

# Current Affairs MONTHLY



**JUNE 2022**

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

**Prelims**

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### 1.1. WORLD BANK APPROVED \$47 MILLION PROGRAM FOR INDIA'S MISSION KARMAYOGI PROGRAM.

#### Recent Context:

- The World Bank has approved a USD 47 million projects to support the Government of India's Mission Karmayogi, a national program to build civil service capacity. There are nearly 18 million civil servants employed across India, with approximately two-thirds at the state government and local authority levels.
- The Bank's financing aims to support the Government's objectives of enhancing the functional and behavioural competencies of approximately four million civil servants. It will focus on three components: the development and implementation of competency frameworks; the development of an integrated learning platform; and program monitoring, evaluation, and management.

#### About Mission Karmayogi: National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)

Launch Year: 2014

#### Aim & Objective

- Building a future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills and knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India.
- To prepare Indian civil servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, proactive, innovative, progressive, professional, energetic, transparent, and technology-enabled.
- Comprehensive reform of the capacity building apparatus at the individual, institutional and process levels for efficient public service delivery.

#### Funding:

- A sum of Rs 510.86 crore will be spent over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- The expenditure is partly funded by multilateral assistance to the tune of \$50 million.

#### Six Pillars of NPCSCB are:

- Policy Framework
- Institutional Framework
- Competency Framework
- Digital learning Framework
- The electronic Human Resource Management System
- The monitoring and evaluation system

#### Features of the scheme:

- IGOT Platform: The capacity building will be delivered through iGOT Karmayogi digital platform, with content drawn from global best practices.
- The platform will act as a launchpad for the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).
- Rules based to Roles based : The programme will support a transition from "rules-based to roles based" Human Resource Management (HRM) so that work allocations can be done by matching an official's competencies to the requirements of the post.
- Apart from domain knowledge training, the scheme will focus on "functional and behavioural competencies" as well, and also includes a monitoring framework for performance evaluations.
- Integrated Initiative: Eventually, service matters such as confirmation after probation period, deployment, work assignments and notification of vacancies will all be integrated into the proposed framework.

## 1.2. THE UNION LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY IS WORKING ON A MECHANISM TO PROCESS ACCIDENT INSURANCE CLAIMS BY UNORGANISED WORKERS REGISTERED ON THE E-SHRAM PORTAL.

### About e-Shram Portal

- The **Ministry of Labour and Employment** launched the e-Shram portal.
- It is a government portal, launched six months ago, with the aim of creating a **national database of unorganised workers and to facilitate social security schemes for them.**
- Unique IDs on the e-Shram portal carry the same series from the Employees Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO) universal account number (UAN).
- If a worker is registered on the eSHRAM portal and meets with an accident, he **will be eligible for Rs 2.0 Lakh on death or permanent disability and Rs 1.0 lakh on partial disability**

## 1.3. ATAL INNOVATION MISSION LAUNCHED THE PHASE 1 OF THE 2ND EDITION OF THE ATAL NEW INDIA CHALLENGE (ANIC 2.0).

### About Atal New India Challenge

- Atal New India Challenge is a flagship program of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.
- The program aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance.
- ANIC solicits innovations in the prototype stage and supports the selected start-ups through to the commercialization stage over a course of 12 – 18 months.

### Objectives:

- To incentivize innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth – Education, Health, Water and Sanitation Agriculture, Food Processing, Housing, Energy, Mobility, Space Application etc.
- To address the Commercialization Valley of Death (Gap between the research and commercialization) - supporting innovators scale over the risks associated with access to resources for testing, piloting and market creation.

## 1.4. AGRICULTURAL & PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (APEDA) HAS LAUNCHED A VARIETY OF MILLET PRODUCTS FOR ALL AGE GROUPS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES RANGING FROM Rs 5 TO Rs 15 AT THE AAHAR FOOD FAIR.

