package for the same sticker price.
- Raising the price per given amount is a strategy employed by companies, mainly in the food and beverage industries, to stealthily boost profit margins.

### **1.131 RBI GOVERNOR DEDICATES VARNIKA INK MANUFACTURING UNIT OF BRBNMPL.**

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

- **Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)** has set up an Ink Manufacturing Unit named "**Varnika**" at **Mysuru, Karnataka**, with an annual ink manufacturing capacity of 1,500 MT to enhance the security of banknotes.
- Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI. Shaktikanta Das (Governor of RBI) has dedicated "**Varnika**", the Ink Manufacturing Unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) to the nation.
- It is a boost to the 'Make in India' initiative. It ensures that the entire requirement of banknote printing inks is produced in-house.
- This unit also manufactures **Colour Shift Intaglio Ink (CSII)** and meets the entire requirements of banknote printing presses in India, which has resulted in cost efficiency and self-sufficiency in banknote ink production.

**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. Which state has topped in the country in terms of per capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices?**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Telangana

**ANSWER: D**

**2. Consider the following statements regarding P-notes-**

- 1. These are financial instruments required by investors or hedge funds to invest in Indian securities without having to register with SEBI.
- 2. They provide access to quick money to the Indian capital market.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**3. A special entrepreneurship promotion drive for women -"SAMARTH" has been recently launched by-**

- A. Ministry of Labour and Employment
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

**ANSWER: D**

**4. Consider the following statements about Equalisation levy-**

- 1. It is aimed at taxing foreign companies which have a significant local client base but escape the country's tax system.
- 2. The current rate of Equalisation levy is 2%.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**5. A booklet titled "BE(A)WARE" to enhance public awareness about financial frauds has been recently released by-**

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Reserve Bank of India
- C. Indian Banks Association
- D. CERT-IN

**ANSWER: B**

**6. India's first 100% women-owned Industrial Park has been inaugurated in-**

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Varanasi
- D. Ahmedabad

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Consider the following statements regarding UPI123pay feature launched recently-**

- 1. It has been launched by RBI and National Payments Corporation of India.
- 2. It can be used to make digital payments without the need for an internet connection.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Consider the following statements National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development-**

- 1. It will be regulated and supervised as an All India Financial Institution.
- 2. The Chairperson appointed by the central government in consultation with SEBI.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Consider the following statements regarding Bureau of Indian Standards-**

- 1. It is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016.
- 2. It is headquartered in Bengaluru.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Consider the following statements regarding MSME Innovative Scheme-**

1. For incubation, The scheme will provide up to Rs 1 crore support for procuring plant and machinery for MSMEs.
2. For IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) promotion, financial assistance will be provided for Foreign Patent, Domestic Patent, GI Registration etc.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**11. Indian Railways 1st Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal has been commissioned in Maithon Power Plant. It is located in-**

- A. Jharkhand
- B. West bengal
- C. Odisha
- D. Chhattisgarh

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Consider the following statements with respect to wheat crop-**

1. It is the main cereal crop in India grown in the Kharif season.
2. India is the world's second-largest producer of the wheat after USA.

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

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

**ANSWER: D**

**13. The first Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Centre(SGKC) of India was recently inaugurated in-**

- A. Manesar
- B. Ahmedabad
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Varanasi

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Which of the following is the biggest coal-producing firm of India?**

- A. Eastern Coalfields
- B. Odisha Coal and Power Limited
- C. Singareni Collieries Company
- D. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

**ANSWER: D**

**15. Consider the following statements regarding International Civil Aviation Organization-**

1. ICAO is a specialized agency of United Nations with aim to achieve long-term growth of the global civil aviation system.
2. It is headquartered in Paris.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Recently State Bank of India declared that it will set up an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at**

- A. Bengaluru
- B. New Delhi
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Mumbai

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Which state has become first state in India to implement Crop Diversification Index?**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**18. The upper limit on payment in recently launched UPI Lite, is-**

- A. Rs 20
- B. Rs 200
- C. Rs 2000
- D. Rs 20000

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Dredging Corporation of India signed an agreement to build India's first domestically manufactured high-capacity dredger with-**

- A. Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders
- B. Cochin Shipyard
- C. Garden Reach Shipbuilders
- D. Hindustan Shipyard Limited

**ANSWER: B**

**20. Consider the following statements with respect to Kala Namak Rice-**

- 1. It has been GI tag from state of Bihar.
- 2. It is a non-basmati scented rice variety and resistant to rice diseases such as panicle blast, stem rot.
- 3. It is also known as 'Buddha ka Mahaprasad'.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

**21. Which state has become the first state in India to introduce carbon-neutral agricultural practices?**

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Punjab
- C. Sikkim
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: D**

**22. Bhoot Jolokia or Ghost pepper is chilli which has been GI Tag from-**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Bihar
- C. Nagaland
- D. Rajasthan

**ANSWER: C**

**23. Joha Rice, Chokuwa rice and Kaji Nemu are GI tag products of which of the following states?**

- A. Assam

- B. Bihar
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Jharkhand

**ANSWER: A**

**24. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub has been recently inaugurated in-**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Mumbai
- D. Bengaluru

**ANSWER: D**

**25. Government e-Marketplace comes under the ambit of which ministry?**

- A. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D. Ministry of Micro small and Medium Enterprises

**ANSWER: C**

**26. Consider the following statements regarding Bangalore Rose onion-**

1. It has higher levels of protein, phosphorous, iron and carotene.
2. It is found only in and around Bangalore, Karnataka
3. It received the Geographical Indication tag in 2015.

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

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

**ANSWER: D**

**27. Hindustan 228, seen recently in news is a-**

- A. Short range ballistic missile
- B. Renamed island in bay of bengal
- C. Small civil transport aircraft
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**28. Hidden inflation that involves reducing the size of a product while maintaining its sticker price is called as-**

- A. Disinflation
- B. Stagflation
- C. Shrinkflation
- D. Hiddenflation



**ANSWER: C**

**29. Varnika Ink Manufacturing Unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited has been recently set up at-**

- A. Pune
- B. Mumbai
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Mysuru

**ANSWER: D**



## INDEX AND REPORTS

### 1.132 FREEDOM OF THE WORLD 2022 REPORT: INDIA RANKED 'PARTLY FREE'.

#### Why in news?

- For the second consecutive year, **India** has been termed as '**partly free**' country in terms of democracy and free society, according to the annual report.
- The report titled "**Freedom in the World 2022 – The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule**" by **Freedom House**, a US-based NGO that 'assesses political rights and civil liberties.
- India scored 66 out of 100 in 2022.
- The country had scored 67 in 2021. India was a free country till 2020 when its score was 71.
- **In Internet freedom, India scored a mere 49**, the same score as that of Uganda. Here too, the score has come down. The reasons are – the increasing internet shutdowns by governments, low internet penetration and poor infrastructure.
- India's freedom scores are similar to that of **Bolivia, Hungary and Albania**. The countries that have scored the worst include **South Sudan, Syria, Tibet, Turkmenistan, Eritrea and North Korea**.
- Sixty-nine countries are currently not free worldwide. This makes the situation worse than in 1973 when only 63 countries were not free.
- Apart from the worst scorers, the list also includes **Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Thailand and Qatar**. This is an increase from the last year when only 54 countries were not free.
- At the same time, there is an increase in free countries from 82 to 85, compared to 2021. In this category, **Finland, Sweden and Norway** have achieved a perfect 100, besides **New Zealand, Canada, Uruguay, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Ireland and Denmark**.

#### Key points of the reports

- In 2022, 85 countries were termed as free, 56 as partly free and 69 as not free.
- The Freedom in the World 2022 evaluated the state of freedom in 195 countries and 15 territories during the calendar year 2021.

#### About the report:

- The report used 25 indicators, grouped into the categories of political rights and civil liberties to determine whether the country or territory has an overall status of Free, Partly Free, or Not Free.
- The report is published every year since 1973 to assess the political rights and civil liberties of a country through a series of surveys and analyses.

### 1.133 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REPORT ON UNIFIED DISTRICT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION PLUS (UDISE+) 2020-21.

#### Why in news?

- **UDISE**, integrating DISE for elementary and secondary education, was one of the largest Management Information Systems on School Education.
- It was **initiated in 2012-13**.
- **UDISE+** is an updated version (developed in 2018-19) of UDISE to overcome problems associated with the previous practice of manually filing data in paper format and feeding it onto computers.
- **Under UDISE+ entire system is online with real-time data collection.**
- Key Findings
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** which measure general level of participation has improved in 2020-21 (25.38 Gore) at all levels of school education compared to 2019-20 (25.10 Crore).
- **Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR)** stood at 26 for primary, 19 for upper primary, 18 for secondary and 26 for higher secondary, showing an improvement since 2018-19.
- Over 12.2 crore girls are enrolled in primary to higher secondary showing an increase of 11.8 lakh girls compared to 2019-20.

- **Impact of COVID-19 pandemic:** 39.7 lakh students of government aided, private school students shifted to Government schools during 2020-21.
- **School infrastructure:** Percentage of schools with functional girl's toilet facility, drinking water, hand wash facilities, internet facility etc has increased in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-2020.

### 1.134 INDIA'S FIRST MEDICAL CITY 'INDRAYANI MEDICITY' TO SET UP IN MAHARASHTRA.

#### Why in news?

- The **state government of Maharashtra** has announced to set up the country's first medical city named as '**Indrayani Medicity**' in **Pune**, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof.
- It will come up in 300-acre of land area in Khed taluka of Pune. The project is estimated to attract investment worth over Rs. 10,000 crore.
- Indrayani Medicity will have hospitals, centres for medical research, pharmaceutical manufacturing, wellness and physiotherapy, and will be the first-of-its-kind city in the country to have all the treatments available at one place.

#### Key points:

- The Medicity will have about 24 separate hospital buildings, each housing one department. The Medicity will not only benefit Pune but will also be useful for people from neighbouring districts who come to the city for better treatment.
- There will be medical education and research institutes, and treatment will be provided at affordable rates to citizens.
- The proposed Medicity will have separate departments for trauma critical, heart disease, kidney, brain disease, dentistry, paediatrics, ophthalmology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, urology, haematology, organ transplantation, gynaecology, cardiology and psychiatry and separate super-speciality hospitals will be set up for all departments such as cancer, AYUSH etc.
- The Medicity will be set up by the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA). The entire facility is likely to have over 10,000 to 15,000 beds.

### 1.135 UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK RELEASED THE WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT (WHR) 2022.

#### Why in news?

- This year marks the 10th anniversary of the report which evaluates levels of happiness by taking into account factors such as GDP, social support, personal freedom, and levels of corruption in each nation.
- The goal behind the report is to identify key determinants of well-being.
- The report 2022 **ranked India 136th** while **Finland topped the charts** for the fifth year in a row.
- The rankings of WHR 2022 use data from the Gallup World Poll surveys from 2019 to 2021.
- Among the **bottom-five countries** on the index are conflict-torn Afghanistan, Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Botswana.
- Bhutan not listed in the 2022 WHR.
- Also, **India was one among the countries** that witnessed, over the past 10 years, **a fall in life evaluations by more than a full point** on the 0 to 10 scale.
- **Criticism of the report:** Happiness cannot be quantified based on a set of indices on a small area of the population and generalized.

#### United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network

- SDSN, set up in 2012, mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Climate Agreement.

### 1.136 UNITED NATIONS WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (UN WWDR 2022) RELEASED.

#### Why in news?

- Report titled '**Groundwater: Making the invisible visible**' describes the challenges and opportunities associated with development, management and governance of groundwater.
- Report is **released by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water**, which coordinates efforts of UN entities and international organizations working on water and sanitation issues.
- **Key findings**
- Groundwater presently provides half of the volume of water withdrawn for domestic use by global population and around 25% of all water used for Irrigation.
- An estimated four billion people live in areas that suffer from severe physical water scarcity for at least one month per year.
- Development of groundwater could act as a catalyst for economic growth by increasing extent of irrigated areas and therefore improving agricultural yields and crop diversity.
- **India is largest groundwater-user globally followed by China and Pakistan.**
- China, India, Iran, Pakistan and US account for about 70% of unsustainable water footprint.
- **Recommendations**
- Collecting groundwater data for monitoring.
- Strengthening environmental regulations for groundwater pollution.
- Reinforcing human, material and financial resources by way of increasing groundwater professionals among the staff of institutions as well as local and national government.
- Financing and supporting groundwater departments/agencies.



CivilsTap Hlmachal

**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. Consider the following statements with respect to Freedom of the World 2022 report-**

1. It is released by Oxfam International.
2. India has been termed as 'partly free' country in terms of democracy and free society.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

**2. With respect to Unified District Information System for Education Plus (Udise+), consider the following statements:**

1. UDISE was initiated in 2012-13.
2. Under UDISE+ entire system is online with real-time data collection.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**3. India's first medical city is going to be set up in-**

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Mumbai
- C. Gurugram
- D. Pune

**ANSWER: D**

**4. India was ranked 136<sup>th</sup> in the recently released World Happiness Report (WHR) 2022. It is published by-**

- A. Amnesty International
- B. Bhutan
- C. Oxfam International
- D. United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network

**ANSWER: D**

**5. Consider the following statements regarding United Nations World Water Development Report-**

1. It is released by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water.
2. As per the report, China is largest groundwater-user globally followed by India.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**



## POLICY AND PROGRAMMES

### 1.137 FIELD ASSESSMENT OF SWACHH SURVEKSHAN LAUNCHED BY MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS.

#### Why in news?

- Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan(SS) 2022, the world's largest urban cleanliness survey. It coincides with the celebrations of the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's independence thus SS 2022 will focus on the **theme of Azaadi@75 spirit**.
- It is designed with 'People First' as its driving philosophy.

#### About Swachh Survekshan(SS) 2022:

- The survey has been initiated with around 3,000 assessors of **Ipsos Research Pvt. Ltd.**, an Assessment Agency headquartered in Paris, France. In India, it is based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Its scope has been expanded to cover 100% wards for sampling, as compared to 40% in previous years.
- It will look into the initiatives of cities for the overall welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers.
- SS2022 will also **give priority to the feedback from senior citizens** as a part of paying tribute to the wisdom of the elderly.
- Cities have been regularly filling in their data, updating their progress in the Swachhata Portal MIS (Management Information System) along with running several citizen centric campaigns in preparation of SS 2022.

#### New indicators added in SS2022:

- To commemorate the 75 years of progressive India, ULB's (Urban Local Bodies) joined hands with citizens **to identify at least one Chauraha/Roundabout in their respective cities** that can be thematically **decorated to showcase the spirit of the glorious 75 years of India's independence**.
- Another **new indicator 'Swachh Technology Challenge'**, launched by MoHUA on December 6, 2021, has been added in SS 2022.
- As part of this challenge, individuals/organizations and start-ups submitted innovative solutions under four thematic categories, viz. social inclusion; zero dump (solid waste management); plastic waste management; and transparency through digital enablement, across all ULBs.
- For smaller cities, it introduces two population categories under 15K and between 15-25K.
- **District rankings** have also been **introduced for the first time**.

#### About Swachh Survekshan:

- Launched in **2016 by MoHUA** as a competitive framework, it encourages cities to improve the status of urban sanitation with large scale citizen participation. It creates healthy competition among cities and towns of India.
- The survey was initiated with 73 cities which has grown to 4,320 cities in SS 2021, including 62 Cantonment Boards.

### 1.138 MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES 5 LAKH INSURANCE FOR ONE STOP CENTRES (OSC) WORKERS AND STREE MANORAKSHA PROJECT LAUNCHED.

#### Why in news?

- As a part of nationwide celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsave', the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) is celebrating the International Women's Day week from 1st to 8th March, 2022.
- The inaugural event of the week was organised by the MoWCD in collaboration with Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) to raise awareness on safety and security of women.
- During the event, **an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh was announced for the workers of One Stop Centres (OSC), established in 2015 under Nirbhaya fund to provide mental, legal and medical aid to distressed women**.

### Launch of Stree Manoraksha Project

- MoWCD launched the '**Stree Manoraksha Project**' in collaboration with **National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)** in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka with an aim to improve the mental health of women in India.
- The project will **focus on building on capacity building of 6000 OSC functionaries on the tools** and techniques as to how to handle the cases of women approaching the OSCs, particularly the women who have suffered violence and distress with due sensitivity and care.
- In this regard, Minister, WCD launched the advance certificate course for OSC Councilors and also released the resource material for capacity building of OSC Staff.
- The **Training module is carved out by NIMHANS.**

### Legal Services provided by Government

- MoWCD is looking forward for a pilot on '**Naari Adalat**' with the help of NALSA so that women victims can get speedy justice.
- **Nyaya Bandhu** (Pro-bond Legal Services) is a programme to link the persons eligible to avail free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987 with lawyers.
- Tele-law programme, provides legal advice to public including persons entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987, at pre-litigation stage by the Panel Lawyers through 75,000 Common Service Centre (CSC) at the Panchayats.

## 1.139 GOVT. APPROVED CONTINUATION OF 7 SUB-SCHEMES UNDER 'RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF MIGRANTS AND REPATRIATES FOR 2021-22 TO 2025-26.

### Why in news?

- The Government of India approved the proposal for continuation of the seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme "Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates" for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs.1,452 crore.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** launched these seven schemes at different points of time.
- The scheme will aid and assist the migrants and repatriates to earn a reasonable income and promote their inclusion in economic activities.

### The assistance provided for 7 schemes are –

- Relief and Rehabilitation of displaced families of Pakistan Occupied Areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Chhamb,
- Relief assistance to **Sri Lankan Tamil refugees**,
- Relief assistance to **Brus lodged in relief camps in Tripura**,
- Enhanced relief to **1984 Anti-Sikh Riot Victims**,
- Financial Assistance and other facilities to the families of affected civilian victims of terrorist violence including militancy, insurgency, communal/ **Left Wing Extremism violence** and cross border firing and victims of mine/IED blasts on Indian Territory,
- Grants-in-aid to **Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC)**,
- Grants in Aid to Government of West Bengal for infrastructure development in **51 erstwhile Bangladeshi enclaves in Cooch Behar** and **resettlement of 922 returnees** from erstwhile Indian enclaves in Bangladesh.

## 1.140 SAMBHAV' AND 'SVAVLAMBAN' INITIATIVES LAUNCHED TO TACKLE THE ISSUE OF PLASTIC WASTE IN INDIA.

### Why in news?

- 'Sambhav' and 'Svavlamban' initiatives were launched by Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), at the International Summit on Plastics Recycling and Waste Management.
- These initiatives aim to encourage young entrepreneurs, especially from the aspirational districts of India.

### About International Summit on Plastics Recycling and Waste Management



- It is a 2-day summit, inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- This summit is being organized in New Delhi by the MSME Ministry in association with the All India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA).
- This motto of the summit is "Know your Waste and how Recycling is the right thing to do, which is to be done in a right way". Around 1350 MSMEs are expected to attend the summit, which is being conducted in hybrid mode.
- This summit provides a platform for entrepreneurs, experts, businessmen, and other stakeholders to deliberate challenges and solutions in the MSME sector and plastics sectors. It will also create new livelihood and business opportunities in the plastics sector, at the same time helping India tackle the issue of plastic pollution and meet environmental goals.
- Thus, the 'Sambhav' and 'Svavlamban' initiatives and the summit will have multiple benefits i.e. formalizing the informal waste sector, job creation in the MSME sector, and reduction in plastic waste.

### 1.141 LABOUR MINISTRY LAUNCHES DONATE-A-PENSION' PROGRAMME UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI SHRAM YOGI MAAN-DHAN YOJANA.

#### Why in news?

- Union Minister of Labour & Employment (MoL&E), has launched '**Donate-a-Pension**' programme under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM) for people to contribute to the pension fund to their support staff.
- This initiative is one of the events planned by MoL&E, for the 'Iconic Week' celebration observed from 7th to 13th March 2022, which is a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'- an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

#### About Donate-a-Pension initiative:

- An initiative under the PM-SYM pension scheme that **encourages people to donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff** such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers, care givers, nurses, in their household or establishment or any other eligible unorganized workers.
- The donor can pay one year's initial contribution in one time or for more than a one-year period.
- The donation amount for a year is minimum Rs. 660 and maximum up to Rs. 2400 depending on the age of the beneficiary.
- The minimum donation period is one year.
- The donor can donate on <https://maandhan.in/> or visit their nearest Common Service Centre.

#### About Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM):

- A voluntary and contributory pension scheme launched in 2019, to ensure protection for unorganized workers, whose monthly income is below Rs. 15,000, age group of 18 - 40 years.
- Eligibility-They should not be engaged in Organized Sector (member of EPFO/NPS/ESIC) or an income tax payer.
- **Features of PM-SYM:** Each subscriber under PM-SYM shall receive,
  - A Minimum Assured Pension of Rs. 3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years.
  - If a subscriber dies during the receipt of the pension, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension as Family Pension.

### 1.142 MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (MoWCD) LAUNCHES KANYA SHIKSHA PRAVESH UTSAV CAMPAIGN.

#### Why in news?

- On the eve of International Women's Day, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), in partnership with the **Ministry of Education** and **UNICEF**, launched a landmark campaign **Kanya Shiksha**

**Pravesh Utsav** to bring back out of school adolescent girls in India to the formal education and/or skilling system.

- The campaign has been launched with the objective of enhancing enrolment and retention of girls **between 11-14 years of age** in school.
- The initiative intends to build on the existing schemes and programmes like Schemes for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and National Education Policy (NEP) to work on a comprehensive system for out of school girls. The campaign will be rolled out under the umbrella of MoWCD's BBBP initiative by targeting more than 400,000 out of school adolescent girls as primary beneficiaries.
- Over 400 districts across all states will be funded under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme for outreach and awareness generation at grassroot level to sensitize communities and families to enrol adolescent girls in schools, over and above the funding from Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and the Anganwadi workers (AWWs) will be further incentivised for counselling and referring out of school adolescent girls.

### 1.143 NIESBUD SIGNS AN MOU WITH MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING THE START-UP VILLAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME.

#### Why in news?

- National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) — an **autonomous organisation** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP).

#### Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme

- SVEP is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- It aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set-up enterprises at the village-level in non-agricultural sectors.
- The partnership will enable the rural community by helping them set up their trades and provide complete support till they are stabilized. This pragmatic intervention will provide knowledge, advisory and financial support to the public and will help create village-level community cadre.
- Under the partnership rural entrepreneurs will be able to access banking systems for receiving financial support for starting their enterprises, including support from MUDRA bank.
- Integrated ICT techniques and tools will also be provided for training and capacity building along with enterprise advisory services to augment the entrepreneurship ecosystem in India's villages. The beneficiaries of the project are from the Self-Help Group (SHG) ecosystem of DAY-NRLM and the scheme not only supports existing enterprises but new enterprises as well.

### 1.144 GOVERNMENT APPROVES CONTINUATION OF SWATANTRATA SAINIK SAMMAN YOJANA.

#### Why in news?

- The government has approved the continuation of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY) and its components for the financial years 2021-22 to 2025-26, with a financial outlay of Rs 3,274.87 crore.

#### Overview:

- Under this scheme, freedom fighters, and their dependents are given financial benefits and pensions.
- Under this scheme, 23,566 beneficiaries are covered across the country.
- **The Ministry of Home Affairs** prepared the proposal for the continuation of the SSSY.
- The pension amount has been revised with time and since August 2016 Dearness Relief is also been given.

#### About Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana

- This is a scheme of the central government for granting pensions to freedom fighters and to their families. This grant is provided from the Central Revenues.

- As a gesture of respect for their contributions to the national freedom movement, the scheme provides a monthly Samman Pension to freedom fighters.
- After their demise, pension is given to their eligible dependents viz. unemployed and unmarried daughters, spouses, and dependent parents, as per the prescribed eligibility procedure and norms.

### 1.145 GREEN CHANNEL PAYMENT (GCP) SET UP FOR AYUSHMAN BHARAT PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA (AB PM-JAY)

#### Why in news?

- Introduced by: National Health Authority (NHA)
- GCP aims to expedite insurance claim adjustments for empaneled hospitals treating AB PM-JAY beneficiaries.
- Under it, Hospitals with good records will be **instantly reimbursed 50% of the bill** for any treatment under scheme through this channel.
- Currently, the empanelled hospital receives payment once its claim is approved and paid by the State Health Agency (SHA) which is 15 days for non-portability claims and 30 days for portability claims.
- **Significance of GCP**
- Timely and judicious adjustments of claims raised by hospitals, which is key to the effective implementation of AB PM-JAY scheme.
- Encourage greater participation of hospitals in providing treatment to AB PM-JAY beneficiaries.

#### About AB PM-JAY:

- It is an insurance scheme that offers cashless and paperless annual healthcare services benefits of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- It is the world's largest Government funded health assurance scheme. > Beneficiary families under AB-PMJAY are identified from the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011
- Launched in 2018, it is implemented by NHA (attached office of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).
- It is implemented in all States and UTs barring West Bengal, NCT of Delhi and Odisha.

### 1.146 MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING FOCUSING ON SEaweeds.

#### Why in news?

- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is focusing on progressive growth of the seaweed sector.
- Sea-weed culture is also being promoted under **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana** for empowerment of fishermen.
- Seaweed is different from seagrass, as **seaweed is a non-vascular**, plant-like macroalga which **lacks true stem, roots and leaves**.
- Seaweeds are considered as **superfoods** because of their high concentration of vitamins and minerals.
- Seagrass is a **vascular plant** which **has true stem, roots and leaves**.

### 1.147 PROJECT KIRANA-USAID AND MASTERCARD JOIN HANDS TO PROMOTE DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

#### Why in news?

- The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Mastercard have partnered to promote digital empowerment of women in India through 'Project Kirana', a **digital financial literacy programme for women entrepreneurs in India**.
- **Objective:** To increase the revenue of the women-owned-and-operated kirana shops and also expand their financial inclusion and enable them to adopt digital tools like digital payments etc.
- USAID and Mastercard will support women participants to build financial and digital literacy skills.

- The customized training on business and financial management, and leadership development will be provided to the beneficiaries.
- Mastercard and USAID will also address the gender gaps that limit the ability for women-owned businesses to flourish.

**About Project Kirana:**

- Project Kirana is a **two year programme** implemented by DAI and ACCESS Development Services started in November 2020.
- It is working in some selected cities like Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh.
- It provides **assistance to women to prepare basic business management skills** such as sales, accounting, budget management, and insurance to become **successful kirana entrepreneurs**.
- It witnessed the participation of more than 2,100 women in the project.

**1.148 PM UJJWALA YOJANA (PMUY) REDUCED AIR POLLUTION OVER 1.5 LAKH DEATHS IN 2019: STUDY****Why in news?**

- An independent impact assessment of Ujjwala programme has found that:
- PMUY helped in avoiding at least 1.8 million tonnes of PM2.5 emissions in 2019.
- Biomass burning in household cooking could be contributing 30-40% of outdoor air pollution.

**About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**

- It was launched in 2016 by **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** to provide LPG connection to the rural and deprived households that were using traditional fuels like wood, cow-dung cakes, or coal for cooking purposes.
- It **aims to reduce premature deaths** due to Indoor air pollution.
- **Ujjwala 2.0** was launched in 2021, with an aim to **provide deposit-free LPG connections** to those low-income families who could not be covered under the earlier phase of PMUY.
- **Eligibility Criteria for PMUY**
- An adult woman belonging to a poor household and not having LPG connection in her household, will be eligible under UJJWALA 2.0.
- The beneficiaries should belong to any of the following categories:
- Eligible as per SECC 2011 list
- Belongs to SC/ST households, be a beneficiary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Forest dwellers, Most Backward Classes (MBC), Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes, People residing in riverislands. '1- If she is not falling in the above 2 categories, then she can stake her claim to be a beneficiary under Poor household by submitting 14-point declaration.

**About Indoor air pollution:**

- It refers to chemical, biological and physical contamination of indoor air.
- WHO fact sheet on household air pollution due to indoor pollutants states that 3.8 million premature deaths occur annually.
- Indoor pollutants recognised: NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), CO, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds (VOCs), PM, radon and microorganisms
- **Impacts:** Risks of stroke, ischaemic heart diseases, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, lung cancer.

**Other steps taken for Indoor air pollution:**

- Unnat Chulha Abhiyan, National Biomass Cook stoves Initiative, Promoting solar cookers, Neerdhur etc.

**1.149 UNION CABINET APPROVES CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL AIDS AND STD CONTROL PROGRAMME.****Why in news?**

- Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the continuation of National AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome) and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Control Programme (NACP) for 5 years from 1 April, 2021 to 31 March, 2026 with an outlay of Rs. 15,471.94 crore by approving phase-V of the programme.
- The Phase-IV (Extension) of National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP) was concluded on 31 March, 2021.
- The **NACP Phase-V** will work towards the attainment of United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 3.3 of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 through a comprehensive package of prevention, detection and treatment services.

#### **About National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP):**

- It is a **Central sector scheme** which is completely funded by the Government of India.
- The national AIDS response was initiated by the Indian government in 1992 with the launch of the first phase of the NACP.
- **Progress of NACP:**
- India recorded annual new HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) infections declined in cases by 48% against the global average of 31 % (the baseline year of 2010).
- Annual AIDS-related deaths have declined by 82 % against the global average of 42 % (the baseline year of 2010).
- HIV prevalence in India continues to be low with an adult HIV prevalence of 0.22%.

#### **About Human Immunodeficiency Virus**

- It is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. The untreated HIV can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency syndrome).

#### **About Sexually Transmitted Diseases**

- These diseases are passed from one person to another through sexual contact. Examples-Gonorrhoea, HIV/AIDS, Syphilis.

### **1.150 PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA.**

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

- Parliamentary standing committee has asked the Food Ministry to study scope of extending PMGKAY scheme.

#### **About PMGKAY**

- Launched to supply free food grains to migrants and poor who faced hardship on account of economic disruption caused by COVID-19.
- Under PMGKAY, 5 kg free wheat/rice per month is provided to 80 crore beneficiaries registered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- Its nodal ministry is **Ministry of Finance**.
- Though initially announced only for a period of three months, later it was extended under different phases.

### **1.151 PROJECT UNNATI.**

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

- Recently, **Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati** felicitated 75 trained candidates of Project UNNATI under MGNREGA.

#### **About Project UNNATI**

- A Skilling project to upgrade the skill base of the MGNREGA beneficiaries, enabling them to move from the current partial employment to full-time employment and reduce their dependence on MGNREGS.
- Provides training for one adult member (age 18-45 years) of a household who has completed 100 days of work under MGNREGA.

### 1.152 POLAR SCIENCE AND RESEARCH (PACER) SCHEME.

#### Why in news?

- PACER scheme has been approved for continuation during 2021-2026.

#### **About PACER scheme**

- Comprises the Antarctic program, Indian Arctic program, Southern Ocean program and Cryosphere and Climate program.
- Implemented through **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**, an autonomous institute under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- Achievements:
  - Executed 39th & 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (41st ongoing).
  - Automatic Weather Station (AWS) systems installed at Baralacha La, in the Spiti region.
  - IndARC mooring system was deployed in Kongsfjorden, Svalbard.
  - Executed 11th Indian Southern Ocean Expedition.

### 1.153 SAGARMALA PROGRAMME COMPLETES 7 YEARS.

#### Why in news?

- Launched in 2015, Sagarmala programme is the flagship programme of **Ministry of Shipping** to promote port-led development through harnessing India's 7,500 km long coastline, 14500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes.
- Its core vision is to reduce the logistics cost for exports, imports and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment.

#### **Achievements and initiatives:**

- Quality service delivery has reduced Turnaround Time (containers) at Ports to 26.58 hours from 44.70 hours in 2013-14.
- Current cargo handling capacity of Indian ports improved to 1,500 Million Tonnes Per Year (MMTPA) from 1,052 MMTPA in FY2014-15.
- Improved ports' efficiency and Ease of Doing Business through Creating Smart Ports (Logistics Data Bank Service; RFID Solutions etc); Digitization in Services; Smooth Data Flow etc.
- Port-led industrialization to boost industrial and export growth along the coastline to be realized through 14 Coastal Economic Zones (CEZs).
- Skilling of Coastal population: Under Deen Dayal Upadhyay- Grameen Kaushalya Yojna Sagarmala **Convergence Programme, more than 1900 candidates trained.**
- More than **one crore employment opportunities** to be created.

### 1.154 START-UP VILLAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME.

#### Why in news?

- Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to enhance the impact of **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)**.

#### **About SVEP**

- SVEP is being **implemented since 2016** by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- It is a sub scheme of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).

- SVEP's **objective** is to **support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set-up enterprises at the village-level in non-agricultural sectors**. Its focus is on providing self-employment opportunities in rural areas.
- It helps rural poor to come out of poverty. They are encouraged to setup enterprises and support is provided till the enterprise stabilizes. Financial assistance and training in business management are also provided. Thus, **the three main pillars of start-up i.e. finances, incubation and skill ecosystems are addressed by the scheme**.
- Self-help group (SHG) ecosystem of DAY-NRLM and the main beneficiaries of SVEP. SVEP aims to develop a pool of community resource persons – enterprise promotion (CRP-EP) who are local & support entrepreneurs setting-up enterprises in rural areas.
- SVEP also promotes block resource center (BRC) in SVEP blocks, to monitor and manage the community resource persons (CRP) and appraise SVEP loan application. BRCs support sustainable revenue model to operate efficiently and independently.

### 1.155 START-UP VILLAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME.

#### Why in news?

- Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to enhance the impact of **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)**.

#### **About SVEP**

- SVEP is being **implemented since 2016** by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- It is a sub scheme of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).
- SVEP's **objective** is to **support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set-up enterprises at the village-level in non-agricultural sectors**. Its focus is on providing self-employment opportunities in rural areas.
- It helps rural poor to come out of poverty. They are encouraged to setup enterprises and support is provided till the enterprise stabilizes. Financial assistance and training in business management are also provided. Thus, **the three main pillars of start-up i.e. finances, incubation and skill ecosystems are addressed by the scheme**.
- Self-help group (SHG) ecosystem of DAY-NRLM and the main beneficiaries of SVEP. SVEP aims to develop a pool of community resource persons – enterprise promotion (CRP-EP) who are local & support entrepreneurs setting-up enterprises in rural areas.
- SVEP also promotes block resource center (BRC) in SVEP blocks, to monitor and manage the community resource persons (CRP) and appraise SVEP loan application. BRCs support sustainable revenue model to operate efficiently and independently.

### 1.156 INTEGRATED COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRE.

#### Why in news?

- It is an initiative by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and has been **recently launched in Chandigarh**.
- ICCC acts as the **"nerve center" for operations management, day-to-day exception handling and disaster management**.
- Smart Cities project provides for developing **100 citizen-friendly and self-sustainable urban settlements**, includes **setting up ICCCs for each city as a vital step**.
- A unique feature is **real time data visualisation** which is then analysed by for the administration to take corrective steps. For eg. about spread of a particular disease in an area.

## PRACTICE MCQS

### 1. Consider the following statements regarding Swachh Survekshan-

1. It was first launched in 2016 by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. A new indicator 'Swachh Technology Challenge' has been introduced in Swachh Survekshan(SS) 2022.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

### 2. Consider the following statements with respect to Stree Manoraksha Project-

1. It has been launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences.
2. It aims to improve the mental health of women in India.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

### 3. The Umbrella Scheme "Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates" comes under the ambit of-

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Ministry of Defence

**ANSWER: A**

### 4. 'Sambhav' and 'Svavlamban' initiatives, launched recently are associated with-

- A. Plastic waste
- B. Rehabilitating destitute women
- C. Petroleum conservation
- D. Preventing child labour

**ANSWER: A**

### 5. Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana-

1. It is compulsory contributory pension scheme to ensure protection for unorganized workers.



2. The beneficiary gets a Minimum Assured Pension of Rs. 3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Consider the following statements regarding Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav Campaign-**

- 1. It is launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), in partnership with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF.
- 2. Its objective is of enhancing enrolment and retention of girls between 11-14 years of age in school.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Consider the following statements regarding Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme-**

- 1. SVEP is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- 2. It aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set-up enterprises at the village-level in non-agricultural sectors.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**8. The Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojanahas comes under the ambit of which ministry?**

- A. Ministry of Defence
- B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Finance

**ANSWER: C**

**9. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-**

1. It is an insurance scheme that offers cashless and paperless annual healthcare services benefits of up to Rs. 2 lakh per family.
2. It is implemented in all the states of the country.

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

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

**ANSWER: D**

**10. Consider the following statements regarding seaweeds-**

1. Seaweeds are non-vascular, plant-like macroalga which lack true stem, roots and leaves.
2. These are considered as superfoods because of high concentration of vitamins and minerals.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**11. Project Kirana is a digital financial literacy programme for women entrepreneurs in India, run by USAID and Mastercard, in the state of-**

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. All of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana comes under the ambit of-**

- A. Ministry of Rural Development
- B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- D. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

**ANSWER: D**

**13. Consider the following statements regarding National AIDS and STD Control Programme-**

1. It is a Central sector scheme completely funded by the central government.
2. It was launched in 2002 with objective to slow down spread of HIV infections.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**

- 1. Its nodal ministry is Ministry of Finance.
- 2. Under this, 5 kg free wheat/rice per month is provided to all citizens of India.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Consider the following statements regarding Project UNNATI-**

- 1. It is a skilling project to upgrade the skill base of the MGNREGA beneficiaries.
- 2. It provides training for one adult member of a household who has completed 10 days of work under MGNREGA.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Consider the following statements regarding Polar Science and Research (PACER) scheme-**

- 1. It comprises of the Antarctic program, Indian Arctic program, Southern Ocean program and Cryosphere and Climate program.
- 2. It is implemented through National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Sagarmala Programme, comes under the ambit of-**

- A. Ministry of Shipping

- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Consider the following statements regarding Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme-**

- 1. Objective is to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set-up enterprises at the village-level in non-agricultural sectors
- 2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Consider the following statements regarding Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme-**

- 3. Objective is to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set-up enterprises at the village-level in non-agricultural sectors
- 4. It is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Setting up of Integrated command and control centre is an initiative of which ministry?**

- A. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- C. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- D. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

**ANSWER: D**

## HEALTH

### 1.157 WHO GLOBAL CENTRE FOR TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN INDIA.

#### Why in news?

- Cabinet has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in **Jamnagar, Gujarat** by signing a Host Country agreement between the Government of India and the WHO.
- This would be the first and only global outposted Centre, under Ministry of AYUSH for traditional medicine across the globe.
- Benefits of GCTM
- To position AYUSH systems across the globe.
- To provide leadership on global health matters pertaining to traditional medicine.
- To ensure quality, safety and efficacy, accessibility and rational use of traditional medicine.
- To develop norms, standards, and guidelines in relevant technical areas for collecting data undertaking analytics, and assess impact.
- To develop specific capacity building and training programmes in the areas of relevance to the objectives and conduct training programmes.
- **Other steps** taken to promote traditional medicine
- Scheme for Voluntary Certification of Yoga Professionals.
- Yoga Certification Board (YCB) has been established to bring synergy, quality and uniformity in knowledge.
- AYUSH Information Cell have been set up in 31 countries to disseminate authentic information about AYUSH system.