### Key Takeaways:

- The 36th edition of AAHAR **was jointly organized by APEDA and the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)** at Pragati Maidan this week.
- AAHAR is a **part of the series of export promotion initiatives** taken by APEDA, which works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to showcase agricultural and processed food products to the global players
- The millets are a rich source of protein, fibre, minerals, iron, calcium and have a low glycemic index. In March, 2021, the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets.**
- Exporters from the country's North-East region, as well as Himalayan states such as Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, have dedicated stalls set up by APEDA.
- Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), women entrepreneurs, millet exporters, and start-ups, among others, are among the participant

• **APEDA has put on display Geographical Indication(GI) agricultural products at AAHAR.**

The products include:

1. Punjab – Basmati Rice,
2. Karnataka – Gulbarga Tur Dal,
3. Maharashtra –Sangli Raisin, Kolhapur Jaggery,
4. Manipur – Chak-Hao and Kachai Lemon,
5. Mizoram – Ginger and Chili,
6. Sikkim – Large Cardamom,
7. Kerala – Navara Rice, Pokkali Rice, Kaipad Rice,
8. Himachal Pradesh – Kala Jeera, Chulli Oil,
9. West Bengal – Gobindobhog Rice, Tulaipanjhi Rice, Banglar Rasgulla,
10. Rajasthan – Bikaneri Bhujia and
11. Odisha – Kandhamal Haladi.

**1.5. BASAVA JAYANTI MARKS THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF LORD BASAVANNA, THE 12TH-CENTURY POET-PHILOSOPHER, AND THE FOUNDING SAINT OF THE LINGAYAT FAITH.**

**About Basavanna**

- Basavanna was a philosopher, statesman, Kannada poet and a social reformer during the reign of the Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I in Karnataka.
- Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as
- Basavanna rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals.
- He introduced **new public institutions such as the Anubhava Mantapa** (or, the “hall of spiritual experience”), which welcomed men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to discuss spiritual and mundane questions of life, in open.
- As a leader, he developed and inspired a new devotional movement named Virashaivas, or “ardent, heroic worshippers of Shiva”. This movement shared its roots in the ongoing Tamil Bhakti movement, particularly the Shaiva Nayanars traditions, over the 7th- to 11th-century.

**1.6. CONTROVERSY OVER THE STATUS OF HINDI LANGUAGE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.**

**Context:**

- Recently, Remarks by a Hindi actor to the effect that Hindi is the national language of India sparked a controversy over the status of the language under the Constitution.

**Key Points:**

- Under **Article 343 of the Constitution**, the **official language of the Union** shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. The international form of Indian numerals will be used for official purposes.
- In the constituent assembly discussions, it was decided that English would continue to be used for a period of 15 years.**The Constitution said that after 15 years**, Parliament may by law decide on the use of English and the use of the Devanagari form of numbers for specified purposes.
- **Article 351:**It is the Union government’s duty to promote the spread of Hindi so that it becomes “a medium of expression for all elements of the composite culture of India” and also to assimilate elements of forms and expressions from Hindustani and languages listed in the Eighth Schedule.

**1.7. OPERATION SATARK:**

**Key Points:**

- Operation Satark has been recently **started by Railway Protection Force.**

- **Objective:** Taking action against illicit liquor/FICN/illegal tobacco products/unaccounted gold and any other items being transported through railway networks for the purpose of tax evasion and smuggling.

### 1.8. OFFICE OF PROFIT.

- Recently, the Election Commission issued notice to Jharkhand chief minister on a reference that he held an “office of profit” by granting a mining lease to himself in 2021.

#### About Office of Profit

- The **law does not clearly define what constitutes an office of profit** but the **definition has evolved** over the years with interpretations made in various court judgments.
- An office of profit has been interpreted to be a **position that brings to the office-holder some financial gain, or advantage, or benefit.**
- **Under Article 102 (1) and Article 191 (1) of the Constitution**, an MP or an MLA (or an MLC) is barred from holding any office of profit under the central or state government.
- The articles clarify that “a person shall not be deemed to hold an office of profit under the government of India or the government of any state by reason only that he is a minister”.