#### About Traditional medicine:

- It refers to health practices, approaches, knowledge, and beliefs incorporating plant, spiritual therapies, etc to treat, diagnose and prevent illnesses or maintain well-being.
- It composes of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Sowa Rigpa.

### 1.158 SAMPLE REGISTRATION SYSTEM (SRS) BULLETIN ON MATERNAL MORTALITY IN INDIA (2011-19) RELEASED.

#### Why in news?

- SRS bulletin is **brought out by office of Registrar General of India**, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It Initiated the scheme of sample registration of births and deaths in India Popularly known as SRS in 1964-65 on a plot basis and on full scale from 1969-70.
- Key Highlights
- **Kerala tops with lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30.** National MMR Is 103.
- MMR is derived as proportion of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births.
- Populous states like **Rajasthan and Bihar showed huge improvement.**
- **Assam, UP and Madhya Pradesh continue to be the states with high MMR.**
- India is set to achieve SDG of bringing MMR to 70 well before target year of 2030.
- Steps taken to Accelerate Pace of Reduction for MMR
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram**, where every pregnant woman is entitled to free delivery, including caesarean section in public health institutions.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhyan** to provide antenatal care.
- **LaQshya-** Labor room Quality improvement Initiative:
- Reproductive, Maternal, New Born Child Health and Adolescent (**RMNCH+A**) services.
- Over 10 lakhs **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)** have been engaged.

### 1.159 INDIA'S FIRST MEDICAL CITY 'INDRAYANI MEDICITY' TO SET UP IN MAHARASHTRA.

### Why in news?

- The **state government of Maharashtra** has announced to set up the country's first medical city named as '**Indrayani Medicity**' in **Pune**, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof.
- It will come up in 300-acre of land area in Khed taluka of Pune. The project is estimated to attract investment worth over Rs. 10,000 crore.
- Indrayani Medicity will have hospitals, centres for medical research, pharmaceutical manufacturing, wellness and physiotherapy, and will be the first-of-its-kind city in the country to have all the treatments available at one place.

### Key points:

- The Medicity will have about 24 separate hospital buildings, each housing one department. The Medicity will not only benefit Pune but will also be useful for people from neighbouring districts who come to the city for better treatment.
- There will be medical education and research institutes, and treatment will be provided at affordable rates to citizens.
- The proposed Medicity will have separate departments for trauma critical, heart disease, kidney, brain disease, dentistry, paediatrics, ophthalmology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, urology, haematology, organ transplantation, gynaecology, cardiology and psychiatry and separate super-speciality hospitals will be set up for all departments such as cancer, AYUSH etc.
- The Medicity will be set up by the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA). The entire facility is likely to have over 10,000 to 15,000 beds.

## 1.160 UNEP JOINS ONE HEALTH ALLIANCE.

### Why in news?

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has signed the Memorandum of understanding with the **tripartite partnership for One Health**, bringing together the **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)**, the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** and the **World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**, formally the Quadripartite partnership at its annual executive meeting held on 18 March 2022 at Nairobi, Kenya.
- The UNEP will offer the expertise required to tackle the ecological dimension of human and animal health.
- The Quadripartite alliance will now focus on a **One Health Joint Plan of Action**, which includes **six action tracks**. They are
- Enhancing countries' capacity to strengthen health systems under a One Health approach.
- Reducing the risks from emerging or resurfacing zoonotic epidemics and pandemics.
- Controlling and eliminating endemic - zoonotic diseases, neglected tropical diseases and vector-borne diseases.
- Strengthening the assessment, management and communication of food safety risks.
- Curbing the silent pandemic of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).
- Better integrating the environment into the One Health approach.

### About One Health:

- The One Health approach aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, ecosystems and the wider environment.
- It mobilises multiple sectors, disciplines and communities to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems.
- It also addresses the collective need for clean energy, water and air, safe and nutritious food, action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.

### About United Nation Environment Program (UNEP)

- The United Nation Environment Program was established by Maurice Strong, its first director, after the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm on 5th June 1972.
- **Headquarters** are located in **Nairobi, Kenya**.

### 1.161 MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (MMR) OF INDIA DECLINES BY 10 POINTS.

#### Why in news?

- In a significant achievement, MMR of India has declined by 10 points- from 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19- as per Special Bulletin on MMR released by Registrar General of India.
- **MMR** is defined as number of **maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births** during the same time period. Maternal mortality is a measure of reproductive health of women in an area.

#### **Key findings:**

- With this steady decline, India is on verge of achieving National Health Policy (NHP) target of 100/lakh live births by 2020 and certainly on track to achieve the SDG target of 70/ lakh live births by 2030.
- Kerala, Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Jharkhand have already achieved the SDG target, with the number of deaths as low as 30 in some states.
- However, rise in MMR in West Bengal, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh have emerged as a cause of concern.

#### **Major causes for maternal mortality are**

- Early pregnancy (15 -19 years of age), severe bleeding, infections, high blood pressure during pregnancy, anaemia, complications from delivery, unsafe abortions, and lack of necessary medical care.

#### **Steps taken:**

- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)**.
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)**.
- **'LaQshya - Labor room Quality improvement Initiative'**.

### 1.162 eSANJEEVANI TELEMEDICINE CROSSES 3 CRORE TELE-CONSULTATIONS.

#### Why in news?

- eSanjeevani telemedicine service of **Union Health Ministry** has crossed 3 crore tele-consultations.
- Telemedicine service platforms 'e-Sanjeevani' and 'e-Sanjeevani OPD' were developed in 2019 by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- As many as 10 States such as Andhra Pradesh (13147461), Karnataka (4424407), West Bengal (2987386), Tamil Nadu (1856861), Uttar Pradesh (1758053), Bihar (1002399), Maharashtra (930725), Madhya Pradesh (781262), Gujarat (753775) and Assam (477821) are leading in providing medical consultations through eSanjeevani platform, the health ministry said in a statement.
- It enables virtual connection **between the beneficiary (along with the paramedic and a generalist)** at the spoke which is Health & Wellness Centre (HWC) and **the doctor/specialist at the hub** posted at tertiary healthcare centre. This facilitates real-time virtual consultation from doctors & specialists at the hub with the beneficiary (through paramedics) at the spoke.
- Thus, eSanjeevani is a **doctor-to-doctor telemedicine system**, deployed nationally under Ayushman Bharat Scheme of Government of India.
- Aims to carry out teleconsultation in all 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres in a '**Hub and Spoke**' model.

**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine has been approved to be setup in-**

- A. Ahmedabad
- B. Jamnagar
- C. New Delhi
- D. Kashmir

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Consider the following statements regarding Maternal Mortality Ratio as per recent Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin-**

- 1. Manipur tops with lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30.
- 2. MMR is derived as proportion of maternal deaths per 1,000 live births.

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

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

**ANSWER: D**

**3. India's first medical city is going to be set up in-**

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Mumbai
- C. Gurugram
- D. Pune

**ANSWER: D**

**4. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recently signed the MoU with the tripartite partnership for One Health. UNEP headquarters are located in-**

- A. Nairobi
- B. Paris
- C. Geneva
- D. Bonn

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Maternal Mortality Ratio is defined as number of maternal deaths during a given time period per \_\_\_\_\_ live births.**

- A. 100
- B. 1000
- C. 10000



D. 100000

**ANSWER: D**

**6. Consider the following statements regarding eSanjeevani telemedicine service-**

1. It is a home-to-doctor telemedicine system for seamless telemedicine consultation.
2. It aims to carry out teleconsultation in all 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres in a 'Hub and Spoke' model.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**



CivilsTap Hlmachal

## GEOGRAPHY

### 1.163 YILAN CRATER DISCOVERED IN CHINA.

#### Why in news?

- A team of geologists have discovered a crater named “Yilan Crater”, in northwest of Yilan in Heilongjiang Province of China.
- Prior to 2020, only one impact crater “Xiuyan Crater” was discovered in Liaoning province, despite China’s large land area.
- Then, in 2021, Yilan crater was discovered in heavily forested Lesser Xing’an mountain range. The local residents knew it as “Quanshan,” or “circular mountain ridge.”

#### Characteristics of Yilan crater

- Yilan crater is slightly larger than Xiuyan and spans about 1.85 kilometers.
- Thus, it is the **largest crater on Earth under 100,000 years old**. Carbon-14 dating sediments suggests that, this crater was formed between 46,000 and 53,000 years ago.
- Meteor or Barringer crater in Arizona is also around 50,000 years old. However, its diameter is 1.2 kilometers.

#### PRACTICE MCQS

1. Earth’s largest impact crater under 100,000 years old, Yilan crater, has been recently discovered in-

- A. Pakistan
- B. China
- C. Argentina
- D. Australia

**ANSWER: B**

## ENVIRONMENT

### 1.164 AUSTRALIA HIT BY RARE WEATHER PHENOMENON-RAIN BOMB.

#### Why in news?

- Australia is currently facing catastrophic weather events as a result of global warming.
- Australia's third-most populous city, Brisbane, was underwater Monday after heavy rain brought record flooding to some east coast areas and killed eight people.

#### About Rain Bomb

- Rain bombs are also known as Wet Microbursts.
- A microburst is a **small column of sinking air known as downdraft** that forms within a thunderstorm and has a diameter of less than or equal to 2.5 miles.
- Microbursts can cause significant surface damage and can also be life-threatening. Wet microbursts and dry microbursts are the two main types of microbursts. Wet microbursts are accompanied by a lot of rain.
- **Process-**
- It begins with the formation of a thunderstorm and the water droplets or hailstones suspended within the updraft. An updraft can sometimes be so strong that it suspends huge amounts of these hailstones and water droplets in the upper reaches of a thunderstorm. Cooling due to evaporation occurs and this causes a decrease of the updraft.
- Once this happens, the thunderstorm's huge core of rain or hail will no longer be able to hold it. Thus, the core falls to the ground. It spreads out in all directions as soon as it strikes the ground. The area where the microburst initially hits the earth has the strongest winds and the most damage.

### 1.165 CHEETAH ACTION PLAN- TRANSLOCATION IN 2022.

#### Why in news?

- In the backdrop of Indian delegation visiting Namibia, the Cheetah capital of the world, grounds are being prepared for appointing Namibian cheetahs as the country's goodwill ambassadors for India's 75th year of Independence.
- Background- Supreme Court lifted its seven-year stay on a proposal to introduce African cheetahs from Namibia into the Indian habitat on an experimental basis.
- In 2013, SC had rejected this owing to lion translocation in the same Kuno-Palpur sanctuary and doubt of lack of prey base for Cheetah.
- Also, an 'Action plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India' was launched to introduce 50 cheetahs over 5 years.

#### About Cheetah Reintroduction

- African cheetahs (IUCN status: **Vulnerable**), are being considered for reintroduction as Asiatic cheetah (IUCN: **critically endangered**) are low in numbers which is known to occur only in Iran now.
- Cheetah is a keystone species of dry forests, scrub forests, and savannas.
- It was **declared extinct** in India in **1952** due to over-hunting and loss of habitat.
- It is also the world's fastest land mammal.
- Part of **Appendix 1** of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

### 1.166 GLYCOSMIS ALBICARPA, NEW GIN BERRY SPECIES DISCOVERED.

#### Why in news?

- A team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new species of gin berry, named *Glycosmis albicarpa*, from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu (TN). The new species with **distinct large white fruit** is identified to be **endemic to the Southern Western Ghats**.

- The new species was found in **Tirunelveli semi-evergreen forests** at the Panagudi forest section of the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary.

#### Features of *Glycosmis albicarpa*:

- The new species *Glycosmis albicarpa*, an **evergreen small tree**, belongs to the family Rutaceae (Orange family).
- The new species have **short and broadly lanceolate leaves**, short (3-5 mm long) peduncles, clawed petals and broadly ovoid white fruits.
- The berries of *Glycosmis* species have the unique characteristic of 'gin aroma' and have gained in popularity as an edible fruit.
- It is also a larval host plant for butterflies like other species of *Glycosmis*.
- Threat: habitat modification causes a major threat to the survival of this species.

### 1.167 AARUSHI VERMA SELECTED TO REPRESENT INDIA AT THE 2041 CLIMATE FORCE ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION.

#### Why in news?

- Aarushi Verma, a national-level shooter and an environmentalist hailing from Delhi has been selected to represent India at the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition which is set to be held in March 2022.
- Aarushi Verma is a national level shooter in Pistol and trap shooting and a State & Northern India Champion & National medalist, and an active environmentalist.
- She will be fully supported and sponsored by The Hans Foundation.

#### 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition:

- 2041 Climate Force is a **global initiative to train and develop the next generation of sustainability champions** and to help corporations with their sustainability solutions.
- This **'carbon negative' expedition** also aims to inspire, develop and train the next generation of leaders to promote a more sustainable future.
- This also **includes the 'Leadership on the edge' program**
- **Aim:** To raise awareness and work for the preservation of Antarctica through the promotion of recycling, renewable energy and sustainability solutions to combat the effects of climate change.
- **Journey:** The **unique 12-day educational journey to the south pole** on the most dynamic Antarctic sea expedition, by ship to the 'last great wilderness on earth'.

#### About Climate Force

- The **Climate Force is a 7-year commitment to clean up 360 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** from the atmosphere through strategic offsetting partnerships.
- **2041 Climate Force** is derived from the **year which marks the Madrid Protocol protecting Antarctica from exploitation would come up for debate**, revision, and/ or possible cancellation.
- The participants of the expedition will graduate as **'Ambassadors for the Antarctic'**.

### 1.168 WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA STUDY ON TIGER DENSITY.

#### Why in news?

- Preliminary findings of a study by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) suggest that the density of tigers in the Sunderbans may have reached the carrying capacity of the mangrove forests.
- All-India Tiger report (2018) put the **carrying capacity in the Sunderbans "at around 4 tigers" per 100 sq km** while the **ongoing WII study indicates a density of 3-5 tigers**.
- **Carrying capacity** can be defined as a species' average population size in a particular habitat. The species population size is limited by environmental factors like adequate food, shelter, water, and mates.
- It is also an important basis for the measurement and management of human sustainable development.
- **Steps required**
- New perimeter of defining the peak density of forest should be revised, amidst the increase in human interference for livelihood due to COVID -19.

- Sustainable land uses to minimize damage and adequate incentives to promote acceptance of wildlife.
- Functional connections between reserves so that tigers can have healthy intermixing of populations.
- New management strategies of wildlife should be decentralized at the local level.

#### About Sunderban

- It is the **world's largest mangrove delta** which is home to Royal Bengal Tigers is spread across **10,000 sq km**.
- More than 4,000 sq km is in West Bengal and the rest in Bangladesh.
- It is a biosphere reserve, national park and tiger reserve.
- It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

### 1.169 TAMIL NADU CM INAUGURATES INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR POWER PROJECT.

#### Why in news?

- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M. K. Stalin inaugurated **India's largest floating solar power plant** constructed at a cost of Rs 150.4 crore.
- The floating plant is established in Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC) factory at **Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu** to provide clean energy.
- The floating power plant has the capacity to **produce 42 million units of electricity per annum**.
- The solar power plant is owned by Greenam Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AM International.
- It is the SPIC's part of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) progress, to produce renewable energy.
- The **48-acre floating solar power plant** has been set up on a large water reservoir that spans 62-acres. The solar arrays are placed on floating structures on a water body.
- The plant provides the energy to the SPIC and Greenstar fertilisers factories.
- The 25.3 MegaWatt Direct Current / 22 MegaWatt Alternate Current floating solar power plant project aligns with their strategy to implement new-age green and sustainable technology.
- The solar panels on the water reduce the evaporation upto 60 percent.

### 1.170 INDIA ACHIEVES SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN COAL IMPORT

#### Why in news?

- Ministry of Coal said that imports of all grades of Non-Coking Coal has come down by around 20% during April to December 2021 as compared to the corresponding months of 2020.
- Non-Coking Coal **does not have any caking properties** and it is mainly **used as thermal coal for power generation**.
- It has **higher ash content**.
- It is used in industries like cement, fertilizer, glass, ceramic, paper, chemical and brick manufacturing.
- **Coking coal**, also known as **metallurgical coal**, is used to **create coke**, one of the key **irreplaceable inputs for the production of steel**

### 1.171 MANAS NATIONAL PARK WITNESSES SHARP RISE IN TIGER, RHINO POPULATION.

#### Why in news?

- Assam's Manas National Park witnesses sharp rise in tiger, rhino population.

#### About Manas National Park

- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Reserve, Biosphere Reserve, National Park and also a Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Located in the Himalayan foothills, it is contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.
- It **spans the Manas River** and is bounded to the north by the forests of Bhutan.
- Manas river is a major tributary of Brahmaputra River, which passes through the heart of the national park.
- It provides habitat to rare and endangered species, including tiger, **greater one-horned rhino**, **swamp deer**, **pygmy hog** and **Bengal florican**.

### 1.172 HALARI DONKEY BREED.

#### Why in news?

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying called for a roadmap for conservation of Halari breed of Donkey.

#### About Halari Donkey

- Native to **Saurashtra region of Gujarat**.
- Currently it is in a **threatened state** and **requires immediate steps towards conservation to reverse the declining trend in the population** (Numbers declined from 1200 in 2015 to 439 in 2021-22 in its native tract).
- **Challenges in conservation:**
- Unavailability of Halari Donkey male for breeding,
- Disincentives to rearers with no avenues for streamlining the livelihoods (based on donkey milk).

### 1.173 RARE SAWFISH CAUGHT IN KARNATAKA.

#### Why in news?

- An extremely **rare and critically endangered sawfish was caught in fishing nets** in Karnataka.
- **Sawfish** have a long-flattened head and body and an elongated snout, much like that of the saw shark, that forms a long flat blade edged with strong teeth.
- **Habitat:** shallow water in subtropical and tropical regions of the world. They are bottom dwellers.
- **Sawfishes are ovoviviparous fishes** (that is, fertilized eggs grow within the body of female sawfishes, and the young are born alive).
- Conservation Status (as per IUCN):
- Large tooth sawfish: Critically Endangered
- Dwarf Saw Fish: Endangered
- Green Sawfish: Critically Endangered
- Smalltooth Sawfish: Critically Endangered
- Narrow Sawfish: Endangered

### 1.174 MUMBAI ANNOUNCES DETAILED PLANS TOWARDS NET ZERO EMISSIONS.

#### Why in news?

- Mumbai has announced detailed plans to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, making it the first city in South Asia to set such a timeline.
- Plan lists changes across domains like Investments in housing, Electrifying public transport, Flood-resistant drainage, rooftop solar capacities etc.

#### About Net zero:

- It refers to a state in which the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are balanced by removal out of the atmosphere.
- India has announced to reach net zero emissions by 2070.

### 1.175 MOULING NATIONAL PARK.

#### Why in news?

- Mouling National Park is located in the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, in Adi hills of the eastern Himalayas adjoining Siang River valley.
- It forms the eastern part of the Dihang-Dibang Biosphere Reserve.
- It was created in 1986.
- The name 'Mouling' has been derived from **peak Mouling**.
- Vegetation: Tropical wet evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, tending towards wet sub-tropical broad-leaved and temperate forest at the upper reaches.

- Fauna: **Red Pandas**, Deers, **Hoolock Gibbons**, Tigers, wild buffalo, panther, elephant, hog deer, barking deer, chestnut-breasted Hill Partridge, **Greater spotted Eagle**.
- Climate: Extremely humid, with high rainfall and no well-defined dry season.

### 1.176 FIRST EVER DIGITAL WATER DATABANK AQVERIUM LAUNCHED.

#### Why in news?

- The Information Technology (IT) Minister of Karnataka, launched India's first ever digital water databank 'AQVERIUM' in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- AQVERIUM is an initiative of the Bengaluru-headquartered Digital Startup - AquaKraft Digital Ventures Pvt Ltd, a newly formed subsidiary of AquaKraft Projects Private Limited, the flagship company of AquaKraft Group Ventures.
- The Digital water data bank **contains a list of water data from all institutions and sources**, which will help in the effective management of water & will help to tackle some common development challenges.
- The **bank also provides insights and evidence from research and reliable information for tackling water pollution**.
- AquaKraft Group Ventures is offering a unique social franchising model to create '**water entrepreneurs with an objective to make India 'Water Positive' by 2030**'.
- It has been predicted that 60% of districts in India are likely to reach the critical level of groundwater depletion over the next 20 years.
- Availability of water per person has fallen from 4,000 cubic meters in 1950 to around 1,000 cubic meters in 2019.

### 1.177 UNION MINISTER NITIN GADKARI LAUNCHED TOYOTA MIRAI- INDIA'S FIRST GREEN HYDROGEN BASED FCEV.

#### Why in news?

- Recently, the world's most advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) powered by Hydrogen, **Toyota Mirai**, was launched in India by the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in New Delhi, Delhi. It runs on **fully hydrogen generated electricity**.
- This launch is a **pilot project taking place in Delhi** by Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd (TKM) and International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) to study and evaluate this FCEV on Indian roads and climatic conditions.
- This is also a first of its kind project in India aiming to create a Green Hydrogen based ecosystem by raising awareness about the utility of Green Hydrogen and FCEV technology.
- Green hydrogen can be generated from renewable energy and abundantly available biomass.
- FCEV is one of the best Zero Emission solutions.

#### About Toyota Mirai:

- Powered by a hydrogen fuel cell battery pack, it is capable of providing a range up to 650 km in a single charge, with a refuelling time of five minutes. The powertrain breaks the hydrogen into water and oxygen to generate energy from it. In Japanese, the word 'Mirai' means 'future'.
- Toyota Mirai was launched in 2014 and was one of the world's first hydrogen fuel EV.
- Now, this new launch in India is second generation (introduced globally in 2020), with a 30% increase in range, better handling and sharper styling. Its iteration will be built in TKM's plant in Karnataka.
- The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) will be supplying Hydrogen for this vehicle.
- The launch of the EV, and adoption of green hydrogen technology will cater to India's initiative of **becoming 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047** as it will promote clean energy, affordable energy and environmental protection by reducing dependence on fossil fuels.
- It is completely environment friendly with **no tailpipe emissions other than water**.

### 1.178 WORLD SPARROW DAY 2022 CELEBRATED ON MARCH 20.

### Why in news?

- **World Sparrow Day (WSD)** is celebrated every year on **March 20th**. This day is meant to raise awareness about the house sparrow and the dangers it confronts. The purpose of World Sparrow Day is to raise awareness and protect the bird all across the world.
- A few years ago, house sparrows were commonly seen in people's homes. As a result of rising noise pollution, the bird is now on the edge of extinction.
- The theme of World Sparrow Day is **"Love Sparrows."**
- More individuals are likely to join in a range of events and campaigns geared at sparrow conservation as a result of focusing on this issue.
- World Sparrow Day was established by **Mohammed Dilawar**, the founder of The Nature Forever Society. He started several projects, including the biodiversity Photo Contest, the annual Sparrow Awards, Project Save Our Sparrows, and the Common Bird Monitoring of India programme.
- The first World Sparrow Day was held in the year **2010**. In **2011**, the World Sparrow Awards were established. The award recognises persons who have made significant contributions to environmental conservation and ordinary species protection.

### 1.179 CARBOFURAN POISONING CAUSES VULTURE DEATHS.

#### Why in news?

- Recent **deaths of more than 95 Himalayan griffon vultures (Near Threatened)** and a steppe eagle in Assam have been attributed to pesticide poisoning due to carbofuran.
- **Habitat of Himalayan griffon vultures:** western China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan, east through the Himalayan mountain range in India, Nepal and Bhutan, to central China and Mongolia.

#### About Carbofuran:

- It is a **pesticide** that is widely used **to control insects and nematodes** on a variety of agricultural crops
- Its **extensive use for agricultural and non-agricultural purposes** has been directly responsible for the environmental contamination and human health issues.

### 1.180 AFRICA'S BOMA TECHNIQUE ADOPTED FOR TRANSLOCATING DEER FROM KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK.

#### Why in news?

- Technique involves luring of animals into an enclosure by chasing them through a funnel like fencing.
- Earlier, it was utilised to capture wild elephants for training and service.

#### Keoladeo National Park

- KNP, popularly known as Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, is located in **Bharatpur, Rajasthan**.
- It was **recognised as a World Heritage Site** by UNESCO In 1985.
- It is designated as a **Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention** in 1981.
- It is known as the breeding ground for the rare and elusive **Siberian crane**.

### 1.181 CENTRE LAUNCHES WATER REUSE PROJECT.

#### Why in news?

- On World Water Day, Union minister for Jai Shakti launched a 'Sujalam 2.0' grey water recycling project.
- A staggering 31,000 million tonne of grey water a day is discharged by rural India alone, which is enough to tide over drought if evenly stored across the country.

#### About World Water Day:

- Held on 22nd March every year since 1993, it focuses on the importance of freshwater.
- **2022 theme** is **"Groundwater, making the invisible visible"**.



- **Grey water** is defined as the wastewater that includes water from baths, showers, hand basins, washing machines, dishwashers and kitchen sinks, but excludes streams from toilets.
  - More than 70 percent of freshwater across rural households in India gets converted to greywater.

#### **Significance of grey water recycling:**

- Can prevent potential harm to the environment.
- Can reduce the demand for freshwater.
- Reliable water resource as unlike rainwater harvesting, grey water is not dependent on unpredictable and variable rainfall.
- High nitrogen and phosphorus content when used in irrigation can make a good nutrient or fertiliser source.

### **1.182 MICROSOFT TO RECYCLE HEAT GENERATED BY DATA CENTRES.**

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

- A datacentre is a physical facility that organisations use to store their critical applications and data, process data and disseminate them to users.
- The temperatures recorded in the hot aisles of a datacentre hover between 80 and 115 degrees Fahrenheit.
- As a solution to the large carbon footprint of data centres, excess heat generated by data centres can be captured and clean heat from the server cooling process can be transferred to the district heating system.
- It helps to combat climate change.
- For this Microsoft has partnered to begin **the first project in Finland.**

### **1.183 FIRST WILDLIFE BOND ISSUED BY WORLD BANK TO SAVE AFRICA'S BLACK RHINO.**

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

- The **World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD)** has issued the **Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB)** to support of South Africa's efforts to conserve endangered species of **Black Rhino**.
- Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) is also known as **"Rhino Bond"**. It is a five-year **\$150 million Sustainable Development Bond**. It includes a potential performance payment from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- The bond will contribute to protecting and increasing black rhino populations in two protected areas in South Africa namely the Addo Elephant National Park (AENP) and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve (GFRNR).

### **1.184 SRINAGAR TULIP FESTIVAL.**

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

- Asia's largest Tulip Garden is located in Srinagar. This garden houses more than a million tulips. This garden has been a major global tourist attraction in Kashmir. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, it has been reopened to the public after being shut for the past nine months.

#### **About the Srinagar Tulip Festival**

- Annually in the month of April, the Jammu and Kashmir government organizes the tulip festival which kicks off the tourism season of the union territory. This festival includes multiple musical events, cultural programmes, conferences, and food fests. The blend of colours from the different varieties of tulips attracts hundreds of tourists to Kashmir from various parts of India.

#### **About the Tulip garden**

- On the foothills of the Zabarwan range, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden is located. It overlooks Srinagar's Dal lake.
- In 2008 it was initially opened by then Chief Minister Ghulam Mabi Azad. Since then it has been attracting lakhs of visitors from several parts of the country to Srinagar.
- More than 50 gardeners worked tirelessly for the past nine months to get this garden ready for the festival. The garden will remain open till April end, as this is the duration of the tulips blooming. Apart from tulips, flowers like daffodils, hyacinths, and ranunculus have also been added to this garden.

### 1.185 AS PER UNEP REPORT, MORADABAD IS THE 2ND MOST NOISE POLLUTED CITY GLOBALLY.

#### Why in news?

- UNEP 'Frontiers' report 2022: Noise, Blazes and Mismatches' looks at three concerns: **Urban soundscapes, wildfires and phonological shifts.**
- Noise pollution is defined as regular exposure to elevated sound levels that may lead to adverse effects in humans or other living organisms.
- CPCB has laid down the permissible noise pollution levels in India for different areas.

#### **Key findings**

- 13 noise polluted cities are in south Asia. Five of these are in India, namely Moradabad, Kolkata, Asansol, Jaipur and Delhi.
- Long-term exposure to noise pollution from road traffic, railways, or leisure activities causes premature deaths, heart disease, metabolic disorders, and people suffer from irritability.
- Highest noise pollution has been recorded in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

#### **Steps taken to deal with noise pollution**

- Earlier, it was covered under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 but later, Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 replaced it. **However**, under Air Act, 1981, **noise emanating from industry is regulated by State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs / PCCs) for states/UTs.**
- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) proposed fines between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1 lakh for those who violate norms.
- Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 prescribed noise standards for motor vehicles, air-conditioners, refrigerators etc.
- **Solution-** vegetation in urban environments, Noise barriers along highways or railways, conducting awareness campaigns etc.

### 1.186 ROUGH TOOTHED DOLPHIN SPOTTED IN LAKSHADWEEP.

#### Why in news?

- A Research team of the Department of Environment and Forest in Lakshadweep has reported the **first-ever live sighting of rough-toothed dolphins (Steno bredanensis) in Indian waters.**

#### **About Rough Toothed Dolphin:**

- Found **in tropical and warmer temperate waters all over the world** but little is known about them.
- Grow up to 8.5ft in length and **have grey body with white lips and throat and a speckled belly.**
- Conservation status:
- IUCN: **Least Concern.**
- CITES **Appendix II.**

### 1.187 AUSTRALIA DECLARES 'MASS BLEACHING' AT GREAT BARRIER REEF (GBR).

### Why in news?

- It is reported that GBR, which is the world's largest coral reef system is suffering a "mass bleaching event, the fourth since 2016.
- GBR has suffered three mass bleaching events during heatwaves in 2016, 2017 and 2020.
- GBR stretches for more than 2,300 kilometres along the northeast coast of Australia.
- It was declared a **World Heritage Area in 1981** because of its 'outstanding universal value.
- This reef structure is composed of and built by billions of tiny organisms, known as coral polyps.
- **Bleaching occurs** when healthy corals become **stressed by spikes in ocean temperatures, causing them to expel algae living in their tissues, which drains them of their vibrant colours.**
- This is despite the cooling effect of the La Nina weather phenomenon which is currently influencing Australia's climate.

### **About Corals**

- Coral reefs are large colonies of invertebrate, tiny soft-bodied animal called Coral polyps, that live in symbiotic relationship (mutually beneficial) with small algae like organism called zooxanthellae.
- Coral polyps provide protection to zooxanthellae in return of nutrient. Zooxanthellae also provide them the colourful hues.
- India has **4 coral reef areas**: Gulf of Mannar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep islands and Gulf of Kutch.
- Coral reefs are some of the most bio diverse and productive ecosystems.
- They act as natural barriers to shorelines, protecting them from damage and flooding from storms, hurricanes, and cyclones.

## **1.188 COP-4 MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY.**

### Why in news?

- In the Conference of Parties (COP-4) Minamata Convention on Mercury, the participating parties have agreed to expand the mercury-added products list that has been planned to be phased out.

### **Outcomes of COP 4**

- The COP-4 Minamata Convention on Mercury, took place in Bali, Indonesia from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- This convention resumed after the conclusion of the first online segment which was held in November 2021.
- The COP-4 convention covered several crucial topics, like the framework to evaluate the Convention's effectiveness.
- Annex A and B that contain information related to all mercury-added products, and their manufacturing processes were also reviewed.
- Nine decisions were adopted at this convention.
- The implementation of national reporting, international cooperation, artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), technical assistance, capacity building, mercury waste thresholds, and releases of mercury are also on schedule.
- Efforts to mainstream gender under all projects, activities, and programs were also focused upon.
- The development of a gender action plan was also discussed.
- Also, during this meeting multilateralism and international cooperation were also reinforced.
- It was also decided to tackle the challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change, and waste and pollution.

### **Aim of the Minamata Convention**

- This convention aims to protect the environment and human health from the release of mercury, and anthropogenic emissions.
- **Phasing out of mercury-added products**-In this convention, the phasing out of **eight mercury-added products** like **cold cathode fluorescent lamps, compact fluorescent lamps, paper, photograph film, and propellant for satellites** was listed. The dental amalgam phase-down has also benefitted substantially

after two additional measures were added to protect the vulnerable populations against mercury use by dental practitioners in bulk form.

- **Bali Declaration**-The “Bali Declaration on Combatting Global Illegal Trade of Mercury” was also presented by the host nation. This political declaration of non-binding nature aims to develop practical tools and enhance international cooperation to share and monitor information, practices, and experiences to combat the illegal mercury trade.

### 1.189 HORNBILL NEST ADOPTION PROGRAMME.

#### Why in news?

- The Nyishi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh celebrated a decade success of HNAP.
- HNAP, launched in 2011 as **community-based hornbill conservation programme**, operates in the forests outside Arunachal Pradesh's **Pakke Tiger Reserve**.
- Hornbills are indicators of the health of a forest; they are **seed dispersers** and called as '**farmers of the forest**'.
- India is **home to nine species**, of which **four are found in Western Ghats**—Indian Grey Hornbill, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Malabar Pied Hornbill and the Great Hornbill.

### 1.190 OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES ARRIVE AT ODISHA COAST FOR MASS NESTING.

#### Why in news?

- 2022 **arribada (mass-nesting phenomenon)** is the most delayed mass nesting recorded in Gahirmatha.
- **Gahirmatha** (Odisha) is the **world's largest rookery of olive ridley's** followed by Rushikulya.
- Olive Ridley turtles dig holes on the beach at night time creating a cavity. They lay 40-50 eggs in each hole and cover it again with sand. Before sunrise, the turtles return to the sea, leaving behind the eggs, which **hatch after 40-60 days**.

#### **About Olive Ridley**

- It gets its name from the **olive green color** of its heart-shaped shell.
- Found primarily in the warm tropical regions of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic oceans.
- **Threats:** Accidental killing through entanglement in trawl nets; extensively poached for their meat, shell and leather; warmer sea surface temperatures etc.
- **IUCN Status: Vulnerable.**
- **Protection:** Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, CITES Appendix I.
- Government Initiatives
- **Operation Save Kurma** by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.
- Odisha government has made it mandatory for trawls to use **Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)**.
- **Operation Oliva** exercise to ensure the safe mid-sea sojourn of breeding Olive Ridley sea.

## PRACTICE MCQS

### 1. Consider the following statements regarding Rain Bomb-

1. Rain bombs are also known as Wet Microbursts.
2. A microburst is a small column of sinking air known as downdraft that forms within a thunderstorm.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

### 2. Consider the following statements with respect to Cheetahs-

1. African Cheetahs are considered vulnerable as per IUCN whereas Asiatic Cheetah is considered critically endangered.
2. Asiatic Cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1982.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

### 3. *Glycosmis albicarpa*, discovered recently, is a species of-

- A. Frog
- B. Gin berry
- C. Spider
- D. Banana

**ANSWER: B**

### 4. Who has been recently selected to represent India at the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition?

- A. Aarushi Verma
- B. Ravi Mittal
- C. Arunima Sinha
- D. Premlata Aggarwal

**ANSWER: A**

### 5. Consider the following statements about Sunderbans-

1. It is the world's largest mangrove delta.
2. It is a biosphere reserve, national park and tiger reserve.

3. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

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

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

**ANSWER: D**

6. India's largest floating solar power project has been recently inaugurated in-

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

**ANSWER: A**

7. Consider the following statements regarding Non coking Coal-

- 1. Non-Coking Coal does not have any caking properties.
- 2. It has lower ash content.
- 3. It is mainly used as thermal coal for power generation.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

8. With respect to Manas National Park, consider the following statements:

- 1. It provides habitat to tiger, greater one-horned rhino, swamp deer, pygmy hog and bengal florican.
- 2. It is a unesco world heritage site and a tiger reserve.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

9. Halari donkey is a native species of-

- A. Gujarat

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

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Consider the following statements with respect to Sawfish-**

1. They are bottom dwellers in shallow water habitats in subtropical and tropical regions.
2. Sawfishes are ovoviviparous fish species.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**11. Which Indian city has become the first city in South Asia to announce detail plans for net zero emissions?**

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Chennai
- C. Cochin
- D. Mumbai

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Consider the following statements regarding Mouling National Park-**

1. It is located in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It is home to species like Red Pandas and Hoolock Gibbons among others.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**13. India's first ever digital water databank 'AQVERIUM' has been launched in-**

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Pune
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Bhopal

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Consider the following statements with respect to Toyota Mirai Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle-**

1. It uses hydrogen fuel cell to produce energy for motion.
2. Other than water, there is no tailpipe emission.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**15. World Sparrow Day (WSD) is celebrated every year on March 20th. What was the theme for WSD this year?**

- A. Save Sparrows
- B. Love Sparrows
- C. Conserve Sparrows
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: B**

**16. Carbofuran, a pesticide, has been blamed for deaths of more than 95 Himalayan griffon vultures in Assam. What is the IUCN status of Himalayan griffon vulture?**

- A. Critically Endangered
- B. Endangered
- C. Near Threatened
- D. Vulnerable

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Consider the following statements regarding Keoladeo National Park-**

1. It is located in Bharatpur in Madhya Pradesh.
2. It is recognised as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in India.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Consider the following statements regarding Grey water-**

1. Grey water is defined as the wastewater from kitchen and washroom including toilet waste water.



2. 'Sujalam 2.0' launched recently is a grey water recycling project.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Microsoft has begun project to recycle heat generated by data centres in-**

- A. Finland
- B. USA
- C. Norway
- D. Philippines

**ANSWER: A**

**20. The first wildlife bond has been issued by World Bank to save-**

- A. Asiatic Cheetah
- B. Black Rhino
- C. Great Indian Bustard
- D. Koalas

**ANSWER: B**

**21. Asia's largest Tulip Garden is located in-**

- A. Nainital
- B. Shimla
- C. Gulmarg
- D. Srinagar

**ANSWER: D**

**22. As per UNEP 'Frontiers' report 2022, which of the following Indian cities has been judged as 2nd most noise polluted city?**

- A. Moradabad
- B. Kolkata
- C. Asansol
- D. Jaipur

**ANSWER: A**

**23. First-ever live sighting of rough-toothed dolphins in Indian waters has been recently reported in-**

- A. Odisha
- B. Lakshadweep
- C. Great Nicobar Island
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: B**

**24. Consider the following statements regarding coral -**

1. Coral reefs are large colonies of Coral polyps that live in symbiotic relationship with algae like organism called zooxanthellae.
2. Coral polyps provide protection to zooxanthellae in return of nutrient.
3. In India coral reefs are majorly found in Gulf of Mannar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep islands and Gulf of Kutch.

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

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

**ANSWER: D**

**25. Consider the following statements with respect to Minamata Convention-**

1. It is an international treaty designed to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.
2. The recent COP-4 Minamata Convention on Mercury, took place in Paris, France.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**26. Nyishi tribe, known for hornbill conservation, is mainly found in-**

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Kerala
- C. Andaman Islands
- D. Telangana

**ANSWER: A**

**27. Consider the following statements regarding Olive Ridley Turtle-**

1. It is found primarily in the warm tropical regions of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic oceans.
2. Its IUCN status in the Red list is endangered.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

## ART AND CULTURE

### 1.191 ASSAM GOVERNMENT TO SET UP 'NAAMGHARS' AFTER SRIMANTA SANKARDEVA.

#### Why in news?

- Recently, **Assam government** decided to set up 'Naamghars' (Vaishnavite Monasteries) across the places where 15th-century saint and social reformer Srimanta Sankardeva spent at least one night during his journey from Batradava (Assam) to Cooch Behar (West Bengal).

#### About Srimanta Sankardeva

- Srimanta Sankardev** was a 15th–16th century Assamese polymath, a saint-scholar, playwright, musician, poet, dancer, actor and artist social-religious reformer.
- He was a figure of importance in cultural and religious history of Assam.
- He is widely credited with building on past cultural relics and devising new forms of theatrical performance (Ankia Naat, Bhaona), music (Borgeet), literary language (Brajavali) and dance (Sattriya). He was a multi-faceted spiritual guru of 15th and 16th centuries.
- He was a great soul who infused nationalistic fervour among Assamese people.
- Sankardev inspired the Bhakti movement in Assam just like Guru Nanak, Namdev, Ramananda, Kabir, Basava and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

### 1.192 HERATH FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN KASHMIR.

#### Why in news?

- Herath or the 'Night of Hara(Shiva)', generally known as Maha Shivratri, is the main festival celebrated by the Kashmiri Pandits across Jammu and Kashmir(J&K).
- The festival marks the marriage anniversary of Lord Shiva and Goddess Uma(Parvathi). 2022 Herath Festival was celebrated on 28th February 2022.
- Herath Festival is celebrated on "Trayodashi" or the 13th day of the dark half of the month of Phalguna (Hindu calendar), between February and March. The rest of the nation celebrates the Maha Shivratri on Chaturdashi or the 14th of Phalguna.
- The Kashmiri Pandits celebrate the festival by distributing walnuts as a mark of respect to the Hindu deities.

### 1.193 ODISHA GOVERNMENT PLANS RUN THE SUN TEMPLE COMPLETELY ON SOLAR ENERGY.

#### Why in news?

- Odisha government has planned to run the **Sun Temple completely on solar energy**
- Konark is going to be the first model town in Odisha to shift from grid dependency to green energy.

#### About Konark Sun Temple

- Konark is situated at a comfortable distance from the famous religious and tourist centre of Puri (35 K.M.) and the capital city of Bhubaneswar (65 K.M.)
- "**Konarka**", the place bears a name composed of two World elements: **Kona meaning corner and ARKA meaning the Sun.**
- The **Sun god worshipped** in Ark Kshetra is also called Konark.
- In '**Brahma Purana**' the **Sun God** in Ark-kshetra has been described as Konaditya.
- So it is evident that the place where the Kona aditya (or Kona-arka, the Sun god) was worshipped was also **popularly called Konark.**
- The main Temple was called by European sailors "**The Black Pagoda**" as it formed an important landmark for them in their coastal voyage.
- It **forms part** of the **golden triangle of Odisha**, along with **Puri** and **Bhubaneswar**, and attracts tourists, pilgrims, and history and art lovers.
- Built by **King Narasimhadeva I** of the Eastern Ganga dynasty from 1238-1250 CE.

- **Features:** The Sun Temple built in the **thirteenth century** was conceived as a **gigantic chariot of Sun God**, with **twelve pairs of exquisitely ornamented wheels pulled by seven pairs of horses**.
- Its fine trceries and scroll work, the beautiful and natural cut of animal and human figures, all give it a superiority over other temples.
- The Sun temple belongs to the **Kalinga School of Indian Temples with characteristic curvilinear towers mounted by Cupolas**.
- The main sanctum which (229 ft. high) was constructed along with the audience hall (128 ft. high) having elaborate external projections.
- The main sanctum which enshrined the presiding deity has fallen off.
- The Audience Hall survives in its entirety but of the other two viz the Dancing Hall(nata Mandir) and the Dining Hall (Bhoga-Mandap), only small portions have survived the vagaries of time.
- The alignment of the Sun Temple is in the **east-west direction**.
- The temple is a **World Heritage Site** is situated in the eastern state of Odisha and is a massive temple dedicated to the Sun God temple
- **Great poet Rabindranath Tagore wrote of Konark:** "Here the language of stone surpasses the language of man."
- **Protection :**
- The Sun Temple, Konârak is protected under the National Framework of India by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act (1958) and its Rules (1959).
- Other relevant protective legislation includes the Forest Act, Konârak Development Act and notified Council Area Act.

### 1.194 KALIYATTAM FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN KERALA.

#### Why in news?

- The Kaliyattam festival is an annual Theyyam festival held in the temples in Kerala's Malabar region.

#### About Theyyam Festival

- Theyyam is the name of a grand dance festival that is held in different parts of Kerala, including Kasargod.
- Theyyam consists of thousand-year-old rituals, traditions, and customs. The people of these districts where this festival is celebrated consider Theyyam as a channel to a god and they thus seek blessings.
- There are around 456 different varieties of Theyyam. Males perform Theyyam, with the exception of the **Devakoothu Theyyam**, which is the **only Theyyam ritual done by women**. It can only be seen at the Thekkumbad Kulom temple.
- Theyyam is performed in the North Malabar region consisting of present-day Kannur Districts, Kasargod, Vadakara and Koyilandy Taluks of Kozhikode and Mananthavady Taluk of Wayanad.

#### Performance of the Ritual

- Generally, the dance is performed in front of the village shrine. It is also practiced as ancestor worship in homes, with elaborate rituals and rites.
- For the performance, **there is no stage, curtain, or another similar setup**. The devotees would either be standing or sitting in front of the shrine on a sacred tree. The shrine's performance of a particular deity, depending on its hierarchy and significance, lasts 12 to 24 hours with intervals. The chief dancer who worships the shrine's central deity has to reside in the rituals.
- The dancer, accompanied by the drummers, recites the ritual song, which narrates the stories and tales of the shrine's deity or the folk deity to be worshipped. Folk musical instruments are played in the background.

### 1.195 IHCL & UNESCO PARTNER TO PRESERVE THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF INDIA.

#### Why in news?

- Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) has partnered with The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to help preserve and promote the intangible cultural heritage of India, as part of an initiative which aims to transform the travel landscape in the post pandemic world.
- IHCL & UNESCO Partnership is the **Industry's first collaboration to work towards preserving India's intangible cultural heritage.**
- IHCL and UNESCO will **offer experiential tours for travellers at various IHCL hotels** and enable them to experience better the living heritage of India.
- **1<sup>st</sup> phase:** Visits to local communities practicing art forms like **Patachitra** – a traditional scroll painting technique in West Bengal, **Ganga Aarti** – the prayer ceremony at Dasashwamedh Ghat at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, as well as **Kalbelia** performances, Blue Pottery making, Bagru Hand Block printing, and the Terracota art of Molela.
- The visitors will also experience the tribal life of the Bishnoi village in Rajasthan, or Mysuru Dasara and Janpadaloka in Karnataka.

#### Other information

#### UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage List 2021: All Inclusions From India

- Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre
- The tradition of Vedic chanting
- Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana
- Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India
- Chhau dance
- Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
- Mudi yettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala
- Durga Puja in Kolkata
- Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir, India
- Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur
- Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India
- Nawrouz
- Yoga
- Kumbh Mela

#### 1.196 BIHAR'S BODH GAYA TO GET INDIA'S LARGEST BUDDHA STATUE IN SLEEPING POSTURE.

##### Why in news?

- India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being constructed in Bodh Gaya, Bihar. The 100 feet long and 30 feet high statue depicts Lord Buddha in a sleeping posture. The statue is being built by Buddha International Welfare Mission.
- The sculptors from Kolkata are building the statue with fibreglass.
- The construction of the statue was started in 2019 and it will be open for devotees from February 2023.
- Bodh Gaya is an important pilgrimage centre for Buddhism and is visited by devotees from all over the world.

#### 1.197 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (ASI) WARNS OF THREATS OF PURI HERITAGE CORRIDOR PROJECT.

##### Why in news?

- As per the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, any new construction within 100 meters of a temple is prohibited.
- But for PHCP, National Monument Authority (NMA) reportedly issued a No Objection Certificate to the state government for some construction work within the prohibited zone.

- NMA, under Ministry of Culture, has been set up under AMASR provisions for considering grant of permissions for construction related activity in prohibited and regulated area.
- PHCP was unveiled in December 2019 to transform the holy town of Puri into an international Place of heritage.

#### About Puri Jagannath Temple

- It was constructed by Ganga Dynasty king Ananta Varman Chodaganga Deva dating back to 12th century at the seashore Puri.
- Lord Jagannath, Devi Subhadra and elder brother Balabhadra (the holy trinity) are being worshipped in Puri.
- It is designated as one of the Char Dhams (Dwarika, Badrinath & Rameswaram are other three) for pilgrimages in India.
- Various festivals of Sri Jagannath observed during the year are Snana Yatra, Netrotsava, Ratha Yatra (car festival), Sayan Ekadasi, Chitalagi Amabasya, Srikrushna Janma, Dussehra etc.

#### Architectural features

- Main temple is constructed in **Kalinga architecture**, in such a way that no shadow of the temple falls on the ground at any time of the day.
- Idols of the holy trinity are carved out of wood rather than stone or metal idols.
- Unlike other temples of the region, the carvings on the temples are predominantly of gods and goddesses.

### 1.198 GI-TAGGED KASHMIR CARPETS SENT TO GERMANY.

#### Why in news?

- First ever Geographical Indication (GI) tagged Kashmir carpets flagged off to Germany.
- Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade granted GI tag to Kashmiri hand knotted carpets in 2016 but the registered carpets were certified from this year.
- History of Kashmiri carpet dates back to the period of the famous Sufi Saint and scholar, Hazrat Mir Syed All Hamdani (1341-1385 AD) of Persia.
- **Kashmiri carpets** are very **similar to Iranian carpets**, but in Kashmiri carpets weavers use a written set of codes and symbols for design patterns and colors, called **Taleem**.
- **Taleem**, a coded color chart **indicates the number of knots to be woven in their respective colors**.

### 1.199 3. SANTHALI SOHRAI MURAL.

#### Why in news?

- Santhali communities of Odisha and Jharkhand are changing their ways of painting Sohrai murals.

#### About Sohrai mural art

- It is **painted on the mud wal** and is a matriarchal tradition handed down from mother to daughter.
- Usually **either monochromatic or colorful**, with the use of natural pigments mixed in mud.
- The red line is drawn first as it represents the 'blood of the ancestors; procreation, and fertility.
- It is performed **during marriage and harvest seasons**.
- It is continued since 10,000-4,000 BC which was prevalent into caves' structure.
- In 2020, **Jharkhand** received a Geographical Indication tag for its Sohrai art.

### 1.200 PHOOL DEI FESTIVAL OF UTTARAKHAND.

#### Why in news?

- The festival of **Phool Dei** is celebrated in the Garhwal and Kumaon regions of **Uttarakhand** every year in the flowering season (March-April) to mark the onset of spring.
- It takes place on the first day of the Chaitra season as per the Hindu calendar.

- Children, particularly young girls, go into farms, forests and gardens to collect fresh flowers to offer to the local deities.
- The celebration is indirectly rooted in a sense of affection and protection towards nature, especially local flowers and trees.

### 1.201 WEST BENGAL CELEBRATES DOL UTSAV.

#### Why in news?

- Recently West Bengal celebrated the '**Dol Utsav**' or '**Dol jatra**', the festival of colors, marking the onset of spring season.
- The festival is dedicated to Lord Krishna and Radha and celebrated on the full moon day.
- It also marks the last festival of the year as per the Bengali calendar.
- The majestic festival is celebrated by throwing 'gulaal' or 'aabir' on others and by singing and dancing in cultural programs.
- In Eastern region of India, the festival of spring is celebrated as Dol Tatra, Dol Purnima, Dol Utsav and Basanta Utsav.
- Other Popular spring festival of India:
  - Rongali Bihu - the spring festival of Assam, It signifies the onset of the Assamese New Year.
  - Sarhul - the spring festival of Jharkhand

### 1.202 NARASINGHAPETTAI NAGASWARAM GETS GI TAG.

#### Why in news?

- An ancient musical Instrument from Narasinghapettai, a village in Thanjavur, has been granted Geographical indication (GI) tag.
- It is highly complex musical instrument, dating back to the 13th century.
- Nagaswaram is **made of 'aacha maram; a tree known for its sturdy features.**
- '**Aacha**' wood, which is naturally water-resistant, is procured specifically from the Cauvery River basin for making the instrument.
- Artisans use drilling machines to make the nagaswarams that are played widely in functions like weddings and temple festivals.

### 1.203 BIHAR GOVERNMENT TO TRANSLATE AND PUBLISH ORIGINAL BUDDHIST MANUSCRIPTS BROUGHT BACK BY RAHUL SANKRITYAYAN.

#### Why in news?

- Bihar government is in the process to translate and publish hundreds of original Buddhist manuscripts from Nalanda and Vikramshila, saved during the burning of the ancient universities in the 12th and 13th centuries by Bakhtiyar Khilji's army and later brought back to India from Tibet by Rahul Sankrityayan.

#### About Rahul Sankrityayan

- A traveller and literary polymath, he was universally called Mahapandit (great scholar) as he knew nearly 30 languages, but he almost wrote in Hindi.
- Wrote "**Madhya Asia Ka Itihas**" (History of Central Asia); "**Volga Se Ganga**" (From Volga to Ganga); a grammar and primer of Tibetan in Sanskrit.
- Made a pioneering contribution in preserving and reconstructing the philosophical works of Buddhist logicians like Dharmakirti, Asang and Subandhu.
- His travels prompted him to write travelogues and he is considered 'father of Hindi travel literature'.
- Awarded by Sahitya Akademi (1958) & Padma Bhushan.

### 1.204 SANTALI SCRIPT 'OL CHIKI'.

#### Why in news?

- For the first time, **Indian Constitution** is translated into **Santali script 'Ol Chiki'**.
- 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act 2003 added Santali to Schedule VIII along with the Bodo, Dogri and Maithili languages.

#### About Santals

- Santals community is concentrated in **several states including Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand**.
- They speak **Santali language which belongs to the Munda group of Austro-Asiatic sub-family** of languages.
- Santals are well known for their housing architecture with colourfully painted walls, floors and artistically carved doors.
- Their primary occupation is settled agriculture.

### 1.205 MANGALURU KAMBALA STARTS IN KARNATAKA.

#### Why in news?

- The annual Mangaluru Kambala's fifth edition will be held on the grounds of Goldfinch City in Bangra Kulur on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- Around 150 pairs of buffalo bulls will be taking part in this event.
- This event generally takes place in November, but due to the COVID-19 restrictions, for the second year running, this event is being held in March.
- The season's last two Kambalas will be organized in April in Uppinangady and Venur.

#### **What is Kambala?**

- It is a buffalo race held annually in Karnataka. This event is sponsored by the local Tuluva landlords in the Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.
- Kambala samithis organize these events. Annually, more than 45 races are held in the coastal region of coastal Karnataka.

#### **Format of this race**

- The race track where this event takes place is a paddy field that is slushy. Whip-lashing farmers drive the buffaloes. The winners earn silver and gold coins.
- Some of the organizing committees award a gold coin which is of eight-grams to the winner whereas in some places cash prizes are given.
- The buffaloes taking part in this event are decorated with head-pieces made of silver and brass, bridle made of ropes, and coloured jhuls. **Paavade** is the name of the towel that is used to cover the neck of the buffalo.

### 1.206 TALIBAN PRESERVING BAMIIYAN BUDDHAS.

#### Why in news?

- Taliban are preserving Bamiyan buddhas, with eye to attract Chinese investment.

#### **About Bamiyan Buddhas:**

- It is situated in the **Hindu Kush** in the **central highlands of Afghanistan**.
- Bamiyan **Buddhas date back to the 5th century AD** and were once the tallest standing Buddhas in the world.
- They were **locally known as Salsal and Shamama**.
- They were great examples of a **confluence of Gupta, Sassanian and Hellenistic** artistic styles.
- In 2001, Taliban began blowing up the two statues.
- Following this, UNESCO included the remains in its list of World Heritage Sites in 2003.



## 1.207 KOZHIKODE PROPOSED AS A UNESCO'S CITY OF LITERATURE.

### Why in news?

- Recently, Kozhikode was proposed by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to be branded as a **UNESCO's City of Literature**, which is **part of a wider UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN)**.
- **UCCN** was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
- It **covers seven creative fields**: Crafts & Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Music, and Media Arts.
- 6 Indian cities are included on the list- **Hyderabad** (gastronomy), **Mumbai** (film), **Varanasi** (music), **Chennai** (music), **Jaipur** (crafts and folk art) and the latest addition, **Srinagar** (crafts and folk art).



CivilsTap Hlmachal

**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. Consider the following statements regarding Srimanta Sankardeva-**

1. He was 15th century saint and social reformer from Assam.
2. Assam government recently decided to set up 'Naamghars' in honour of the saint.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**2. Herath festival is majorly celebrated in which of the following states?**

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Punjab
- C. Telangana
- D. Manipur

**ANSWER: A**

**3. Consider the following statements regarding Sun Temple at Konark-**

1. It was built by King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.
2. The Sun temple belongs to the Solanki School of Indian Temple architecture.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**4. Kaliyattam Festival is celebrated in which of the following states?**

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Telangana
- D. Odisha

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Which of the following is not part UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage List from India?**

- A. Durga Puja
- B. Kutiyattam
- C. Patachitra

D. Mudiyettu

**ANSWER: C**

**6. India's Largest Buddha Statue in reclining posture is set to come up at-**

- A. Bodh Gaya
- B. Sanchi
- C. Sarnath
- D. Kushinagar

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Consider the following statements about Puri Jagannath Temple-**

- 1. It was constructed by King Ananta Varman Chodaganga Deva of Ganga Dynasty.
- 2. It is designated as one of the Char Dhams.
- 3. The main temple is constructed in Kalinga architecture.

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

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

**ANSWER: D**

**8. Consider the following statements with respect to Kashmiri carpets-**

- 1. Kashmiri hand knotted carpets got GI Tag in 2016.
- 2. Weavers use a written set of codes and symbols for design patterns and colors, called Taleem.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**9. Which state has got the GI tag for Santhali Sohrai mural paintings?**

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Telangana
- C. Karnataka
- D. West Bengal

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Phool Dei festival is celebrated in flowering season in which of the following states?**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**11. Consider the following statements regarding the festival 'Dol Utsav' -**

- 1. It is celebrated marking the onset of spring season.
- 2. The festival is dedicated to Lord Brahma.

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**12. An ancient musical Instrument, Narasinghapettai nagaswaram, recently got GI tag from which state?**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Consider the following statements about Rahul Sankrityayan-**

- 1. He brought back hundreds of original Buddhist manuscripts to India from Tibet.
- 2. He is considered 'father of Hindi travel literature.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

**14. Santali along with the Bodo, Dogri and Maithili languages, was added to Schedule VIII of Indian constitution by?**

- A. 91st Constitutional Amendment Act
- B. 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act
- C. 93rd Constitutional Amendment Act

D. 94th Constitutional Amendment Act

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Kambala Buffalo race, is predominantly celebrated in-**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Consider the following statements regarding Bamiyan Buddhas-**

- 1. These date back to the 2nd century BC.
- 2. They were great examples of a confluence of Gupta, Sassanian and Hellenistic artistic styles.

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

**17. Which of the following is not an Indian city on UNESCO's Creative Cities Network?**

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Srinagar
- C. Jaipur
- D. Kachipuram

**ANSWER: D**

CivilsTap Hlmachal

## STATE CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 1.208 TAMIL NADU 'NAAN MUDHALVAN'- SKILL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR STUDENTS.

#### Why in news?

- Recently, Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister launched a skill development scheme for the students named "Naan Mudhalvan" which means 'I am the first', at the Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

#### Objective

- To improve the educational skills, knowledge, talent, and efficiency of 10 lakh young people annually.
- To make all students and youth stand out in the spheres of education, research, thought, action and talent.

#### About Naan Mudhalvan

- The scheme is designed to bridge the talent gap in the employment market.
- The scheme will hone the skills of a particular individual in a selected sector and will also include training students on their choice of subjects/area, languages, technical knowhow and others.
- Under this scheme the students will be given modern-day coding and robotics classes while experts will mentor them on aspects related to physical health and behaviour.
- The Guidance centres will be set up in schools while there would be a separate syllabus aimed at Classes 9 to 12.

### 1.209 INDIA'S FIRST AMBULANCE FOR STREET ANIMALS LAUNCHED IN TAMIL NADU.

#### Why in news?

- India's first **ambulance for street animals** has been launched in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. It has been started by the **Blue Cross of India** in collaboration with the international animal welfare organization "**Four Paw**".
- The Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with **an onboard veterinarian** to provide **on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals**.
- Apart from the veterinarian, the animal ambulance will also include a para veterinary-worker-cum-driver.
- The ambulance will include a treatment table, two fans, an inverter, a fridge, and drawers for sterile products and bandages. It will also come with a washbasin, an anti-skid shock-absorbing mat, a stretcher trolley, a retractable doctor's seat, a retractable tarpaulin, dog-catching equipment, two movable cages to hold dogs, and overhead cupboards.
- There will also be a provision to administer intravenous fluids and oxygen on board.

### 1.210 SHIRUI LILY FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN MANIPUR.

#### Why in news?

- It is an annual five-day State festival organised by the Department of Tourism of Manipur.
- Its aim is to spread awareness about the **endangered state flower 'Shirui Lily'**.
- It is a unique species of ground lily that is found only in the Shirui Hills of Manipur.
- It is about **a foot tall and its flower resembles the shape of a bell**. It blooms only during the months of April to June every year.
- The festival helps celebrate rich biodiversity and cultural heritage of Manipur, and gives chance to learn more about the **Tangkhul Naga** tribe living in the region.

### 1.211 SIKKIM GOVT. TO LAUNCH AAMA YOJNA & BAHINI SCHEME.

#### Why in news?

- Chief Minister of Sikkim has announced that the State Govt. will soon implement 'Aama Yojna', a scheme for helping non-working mothers & 'Bahini Scheme' benefitting girl students of the state.

#### About Aama Yojna:

- The scheme aims to inculcate the habit of saving among non-working mothers in the state and hence the Govt. will provide them Rs. 20,000 each in their bank accounts annually.
- The scheme covers only those whose names are enrolled in the electoral roll of the state and a sum of Rs.100 crores has been allocated for it in the budget.

#### About Bahini Scheme:

- The aim of this scheme is to reduce the dropout rate of girl students due to lack of accessibility/availability of Sanitary Napkins & also to ensure menstrual health and hygiene.
- Under this scheme, over 18,000 girl students who study in class 9 and above are provided with free sanitary napkins in the state.
- The State Govt. also has plans to set-up sanitary napkin vending machines in schools and also increase awareness and sensitization programmes about menstrual health & hygiene.

### 1.212 CHHATTISGARH CM LAUNCHES 'KAUSHALYA MATRITVA YOJANA' FOR SAFE MOTHERHOOD.

#### Why in news?

- On 7 March 2022, the Chief Minister (CM) of Chhattisgarh in Raipur launched the '**Kaushalya Matritva Yojana**' by handing cheques of Rs 5,000 each to five women beneficiaries for the safe motherhood practices.
- It aims to **help women financially for the nutrition of themselves and their child after pregnancy**. It will also prevent female foeticide.
- Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 5000 will be provided to women for bringing up their second girl child.
- The entire expenditure of this scheme will be borne by the Chhattisgarh government.

### 1.213 HARYANA GOVT ANNOUNCES MATRUSHAKTI UDAYMITA SCHEME.

#### Why in news?

- **Haryana government** has announced **Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme** to provide support to women entrepreneurs, on **International Women's Day**.
- Under the scheme, the women whose family annual income is less than **5 lakh rupees** based on **Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP)** verified data, will be provided access to soft loans by financial institutions to the extent of 3 lakh rupees.
- Subsequently, the interest subvention of 7% will also be provided for three years through the **Haryana Women Development Corporation**.

### 1.214 100 YEARS OF PAL-DADHVAV KILLINGS.

#### Why in news?

- On 7th March, Gujarat government marked **100 years of the Pal-Dadhvav killings**.
- **Pal-Dadhvav massacre** took place in the Pal-Chitariya and Dadhvaav villages of **Sabarkantha district** part of War state (was princely state in Gujarat).
- The movement was **to protest against the land revenue tax (lagaan) imposed on the peasants** by the British and feudal lords.
- British officer Major H.G. Sutton from Mewad Bhil Corps ordered to open fire at the innocent tribals.

### 1.215 TRIPURA GOVT ANNOUNCED "MUKHYAMANTRI CHAA SRAMI KALYAN PRAKALPA" SCHEME.

#### Why in news?

- **Tripura Government** has announced a special scheme '**Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa**' for **tea workers**.
- A special scheme, allotting **Rs. 85 crores** for its implementation, as a step towards bringing the **7000 tea garden workers of Tripura** under the social security net.

- This special scheme would ensure housing, rations, and financial support to the tea garden workers by integrating the facilities that are entitled to them, by the state government and the central government.

**Key information:**

- About 75% of the 7000 tea garden workers are women and they produce nearly 90 lakh kilograms of tea through 54 tea estates & 21 tea processing factories across the state. The tea production is mainly distributed in the North, Sepahijala, Unakoti, and West Tripura districts.
- The Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah had recently inaugurated the year 2022 Women Empowerment Campaign and Chief Minister Shramik Kalyan Prakalp scheme for the women of Tripura on the occasion of International Women's Day & has also laid the foundation stone for National Forensic Sciences University in Agartala, capital of Tripur

## 1.216 RAJASTHAN FOUNDATION DAY OR RAJASTHAN DIWAS OBSERVED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

### Why in news?

- On 30<sup>th</sup> March Rajasthan Foundation Day or Rajasthan Diwas is observed to commemorate the state's formation. On 30<sup>th</sup> March 1949, Rajasthan was formed after the merging of Rajputana into the Indian Union.

### **Overview**

- The 73<sup>rd</sup> foundation day of Rajasthan is being celebrated on Rajasthan Day 2022.
- Rajasthan is largest state by area in India and it is located in the country's northwest part.
- 4 percent of the country's geographical area is covered by Rajasthan.
- This state is home to a huge cultural diversity.
- Rajasthan is India's seventh-largest state by population.
- Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert is a prominent part of Rajasthan.
- The state has three national tiger reserves which are **Ranthambore National Park** (Sawai Madhopur), Sariska Tiger Reserve (Alwar), and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (Kota).
- Five Indian states border Rajasthan. They are Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to the northeast, Punjab to the north, Madhya Pradesh to the southeast, and Gujarat to the southwest. The state also shares a border with Pakistan's Punjab and Sindh provinces.



**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. 'Naan Mudhalvan'- Skill Development scheme for students has been launched by which state?**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**2. India's first ambulance for street animals launched in which state?**

- A. Kerala
- B. Punjab
- C. West Bengal
- D. Tamil Nadu

**ANSWER: D**

**3. Shirui Lily festival is celebrated in which of the following states?**

- A. Manipur
- B. Mizoram
- C. Nagaland
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: A**

**4. Aama Yojna, scheme to inculcate the habit of saving among non-working mothers, has been recently launched in-**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**5. Which of the following state has launched Kaushalya Matritva Yojana'?**

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Chhattisgarh

**ANSWER: D**

**6. Which state has recently announced 'Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme' to provide support to women entrepreneurs?**

- A. Uttar Pradesh

- B. Haryana
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Gujarat

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Pal-Dadhvav massacre, which took place 100 years ago, happened in-**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Assam
- C. Madras Presidency
- D. Sialkot

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Which state has recently launched “Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa”?**

- A. West Bengal
- B. Assam
- C. Kerala
- D. Tripura

**ANSWER: D**

**9. Which of the following states observed its foundation day on 30th March recently?**

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

**ANSWER: A**

CivilsTap Hlmachal

## SPORTS

### 1.217 RAFAEL NADAL WINS MEXICAN OPEN 2022.

#### Why in news?

- In tennis, **Rafael Nadal (Spain)** beat British number one **Cameron Norrie** 6-4 6-4 to win the singles title of **Mexican Open 2022 (also known as Acapulco title)**.
- This is the 91st ATP title of his career and the third title of the season.
- This is the fourth time that Rafael Nadal has won the Mexican Open title, after winning the previous ones in 2005, 2013 and 2020. Men's double title winners are **Feliciano Lopez (Spain)** and **Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)**.

### 1.218 POOJA JATYAN BECOMES 1ST INDIAN TO WIN A SILVER IN PARA ARCHERY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.

#### Why in news?

- Para-archer, **Pooja Jatyan** has scripted history as she became the **first Indian to win a silver** in an individual section of the **Para World Championships in Dubai, UAE**.
- She lost to Italy's **Patrilli Vincenza** in the final to be content with the silver medal.
- India has won 2 Silver medals for the first time in the Para Archery World Championship.
- The compound mixed pair of Shyam Sundar Swamy and Jyoti Baliyan had earlier opened India's account by winning a silver medal.

### 1.219 INDIAN SHOOTER SAURABH CHAUDHARY WINS 10M AIR PISTOL GOLD AT ISSF WORLD CUP.

#### Why in news?

- Indian shooter, **Saurabh Chaudhary** has won the gold medal in **Men's 10m Air Pistol** event at the ongoing **2022 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Cairo, Egypt**.
- The silver medal has been won by Germany's Michael Schwald while Artem Chernousov of Russia claimed the bronze medal.

### 1.220 MITHALI RAJ BECOMES FIRST WOMAN CRICKETER TO APPEAR AT SIX CRICKET WORLD CUPS.

#### Why in news?

- Indian women cricket captain, **Mithali Raj** has become the first woman to appear in six **World Cups**. She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad. She has played in the **ICC women's cricket world cup events in 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022**. The ICC women's cricket world cup 2022 is being held in New Zealand.
- In the women's game, the Indian batter surpassed former New Zealand cricketers, **Debbie Hockley and Charlotte Edwards of England**. Fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, Raj's India teammate for the longest time, stands second on the list with five World Cup appearances.

### 1.221 PRIYANKA NUTAKKI BECOMES THE 23RD WOMAN GRANDMASTER OF INDIA.

#### Why in news?

- 19-year-old **Priyanka Nutakki** has secured her final WGM-norm at MPL's forty-seventh National Women Chess Championship. She became India's **twenty-third Woman Grandmaster**. She is from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
- Priyanka Nutakki scored her first WGM-norm in January 2019 and crossed the 2300 rating criteria in the next two months. However, much like a lot of players, the Covid-19 pandemic delayed her title hopes.
- **Priyanka** braved the odds, resumed playing over-the-board tournaments in October 2021 at Chess Mood Open. In her third over-the-board tournament of the year, she scored her second WGM and maiden IM-norm at the 7th Sunway Sitges Open 2021.

### 1.222 INDIA'S S L NARAYANAN WINS GRANDISCACCHI CATTOLICA INTERNATIONAL OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT.

#### Why in news?

- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster, **S L Narayanan** was declared the winner in the **Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open, held in Italy.**
- Meanwhile, his compatriot **R Praggnanandhaa** came second.
- Though Narayanan and six others, including Praggnanandhaa, finished equal first with 6.5 points after nine rounds. But, Narayanan took the top spot on the basis of a better tie-break score.
- The 24-year old S L Narayanan from Thiruvananthapuram earned the title of Grandmaster in 2015 and is the **41st Grandmaster from India.**

### 1.223 AMERICAN-SWEDISH POLE VAULTER MONDO DUPLANTIS SETS WORLD RECORD OF 6.19M IN BELGRADE.

#### Why in news?

- **Armand Gustav "Mondo" Duplantis**, the American-Swedish pole vaulter '**representing Sweden**' breaks his own pole vault World record by clearing 6.19-meters (m) at the Belgrade Indoor Meeting 2022 in Belgrade, Serbia.
- Previously at the Muller Indoor Grand Prix 2020, Glasgow, Duplantis set the World record of 6.18m.
- **Duplantis secured Gold medal in Tokyo Olympics 2020** in pole vault event by clearing 6.02m.

### 1.224 INDIA TO HOST 44<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD 2022 IN CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU.

#### Why in news?

- India is set to host the 44<sup>th</sup> World Chess Olympiad(44th Chess Olympiad) 2022 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The event will be organised by the International Chess Federation (FIDE -Federation Internationale des Echecs) at the convention centre at the Four Points by Sheraton, Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.
- FIDE has approved the bid to host the 44th Chess Olympiad and FIDE Congress 2022 in India.
- The 44th World Chess Olympiad 2022 which was **previously scheduled to be held in Moscow, Russia** from July 26 to August 8, 2022.
- The **FIDE's Chess Olympiad is a biennial team event**, in which teams from around 190 countries compete. The 43rd edition was held in 2018 in Batumi, Georgia.
- 45<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad is set to be held in Budapest, Hungary in 2024.
- This is the 2nd major global Chess event to be held in India after the World Championship match in 2013.

### 1.225 YULIMAR ROJAS CREATED WORLD RECORD BY CLEARING 15.74 METRES.

#### Why in news?

- Venezuelan athlete, **Yulimar Rojas** nicknamed "**la reina del triple salto - queen of the triple jump**" created a World Record (WR) by clearing 15.74 metres (m) to win gold at the World Indoor Championships 2022 in Belgrade, Serbia.
- Rojas who is 6'4 jumped 15.67m (WR) in Tokyo Olympics 2020 to claim Gold Medal, smashing the previous best of 15.50m set by Ukraine's Inessa Kravets in 1995.
- Rojas won third straight world indoor triple jump gold, adding to successes in Portland, United States of America in 2016 and Birmingham, United Kingdom in 2018.
- Yulimar Rojas is the first female Olympic gold medalist from Venezuela.

### 1.226 CRISTIANO RONALDO BECOMES ALL-TIME LEADING SCORER WITH 807 GOALS.

#### Why in news?

- Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo has become the all-time leading scorer (professional football) with 807 goals, after scoring 3 goals against Tottenham Hotspur during the English Premier League 2022. Previously the record was held by Austro-Czech Josef Bican who scored 805 goals from 1931 to 1955.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** scored the 807 goals while playing for Lisbon (5), Manchester United (136), Real Madrid (450), Juventus (101) and the Portuguese national team (115).
- Brazilian strikers Pele and Romario de Souza Faria each have scored more than 1000 goals during their careers, but the statistics include goals in amateur, unofficial and friendly matches.

### 1.227 MAX VERSTAPPEN WINS 2022 SAUDI ARABIAN GRAND PRIX.

#### Why in news?

- **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the **Formula One 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix** at Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Saudi Arabia.
- **Charles Leclerc** (Ferrari- Monaco) came second and **Carlos Sainz Jr.** (Ferrari – Spain) came third.
- It was the second edition of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix and the second round of the 2022 Formula One World Championship.
- **Lewis Hamilton** managed to get a point on the board after coming 10th.

### 1.228 PROMOTION OF RURAL AND INDIGENOUS/TRIBAL GAMES UNDER KHELO INDIA SCHEME (KIS).

#### Why in news?

- '**Promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games**' component of KIS is specifically dedicated to the development and promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games in the country.
- KIS aims at infusing sports culture and achieving sporting excellence in the country thus allowing the populace to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence.
- It is the flagship **Central Sector Scheme** of **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**.
- Following major Indigenous/traditional games have been identified:
- **Mallakhamb, MP** -It is a combination of Yoga, Gymnastics, and Martial Arts. Many types of Mallakhamb as Pole, Rope, Hanging, Niradhar (without support), on cane, on floating platform, Mallakhamb with weapons etc.
- **Kalari payattu, Kerala** -It is a form of Marital Art. It has different techniques like meipayattu (physical body exercise), vadipayattu (fight using sticks), valpayattu (fight using swords) etc.
- **Gatka, Punjab** -Traditional martial art form, that is historically associated with the Sikh gurus. Stick fighting between two or more practitioners, with wooden sticks (called Soti) intended to simulate swords.
- **Thang ta, Manipur**-Traditional martial art also called HUYEN LALLONG ("method of safe-guarding").
- **Yogasana** -Describes a seated posture in yoga typically used for meditation, such as a basic cross-legged position. Examples: Padmasana (lotus pose), Siddhasana (perfect or accomplished pose), Vajrasana (thunderbolt pose) etc.
- **Silambam, TN** -Weapon-based Indian martial art, but also traditionally practised by the Tamil community of Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. Who has won the singles title of Mexican Open 2022?**

- A. Cameron Norrie
- B. Feliciano Lopez
- C. Rafael Nadal
- D. Carlos Alcaraz

**ANSWER: C**

**2. Who has become 1st Indian to win a silver medal in Para Archery World Championships?**

- A. Shyam Sundar
- B. Jyoti Balyan
- C. Pooja Jatyan
- D. Harvinder Singh

**ANSWER: C**

**3. Who has won the gold medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol event at 2022 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup?**

- A. Deepak kumar
- B. Saurabh chaudhary
- C. Divyansh singh
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Who has become first woman cricketer to appear at six Cricket World Cups?**

- A. Jhulan Goswami
- B. Debbie Hockley
- C. Mithali Raj
- D. Charlotte Edwards

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Who has recently become the 23rd Woman Grandmaster of India?**

- A. Pratyusha bodda
- B. P. V. Nandidhaa
- C. Priyanka Nutakki
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Who has recently won the Grandisacchi Cattolica International Open Chess Tournament?**

- A. R Praggnanandhaa

- B. S L Narayanan
- C. Parimarjan Negi
- D. Pentala Harikrishna

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Who has recently set World Record in pole vault?**

- A. Thiago Braz
- B. Sam Kendricks
- C. Piotr Lisek
- D. Armand Duplantis

**ANSWER: D**

**8. India will host 44th World Chess Olympiad 2022 in Chennai. It was earlier scheduled to be held in-**

- A. Manilla
- B. Moscow
- C. New Mexico
- D. London

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Yulimar Rojas recently created world record in triple jump by clearing 15.74 metres. She belongs to which country?**

- A. Poland
- B. Romania
- C. USA
- D. Venezuela

**ANSWER: D**

**10. Who has recently become All-time Leading Scorer in professional football?**

- A. Lionel Messi
- B. Neymar
- C. Kylian Mbappe
- D. Cristiano Ronaldo

**ANSWER: D**

**11. Who has recently won the 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix?**

- A. Charles Leclerc
- B. Carlos Sainz Jr.
- C. Lewis Hamilton
- D. Max Verstappen

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Consider the following statements regarding Khelo India scheme-**

1. It is flagship central sector scheme of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
2. It also focuses on promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**





## AWARDS

### 1.229 IISER'S PROF. DEEPAK DHAR BECOMES FIRST INDIAN TO BE AWARDED WITH BOLTZMANN MEDAL

#### Why in news?

- The renowned Indian physicist and Emeritus Professor at the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, Prof Deepak Dhar will be conferred the prestigious **Boltzmann Medal 2022** for contribution in the field of statistical physics.
- He became the **first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal**. He will share the medal with John J Hopfield of Princeton University.
- The medal presentation ceremony will be held during the StatPhys28 conference in August 2022 in Tokyo, Japan.

#### About the prize

- The Boltzmann Medal (or Boltzmann Award) is named after the physicist Ludwig Boltzmann and awarded to physicists for contributing new results in statistical mechanics and it was instituted in 1975.
- The Boltzmann Medal is **given every three years** by the C3 Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP).
- John J Hopfield is an American scientist, who is known for his invention of an associative neural network in 1982

#### About Prof Deepak Dhar:

- He is known for his research on statistical physics and stochastic processes.
- He is an elected fellow of - the Indian Academy of Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy, and the National Academy of Sciences and also The World Academy of Sciences.
- Award - 'Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize' (1991) by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

### 1.230 HARYANA ANNOUNCES 'SUSHMA SWARAJ AWARD' FOR WOMEN.

#### Why in news?

- Haryana Chief Minister, **Manohar Lal Khattar**, while presenting the state budget, has announced a '**Sushma Swaraj Award**' for women for their significant achievements or contribution in different walks of life in the international and national spheres.
- The Sushma Swaraj Award will carry an award money of **Rs 5 lakh** along with a commendation.

#### About the Sushma Swaraj:

- Sushma Swaraj was a lawyer of the Supreme Court as well as an Indian politician.
- She was a senior member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, served as India's Minister of External Affairs during the first Narendra Modi government (2014–2019). After Indira Gandhi, she was the second woman to occupy this position.

### 1.231 SKOCH STATE OF GOVERNANCE RANKING 2021: ANDHRA PRADESH GETS FIRST RANK.

#### Why in news?

- **Andhra Pradesh** has retained its number one spot in the SKOCH State of Governance rankings for the second consecutive year. According to a release, the State retained the first rank for the second consecutive year. In 2020 too, Andhra Pradesh bagged top rank in governance. Andhra Pradesh was ranked at second position in 2018 and later it slipped to 4th position in 2019, according to Skoch.
- The second rank was bagged by **West Bengal and Odisha** was ranked 3, **Gujarat** was ranked 4 and **Maharashtra** was ranked 5.

#### SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021:

- The SKOCH Group has released the SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021 in New Delhi, ranking the states according to their performance in various projects at state, district, and municipal levels.

### 1.232 SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS PRESENTED.

#### Why in news?

- Awards are given to **Indian citizens** for the most outstanding books of literary merit published in India in the **last 5 years**.
- It covers the **22 languages** enumerated in Constitution of India, **and English and Rajasthani languages**.
- The winners will be honoured with an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and prize money of Rs 1 lakh.
- **Sahitya Akademi**, India's National Academy of Letters, is the **central institution** for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country.
- It was **set up in 1954** and **registered as a society under Societies Registration Act, 1860**.

### 1.233 DIEBEDO FRANCIS KERE BECOMES FIRST AFRICAN TO WIN THE PRITZKER ARCHITECTURE PRIZE.

#### Why in news?

- An architect Diebedo Francis Kere from Burkina Faso, West Africa became the first African to win the 51st Pritzker Architecture Prize 2022. It's a most prestigious honour in the field of architecture.
- In 2021 Jean-Philippe Vassal, a French architect won the 50th Pritzker Architecture Prize.
- Balkrishna Doshi is the first Indian winner of the 2018 Pritzker Prize.

#### About Pritzker Architecture Prize:

- It is granted annually and is often referred to as "architecture's Nobel".
- It was first awarded in 1979.
- It is sponsored by Hyatt Foundation.

### 1.234 POLAND'S KAROLINA BIELAWSKA CROWNED MISS WORLD 2021.

#### Why in news?

- **Karolina Bielawska** from **Poland** has won the title of Miss World 2021. She was crowned by 2019 Miss World Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica.
- Indian-American **Shree Saini** from the United States bagged the first runner-up title, followed by **Olivia Yace** from Cote d'Ivoire.
- She beat the USA, Indonesia, Mexico, Northern Ireland and Cote d'Ivoire to clinch the coveted title.
- The **70th edition** of the Miss World international beauty pageant was held in **San Juan, Puerto Rico**. Miss World 2019 Toni-Ann Singh performed 'The Prayer' during the 70th Miss World pageant to express solidarity with Ukraine amid the Russia-Ukraine crisis.
- **Indian Contender** Femina Miss India World 2020 **Manasa Varanasi** represented India at the Miss World 2021. Manasa Varanasi reached the Top 13 contestants but could not make it to the Top 6 finalists.

### 1.235 DENNIS P. SULLIVAN WINS ABEL PRIZE.

#### Why in news?

- Abel prize for 2022 goes to American mathematician Dennis P. Sullivan.
- It is an international prize **presented by King of Norway** to one or more outstanding mathematicians.
- It is named **after 19th century Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel**.
- It was instituted in 2002, to commemorate his 200<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.
- Prize consists of a citation and a prize money of 7.5 million Norwegian Kroner.
- First Abel Prize was awarded in 2003.
- It helps to raise the status of mathematics in society and to stimulate the interest of young people in mathematics.

## 1.236 WILFRIED BRUTSAERT WINS STOCKHOLM WATER PRIZE.

### Why in news?

- The Stockholm Water Prize 2022 has been awarded by The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) to Professor Wilfried Brutsaert for his innovative work in evaluating environmental evaporation.
- This prize is widely **considered to be the Nobel Prize for Water**.
- Professor Brutsaert was awarded this prize as he has developed methods for quantifying evaporation and the role it plays in the Earth's energy balance that allows for accurate estimations of how precipitation can evolve.
- This method is of utmost importance to the exposed local communities across the world as they will need to predict daily water levels as well as water levels available in the future.
- Even though the award was announced on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, this prize will be presented to Professor Brutsaert by Sweden's King on 31<sup>st</sup> August in Stockholm during the World Water Week (23<sup>rd</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September). He will be receiving a glass statue along with 1 million Swedish krona which is equivalent to around USD 104,000.

### **About Stockholm International Water Institute**

- SIWI is a not-for-profit, independent organization that aims to strengthen freshwater governance regionally, globally, locally, and nationally.
- This organization was founded in 1991 and is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden.
- This organization performs research, provides advisory services, and builds institutional capacity in five areas of trans-boundary water management, water governance, the water-energy-food nexus, water and climate change, and water economics.

**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. Who has become first Indian to be awarded Boltzmann Medal?**

- A. Deepak Dhar
- B. Ashok Sen
- C. Jayant Narliker
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**2. Which of the following states has recently announced 'Sushma Swaraj Award' for women?**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**3. Which of the following states has topped Skoch State of Governance ranking 2021?**

- A. Odisha
- B. Gujarat
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: C**

**4. Consider the following statements regarding Sahitya Akademi Awards-**

- 1. It only covers the 22 languages enumerated in Constitution.
- 2. Awards are given to Indian citizens for the most outstanding books of literary merit published in India in the last 2 years.

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

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

**ANSWER: D**

**5. Diebedo Francis Kere recently became first African to win the Pritzker prize. It is associated with-**

- A. Architecture
- B. Biodiversity conservation
- C. Consumer rights
- D. Adventure sports

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Karolina Bielawska recently won the title of Miss World 2021. She belongs to-**

- A. Poland
- B. Jamaica
- C. Cote d'ivoire
- D. Romania

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Abel prize is named after mathematician Niels Henrik Abel. He belonged to-**

- A. USA
- B. Norway
- C. Sweden
- D. Germany

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Consider the following statements about Stockholm water prize-**

- 1. It is considered to be the Nobel Prize for Water.
- 2. Wilfried Brutsaert has been awarded Stockholm water prize 2022 for his work in evaluating environmental evaporation.

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

## HIMACHAL PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 1.237 SIKANDER KUMAR FILES PAPERS, SET TO BE ELECTED UNOPPOSED TO RAJYA SABHA.

#### Why in news?

- BJP candidate Sikander Kumar, former Vice-Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh University (HPU), who filed his nomination today, is all set to be elected unopposed for the Rajya Sabha seat from Himachal.
- He is the only candidate in the fray as no other candidate filed nominations on the last day.
- Himachal Pradesh represents four seats in Rajya Sabha.

### 1.238 BADDI- BAROTIWALA- NALAGARH (BBN) HUB GETS HIMACHAL'S FIRST AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATION.

#### Why in news?

- It will monitor ambient air quality parameters, like particulate matter (2.5 and 10), nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, ammonia, carbon monoxide, benzene.
- It will be monitored on a real-time basis now with the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) having installed the state's first continuous ambient air quantity monitoring station at Baddi.
- The station has been set up at a cost of Rs 1.75 crore, of which Rs 96.70 lakh was provided by the National Clean Air Programme

### 1.239 10-DAY KULLU CARNIVAL.

#### Why in news?

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur inaugurated the 10-day Kullu carnival .
- He visited the craft market and cuisine stalls at Rath Maidan, Exhibition Ground and Dasehra Ground.
- He also witnessed the fashion show in which, apart from traditional attire of the district, costumes of other parts of the state and country were also displayed.
- A cultural programme was presented in the evening by various artistes at the Atal Sadan.

#### **About KULLU**

- Kullu is a municipal council town that serves as the administrative headquarters of the Kullu district of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is located on the banks of the Beas River in the Kullu Valley about 10 kilometres north of the airport at Bhuntar. Kullu was ruled by Koli rulers of Badani dynasty

### 1.240 10-DAY MELA TO PROMOTE LOCAL PRODUCTS BEGINS IN DHARAMSALA.

#### Why in news?

- A 10-day Saras Mela, in which self-help groups (SHGs) from across the Kangra district would showcase and sell their products, started at the police ground.
- Himachal's Kangra paintings and 'Chamba rumal' was being appreciated all over the country, along with many other products, and every effort was being made to promote them.
- With Rural Skill Development and Rural Livelihood Mission, financial help was also being provided to the self-help groups by the Government.

### 1.241 INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVER AWARD FOR NURPUR CLUB

#### Why in news?

- The Nurpur Blood Donors Club (NBDC) has received the International Life Saver Award for collecting 353 blood units at a camp on March 23 2021.
- The Club has also been felicitated with the World Book of Records London by the National Forum of Artists and Activists (NIFAA).

### **1.242 A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) SIGNED TO PROMOTE LEMONGRASS FARMING.**

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

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT), Palampur, and Dev Surya Himalayan Organic Pvt Ltd, Palampur, to promote the cultivation of lemongrass and aromatic marigold among farmers of local villages.
- The CSIR-IHBT will provide 10 lakh lemongrass slips and 75 kg of seeds of aromatic marigold under the CSIR Aroma Mission.
- CSIR-IHBT Director Sanjay Kumar said that the Aroma Mission was started in 2017 to promote the cultivation of high-value aromatic crops for the socio-economic uplift of farmers and employment generation in rural areas.

### **1.243 DHARMSHALA FIRST LITERATURE FESTIVAL.**

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

- The first Dharamsala Literature Festival being hosted by the Kangra district administration began.
- The Dalai Lama's message carrying his blessings was read out by his spokesperson during the inaugural session of the festival.
- Tenzin Tsundue and Nyen Tsering Tashi along with Tenzin Cheoying engaged in a conversation over the evolution of Tibetan literature. The session touched the Tibetan literature, as it evolved in exile and how it highlighted the plight of Tibetans.
- Deputy Commissioner of Kangra said that the Dharamsala Literature Festival would be made a regular affair.

#### **About Dharamshala**

- Dharamshala is the winter capital of Himachal Pradesh, India.
- It serves as administrative headquarters of the Kangra district after being relocated from Kangra, a city located 18 kilometres away from Dharamshala, in 1855.
- The city has been selected as one of a hundred in India to be developed as a smart city under Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship "Smart Cities Mission".
- On 19 January 2017, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Virbhadra Singh, declared Dharamshala as the second capital of Himachal Pradesh, making it the third national administrative division of India to have two capitals after the state of Maharashtra and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

### **1.244 UNA TO HAVE RS 8 CR ETHNO-BOTANICAL GARDEN**

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

- The state's first ethno-botanical park to conserve the endangered and vulnerable species of plants and trees of the lower Shivalik hills in Kangra, Una, Bilaspur and Hamirpur districts will be set up in Una.
- The park will come up on a 26-hectare land in the Androli unprotected forest area at Bangana in Una district
- The park, being jointly developed by the Forest Department, Rural Development Department and Tourism Department at a cost of Rs 8 crore, will be located adjacent to the Govind Sagar lake.

- The park will have a laser area, night garden and butterfly park to attract tourists while the greenhouse and Ayurveda garden will be the venue for botanical knowledge sharing. The park will house about 150 rare varieties of plants and trees.
- “One block will promote seasonal visits of migratory birds to the wetlands and facilitate photographers and bird watchers to boost tourism,”

#### **What is Ethno - botanical garden?**

- Ethnobotanical gardens, defined here as landscapes featuring culturally-relevant native trees and understory plants, are sources for the revitalization of traditional knowledge as well as sources for cultural and ecological restoration projects.

### **1.245 IIT-MANDI, RESEARCHERS FIND METHOD TO CONVERT PLASTIC INTO HYDROGEN, USEFUL CHEMICALS**

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

- The researchers have developed a method that can transform plastic into hydrogen when exposed to light.
- The researchers said that the generation of hydrogen from plastics is particularly useful because the gas is considered the most practical non-polluting fuel of the future.
- Plastics, most of which are derived from petroleum, are not bio-degradable, which cannot be easily broken down into harmless products.
- It is said that most of the 4.9 billion tonnes of plastics ever produced would end up in landfills, threatening human health and the environment.”

#### **IIT MANDI**

- Indian Institute of Technology Mandi is a public technical and research university located in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh.

### **1.246 SPRING FEST IN KULLU FROM APRIL 28**

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

- The three-day state-level Spring Festival, locally known as Pipal Jatra, will be held with fervour from April 28 in Dhalpur. It is held from April 28 to 30 each year, but only religious ceremonies were held in a curtailed manner in the past two years.
- Besides the local Gouhri Devta, chief deity Lord Raghunath will also participate in the festivities.

#### **About kullu**

- Kullu is a municipal council town that serves as the administrative headquarters of the Kullu district of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is located on the banks of the Beas River in the Kullu Valley about 10 kilometres north of the airport at Bhuntar.
- Kullu was ruled by Koli rulers of Badani dynasty.

#### **HIMACHAL CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **1.247 Rs 100 CR PROVIDED TO YOUTH FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT AVENUES: HIMACHAL PRADESH CM**

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

- A financial assistance of over Rs 100 crore has been disbursed under the Mukhya Mantri Swabhilambhan Yojana to youth in the state for setting up self-employment ventures..



- He said that the scheme had helped in creating self-employment avenues for the youth. He called upon women to come forward to take the benefits of the yojana as the subsidy amount given to them compared to men was higher.
- CM Thakur gave away prizes to development blocks of Kangra district under the Maharishi Valmiki Swachhata Puraskar Yojana and the Balika Gaurav Puraskar Yojana.



**PRACTICE MCQS**

**1. How many Total Number of Seats of Himachal Pradesh in Rajya Sabha ?**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**2. Which of the following become Himachal's first air quality monitoring station hub ?**

- A. Baddi- Barotiwala- Nalagarh
- B. Solan – chahal
- C. Kangra
- D. Mandi

**ANSWER: A**

**3. Kullu is located on the bank of which of the following river ?**

- A. Beas
- B. Ravi
- C. Sutlej
- D. A and B

**ANSWER: A**

**4. A 10-day Saras Mela was organised in Which of the following city of Himachal Pradesh ?**

- A. Dharmshala
- B. Mandi
- C. Shimla
- D. Solan

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Which of the following club has received the International Life Saver Award for collecting 353 blood units at a camp on March 23 2021?**

- A. The Nurpur Blood Donors Club
- B. The Mandi Blood Donors Club
- C. The Baddi Blood Donors Club
- D. The Dharmshala Blood Donors Club

**ANSWER: A**

**6. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT), Palampur, and Dev Surya Himalayan Organic Pvt Ltd, Palampur to promote which of the following crop?**

- A. Tomato
- B. Lemongrass
- C. Carrot

D. All of the Above

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Which of the following Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, declared Dharamshala as the second capital of Himachal Pradesh.**

- A. Virbhadra Singh
- B. Prem kumar dhumal
- C. Jai ram Thakur
- D. Shanta kumar

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Which of the following department of Himachal Pradesh to build state first ethno-botanical park?**

- A. Forest Department
- B. Rural Development Department
- C. Tourism Department
- D. All of the Above

**ANSWER: D**

**9. Which of the following Institute researchers find method to convert Plastic into hydrogen, useful chemicals?**

- A. IIT kharagpur
- B. IIT Kanpur
- C. IIT Mandi
- D. IIT Roorkee

**ANSWER: C**

**10. The three-day state-level Spring Festival held in Kullu , locally known as**

- A. Aam Jatra
- B. Pipal Jatra
- C. Neem Jatra
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER – B**

**11. How much amount has been disbursed under the Mukhya Mantri Swabhilambhan Yojana to youth in the state for setting up self-employment ventures ?**

- A. 100 crores
- B. 50 crores
- C. 200 crores
- D. 150 crores

**ANSWER - A**

## OTHER IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

1. Indian Wushu player Sadia Tariq has won a gold medal in junior tournament at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022.
2. Dabang Delhi KC win maiden Pro Kabaddi League title, defeating Patna Pirates.
3. IIT Madras and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) conduct the OCEANS 2022 conference, a bi-annual event of global marine researchers for the first time in India.
4. China launches national record 22 satellites on Long March 8 commercial rideshare from Wenchang Satellite Launch Center by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).
5. Janaushadhi Diwas week to be observed from 1st March to 7th March 2022.
6. Theme of 4th Janaushadhi Diwas - "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi"
7. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Celebrates its 17th Foundation Day
8. Ilker Ayci declines to be CEO & MD of Air India.
9. Air Marshal Sreekumar Prabhakaran assumed the command of Delhi-based Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
10. Air pollution deaths up 2.5 times in India in 2 decades.
11. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
12. 31st Southeast Asian Games to be held in Vietnam.
13. Niti Aayog developing National Gender Index.
14. Institute of Tropical Meteorology IITM, Pune launched International Monsoons Project Office.
15. Government of India clears 20% FDI in LIC under automatic route.
16. Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct the Exercise Vayu Shakti that will take place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
17. India ranks 3rd in billionaire population globally: Knight Frank.
18. Assam government has declared the entire State of Assam as 'disturbed area' up to 6 months.
19. Virat Kohli's 100th Test.
20. The International Cricket Council's Women's Cricket World Cup begins in New Zealand.
21. India has been ranked at 120th position in the Sustainable Development Report 2021.
22. Tata Motors has launched a mobile showroom (showroom on wheels) named 'Anubhav,' to target rural customers.
23. Film critic, writer Jaiprakash Chouksey passed away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 82 years.
24. Rajasthan government has announced a 'Camel Protection and Development Policy' in its budget 2022-23.
25. Cricket legend Shane Warne passes away.

26. Honda and Sony forming joint venture to build electric cars.
27. The Sagar Parikrama Program.
  - It is a navigation journey that will take place in all coastal states/UTs along a pre-decided sea route to show unity with all fishermen, fish farmers, and other stakeholders.
28. 19th Military Cooperation meet of India & US held in Agra 2022
29. Pakistan may remain on FATF's grey list for 4 more months.
  - The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) blacklist (sometimes referred to as the OECD blacklist) is a list of countries that the intragovernmental organization considers non-cooperative in the global effort to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
30. Indigenous train protection system KAVACH to cover 2,000 km of rail track.
31. Telangana budget session to begin without governor address.
32. PM Modi inaugurates Rs 11,400 crore-worth Pune Metro
33. Britain's Queen picks Windsor Castle over Buckingham Palace as permanent home.
34. Vidya Balan named as Brand Ambassador of Bharti AXA Life Insurance.
35. Hero MotoCorp named New EV Brand 'Vida' 2022.
36. Ministry of External Affairs Unveils Special Logo for 75 Years of Indo-Dutch Diplomatic Relation; Special logo unveiled.
37. SRI LANKA - INDIA BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE SLINEX 07-10 MAR 22.
38. Study in India meet 2022 inaugurated in Dhaka
39. Future Generali launches health insurance plan for pet dogs.
40. BCCI named RuPay as the official partner for Tata IPL 2022
41. A book titled 'The Blue Book' by authored by Journalist Amitava Kumar.
42. Former Australian cricketer Rod Marsh passes away.
43. The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography Of Usha Uthup.
44. India wins first ever women's team medal at World Race Walking Championships held in Muscat (Oman).
  - The trio of Ravina, Bhawna Jat and Munita Prajapati combined to clinch the bronze medal in the women's 20km event at the World Team Race Walking Championships.
45. NARI SHAKTI AWARDS 2022
46. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan gets Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award.
47. Microsoft to set up its largest data centre in Hyderabad with Rs 15,000-crore investment.
48. Paytm partners with IRCTC for unreserved, platform tickets.
49. PM Modi unveils Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in Pune. The Statue is made up of 1,850 kg of gunmetal and is about 9.5-feet tall
50. Param Ganga: Made In India Petascale Supercomputer Installed At IIT Roorkee.
51. Ministry of Culture organise PAN-India programme "Jharokha".

52. Australian Army Chief on four-day India visit, meets security chiefs.
53. ICC Test Rankings: Ravindra Jadeja becomes world No. 1 all-rounder.
54. ToneTag launches VoiceSe UPI digital payments for feature phone users, in partnership with NSDL Payments Bank.
1. International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has banned the athlete's entries from Russia and Belarus for the Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics due to the war in Ukraine.
55. No Smoking Day is celebrated on the second Wednesday in the month of March every year across the world.
56. A Bangladeshi environmental lawyer Rizwana Hasan has been selected for the International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award for 2022.

#### **OTHER WINNERS**

1. Simone Sibilio do Nascimento – Brazil
  2. Ei Thinzar Maung – Burma
  3. Josefina Klinger Zúñiga – Colombia
  4. Taif Sami Mohammed – Iraq
  5. Facia Boyenoh Harris – Liberia
  6. Najla Mangoush – Libya
  7. Doina Gherman – Moldova
  8. Bhumika Shrestha – Nepal
  9. Carmen Gheorghe – Romania
  10. Roegchanda Pascoe – South Africa
  11. Phạm Đoan Trang – Vietnam
- 
57. India pacer S Sreesanth has announced his retirement from all forms of domestic cricket. Sreesanth played 27 Tests and 53 ODIs for India, taking 87 and 75 wickets respectively. He has also taken seven wickets in 10 T20 Internationals.
  58. Germany government has announced that it will host a virtual meeting of agriculture ministers from the G7 countries to discuss the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on world food security.
  59. Debasish Panda has been appointed as the chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
  60. The Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan jointly inaugurated the first drone school in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh on March 10, 2022.
  61. India has been ranked among the top ten autocratic countries in the world and has been ranked 93rd on the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI) out of 179 countries.
  62. Biography of late Soli Sorabjee titled "Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times" authored by Abhinav Chandrachud.

63. Hungary elects first-ever female president
64. Yoon Suk Yeol elected as new South Korean President
65. Skoch State of Governance ranking 2021: Andhra Pradesh gets first rank.
66. India finishes at the top in 2022 ISSF World Cup held in Cairo (Egypt).
67. Gabriel Boric became the youngest president to be sworn in of Chile.
68. Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the establishment of the National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) as a wholly-owned Government of India corporation with an initial authorised share capital of 5000 crores and a paid-up share capital of 150 crore.
69. Prime Minister of India has dedicated to the nation a new campus building complex of the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) at Lavad village near Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
70. Tamilnadu Petroproducts became world's first LAB manufacturing company to get BIS certification
71. Global Investment in Digital Shopping 2021: India ranked 2nd.
72. Union Minister of Rural Development, honoured the Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) with the "National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21" in recognition of its best performance in Self-Help Group Bank Linkage.
73. 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Challenge' launched by Minister Hardeep Singh. At India Habitat Centre, MoHUA hosted the 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave,' a first-of-its-kind networking platform for entrepreneurs, young innovators, industry partners, incubators, and states/cities.
74. ISRO organized Young Scientist Programme for school children called "YUva Vigyani KARYakram" (YUVIKA) or "Young Scientist Programme".
75. The 11th edition of the Khel Mahakumbh was started on Saturday at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
76. Geetanjali Shree's translation 'Tomb of Sand' nominated for International Booker Prize
77. The International Day of Action for Rivers is celebrated every year on 14th of March.
78. Ranjit Rath has been appointed as the next Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Limited (OIL).
79. India and Saudi Arabia emerged as the largest importers of arms between 2017-21. Both the two countries accounted for 11% of all global arms sales. The report placed India at the top of the list.
80. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, Odisha became top state in the list of full immunisations in India with 90.5% coverage under Mission Indradhanush.
81. The Power of the Dog" won the "Best Film" category award at 75th BAFTA Awards 2022.
82. The third edition of the joint military exercise "EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022" between India and Japan will be conducted from 27 February to 10 March 2022, at Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka.

- 83.** Retired Vice Admiral, G Ashok Kumar has been appointed as India's first National Maritime security coordinator by the government.
- 84.** March 16 is observed as National Vaccination Day in India to increase the importance of vaccines in the human health system.  
The theme for National Vaccination Day or National Immunisation Day 2022 is "Vaccines Work for all".
- 85.** India's first 'World Peace Center' will be established in Gurugram.  
Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organisation established by Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya Dr Lokeshji will establish India's first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana.
- 86.** Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2022 (GES) – An Annual Flagship Initiative By Entrepreneurship Cell, IIT Kharagpur.
- 87.** Indian men's hockey player PR Sreejesh has won the World Games Athlete of the Year award for 2021.
- 88.** Suranga Lakmal has announced his retirement from international cricket. He plays international matches for Sri Lanka.
- 89.** The Delhi government launched an online 'My EV' (My Electric Vehicle) portal for the purchase and registration of electric autos in Delhi. It is accessible to all users on the website of the transport department of Delhi.
- 90.** President Biden announced that the United States—along with the G7, the European Union, and NATO—will revoke Russia's Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status.
- 91.** Kumudben Manishankar Joshi, the former Governor of Andhra Pradesh has passed away. She was 88.
- 92.** Karnataka's first 'Child Budget' presented .
- 93.** NATO military exercise 'Cold Response 2022' begins in Norway.
- 94.** 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela begins in Haryana, Theme State - Jammu & Kashmir, Partner nation - Uzbekistan.
- 95.** Jay Shah's term extended by one year as a President of Asian Cricket Council.
- 96.** For drone-based mineral exploration NMDC Sign MoU with IIT Kharagpur.
- 97.** BPCL becomes the first to offer digital payment to non-internet users.
- 98.** Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrates 83rd Raising Day.
- 99.** Sport star Aces 2022: Awards.
- 100.** Pankaj Advani won Asian Billiards title for 8th time.
- 101.** 'Road to 1000' book released by Sport star and The Hindu group.
- 102.** Bangladesh tops the list in South Asia in terms of women on board of listed companies, says a study conducted by International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- 103.** Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank, was adjudged as the Asian Bank of The Year 2021 and India Bond House at the IFR Asia Awards 2021.



- 104.** The Indian Army has dedicated a Chair of Excellence in the memory of late Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat at the United Service Institution of India (USI) (national security and defence services think tank based in New Delhi, India.) , on the occasion of his 65th birthday anniversary.
- 105.** The Survey Settlement and Land Records (SSLR) unit of Karnataka's revenue department is ensuring easy availability of original land records through an app called Dishaank.
- 106.** Indian economist Jayati Ghosh named by UN to high-level advisory board on multilateralism.
- 107.** BJP retains Pushkar Singh Dhami (Uttarakhand) , Pramod Sawant (Goa) as CMs.
- 108.** Jhulan Goswami becomes the first cricketer to take 250 wickets in Women's ODIs.
- 109.** Narayan Pradhan named for GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution in the field of material sciences. He has provided his expertise in crystal modulations to help design new shapes of these tiny lighting materials.
- 110.** Indian Coast Guard's fifth offshore patrol vessel Saksham commissioned in Goa.
- 111.** Australian female tennis player Ashleigh Barty has announced retirement from tennis at the age of 25 years.
- 112.** United Nations has recognised March 24 to be observed as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims every year.
- 113.** World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24 March . The theme of World Tuberculosis Day 2022 is 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives'.
- 114.** Kerala is all set to become the first in the country to introduce Carbon-neutral farming for better soil health. For this, the State government has set aside Rs. 6 crores in the 2022-23 Budget.
- 115.** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the license of People's Co-operative Bank Limited, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- 116.** Devendra Jhajharia became the first para-athlete to receive Padma Bhushan Award.
- 117.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Biplobi Bharat Gallery at Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata through video conferencing.
- 118.** Lieutenant Governor OF J AND K, Manoj Sinha has addressed the Gulf Countries' Investment Summit at SKICC, Srinagar which is aimed at providing a platform for the foreign business delegates to explore a host of investment opportunities in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.
- 119.** New Delhi has been ranked the world's most polluted capital city for second consecutive year as per IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report.
- 120.** The 3rd edition of the joint training exercise named EX-DUSTLIK between the Indian army and Uzbekistan army is being conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan

121. India has improved its rank by five spots to be placed at 51st position in the 'Global House Price Index Q4 2021' released by property consultant Knight Frank. India was placed at 56th position in Q4 of 2020.
122. Telangana govt to develop Ramappa temple into spiritual tourism hub under the Union tourism ministry's 'PRASAD' scheme.
123. 'One Among You': Stalin's (CM of Tamil Nadu) autobiography, titled 'Ungalil Oruvan', was released by Rahul Gandhi.
124. Indian Army with Maharashtra Police conducted "Suraksha Kavach 2" Exercise.
125. Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Launches BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre
126. Assam Rifles celebrates 187th Raising day in Longding (Arunachal)
127. India achieves highest ever goods export target of 400 billion US dollar
128. India's First-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross to be set up in Shimla
129. Russian Nobel laureate Dmitry Muratov donates his gold medal to help Ukrainian refugees
130. 10-day mega Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata
131. IIT Hyderabad developed cost-effective ventilator available for commercial use.
132. Israel to host summit of top diplomats of US, Arab States.
133. India ended their campaign at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender 2022 championship at Doha in Qatar with two medals.
134. Earth hour to be observed from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm on 26th March to raise awareness about climate change.
135. Sprinter Pranav Prashant Desai wins India's first gold at World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai.
136. NITI Aayog's releases Export Preparedness Index 2021, Gujarat again tops.
137. 15th edition of IPL 2022 begins in Mumbai.
138. PV Sindhu Won the Swiss open.
139. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on Thursday (local time) extended the term of Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg by a year until September 30, 2023.
140. Delhi (Union Territories) has topped the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021.
141. BIMSTEC Summit will be held in Colombo (Sri -Lanka).
142. The Airports Authority of India under its R & D initiative, has entered into an agreement with Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited for the joint, indigenous development of systems for air traffic management and surface movement of aircraft at airports in the country which were hitherto being imported.
143. Malaysia to host 4 nations for Bersama Shield 2022 military exercise.
144. Mario Marcel, the Governor of the Central Bank of Chile, has won the Governor of the year award at the Central Banking Awards 2022.

- 145.** Former Chief Justice of India Ramesh Chandra Lahoti passed away at the age of 81 years. Justice Lahoti was appointed as the 35th chief justice of India on June 1, 2004. He retired on November 1, 2005.
- 146.** Hisashi Takeuchi (from Japan) has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Maruti Suzuki for a period of three years with effect from April 1, 2022.
- 147.** Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, the executive chairperson of Biocon and Biocon Biologics, has been elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) in Scotland. She will be joining RSE's current fellowship of around 1,700 fellows who are recognised as being some of the greatest researchers and practitioners working in or with Scotland.
- 148.** PM Modi to participate in Grih Pravesham of over 5 lakh beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin in MP
- 149.** PM Modi to address Matua Dharma Maha Mela 2022 in WB to mark 211th birth anniversary of Shree Shree Harichand Thakur.
- 150.** Pakistan: Opposition tables no-confidence motion against PM Imran Khan
- 151.** Indian team clinches SAFF U-18 Women's Championship title at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand
- 152.** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad is organizing a two-day Mega International Summit on MSMEs from today in New Delhi.
- 153.** Ishan Manthan' Festival organised in New Delhi.
- 154.** An auspicious celebration of spirit of the Tribe culture: Aadi Bazaar.
- 155.** Lieutenant General Vinod G. Khandare (retired) has been appointed as Adviser in the Ministry of Defence, providing strategic insights and advise on matters relevant to defence strategy to the Defence Secretary.
- 156.** President Kovind presents President's Colour to INS Valsura.
- 157.** Oscars Awards 2022: 94th Academy Awards 2022 announced.
- 158.** The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has won the 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022. Wings India is Asia's largest event on civil aviation, including Commercial, General and Business Aviation.
- 159.** Indian-origin Subramaniam to be FedEx CEO.
- 160.** US, Philippines kick off 'Balikatan 2022' largest-ever military drills.
- 161.** Maltese PM Robert Abela sworn in after landslide election win.
- 162.** Pramod Sawant takes oath as Chief Minister of Goa for 2nd term.
- 163.** Oscars Awards 2022: 94th Academy Awards 2022 announced.
- 164.** Shashi Sinha named as new Chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council India.
- 165.** PVR & INOX Leisure announced merger combined entity to be called PVR Inox Ltd.
- 166.** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army version of Medium Range Surface to Air

Missile (MRSAM) against high-speed aerial targets at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

- 167.** Actress Deepika Padukone named in inaugural TIME100 Impact Award.
- 168.** India's Namit Malhotra won the Oscars for Best Visual Effects for Dune.
- 169.** The central government's Waste to Wealth Mission in collaboration with the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) will inaugurate Decentralised Waste Management Technology Park in New Jaffrabad, East Delhi t for onsite processing of fresh Municipal solid waste
- 170.** India Crosses 50,000 Open Defecation-Free (ODF) Plus Villages.
- 171.** The Karnataka government has announced Vinaya Samarasya Yojana, an awareness programme meant to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats across the state.
- 172.** US President Biden nominates Dean R Thompson as next ambassador to Nepal.
- 173.** ICC Women's World Cup: England beat South Africa by 137 runs to enter finals.



## Initiatives

### HPAS Comprehensive Course 2023

#### Salient Features of the Course

- 300 + Lectures of GS and CSAT
- 4000 Pages Notes in PDF
- Test Series Prelims + Mains
- Current Affairs Videos + Notes
- Weekly Doubt Session Classes
- Mock Interview Sessions

**Fees**  
Rs. 25,000/-

CivilsTap Himachal | www.civilstaphimachal.com | +91 7814622609

### Himachal Pradesh Administrative Services

HPAS 2023

Comprehensive Batch 1

Enroll Now

Starting from 24th Jan 2022

- GS 1 CSAT 2
- HP GK 3 Features 4 Study Material
- Test Series 5 Live weekly interactions 6
- Fee Rs 25,000

Enroll Now

CivilsTap Himachal | www.civilstaphimachal.com | +91 7814622609

### HP ALLIED / NAIB TEHSILDAR 2022

Batch Starting from 17th Jan 2022

#### Salient Features

- Online Recorded Lectures in English Medium
- Lectures & Notes of GS
- Hindi & English Languages Lectures & Notes
- Prelims Test Series
- Live Doubt Session Class on Sunday
- Current Affairs
- Essay Writing

**Fees : Rs 12,500 /-**

www.civilstaphimachal.com | +91 7814622609

### NT / HPAS Prelims Test Series 2022

Starting from 9th Jan 2022

#### Salient Features

- Total Tests 22
- GS Sectional Tests 10
- GS Full Length Test 07
- CSAT Tests 05

**Fees Rs - 899/-**

CivilsTap Himachal | www.civilstaphimachal.com | +91 7814622609

### HPAS Mains Test Series 2022

- Evaluation & Detailed Feedback
- 20 Tests ( 9 Sectional + 9 Full Length + 2 Essay)
- Model Answers
- Video Discussions

**Fee :- Rs 8500/-**

CivilsTap Himachal | www.civilstaphimachal.com | +91 7814622609

### HPAS Mains Full Course 2022

#### Features

- 140+ Lectures of GS I, II and III
- Notes of 1600+ Pages
- Mock Interview Sessions

**Fee :- Rs 8500/-**

CivilsTap Himachal | www.civilstaphimachal.com | +91 7814622609

# HPAS 2023

## Batch 1

### STARTING ON 24 JANUARY

www.civilstaphimachal.com | +91 7814622609

# HPAS 2023

## DEMO

### LECTURES

www.civilstaphimachal.com | +91 7814622609