### 1.9. LOKPAL TO GET PERMANENT OFFICE AT WORLD TRADE CENTRE IN DELHI:

#### Context:

- The Lokpal has now got its own office at World Trade Centre in south Delhi.

#### Key Facts

##### About Lokpal Act of 2013:

- The Act allows setting up of anti-corruption ombudsman called Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta at the State-level.
- The Act also incorporates provisions for attachment and confiscation of property acquired by corrupt means, even while the prosecution is pending.
- The States will have to institute Lokayukta within one year of the commencement of the Act.
- The Lokpal will consist of a chairperson and a **maximum of eight members.**

##### Jurisdiction and powers of Lokpal:

- The Lokpal can inquire into allegations of corruption against anyone **who is or has been Prime Minister**, or a Minister in the Union government, or a Member of Parliament, as well as officials of the Union government under Groups A, B, C and D.
- The body also covers complaints against chairpersons, members, officers and directors of any board, corporation, society, trust or autonomous body either established by an Act of Parliament or wholly or partly funded by the Centre and any society or trust or body that receives foreign contribution above ₹10 lakh.
- The Lokpal will have the power of superintendence and direction over any investigation agency including CBI for cases referred to them by the ombudsman.
- As per the Act, the Lokpal **can summon or question any public servant** if there exists a prima facie case against the person, even before an investigation agency (such as vigilance or CBI) has begun the probe.
- Any officer of the CBI investigating a case referred to it by the Lokpal, shall not be transferred without the approval of the Lokpal.
- An **investigation must be completed within six months.** However, the Lokpal or Lokayukta may allow extensions of six months at a time provided the reasons for the need of such extensions are given in writing.
- **Special courts** will be instituted to conduct trials on cases referred by Lokpal.

### 1.10. PLASTINDIA 2023 PLASTIC EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE.

#### Key Points:

- The exhibition will **be held from February 1 to February 5, 2023, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.**
- It will attract international plastic players to India.
- It will provide opportunities for the exchange of best practices and technologies among industry players.
- It will provide opportunities for employment generation, facilitate the growth of the Indian plastic industry and make India a hub for sourcing plastic for global needs.

#### Important Fact:

- The **domestic production and consumption of plastic** is estimated at 25 million tonnes (MT) currently, which will touch 30 million tonnes (MT) by 2030.

### 1.11. INDIA – ‘COUNTRY OF HONOUR’ AT CANNES MARCHE’ DU FILM.

#### Key points:

- It is the first time the **Marché du Film has an official Country of Honour and India is chosen as the first country.**
  - The Marché du Film (Film Market) is the business counterpart of the Festival de Cannes (Cannes Film Festival) and one of the largest film markets in the world. It was established in 1959 and it is held annually in conjunction with the Cannes Film Festival.
- It will ensure India’s presence as Focus Country at the Opening Night of Marche Du Films. There will be a spotlight on India’s cinema and its rich cultural heritage.
- There will be special performances by Indian Choir bands along with Folk Music. Indian Cuisine will also be served at the event, along with French cuisine.

#### About Cannes film festival

- The Cannes Festival is an annual film festival held in Cannes, France, which previews new films from all around the world. It was founded in 1946.

### 1.12. HAFLONG HINDI.

- Some linguists feel pushing the standardised Hindi as a compulsory subject in school could affect Haflong Hindi speaking communities in the state.
- Haflong Hindi is the **bridge language of Dima Hasao district of Assam.**
- It stemmed from Hindi and includes vocabulary from several other languages, such as Assamese, Bengali, Dimasa and Zeme Naga.
- It is named after Haflong, which is the headquarters of Dima Hasao district.
- Haflong Hindi **follows the Tibeto-Burman grammar**, not the Hindi grammar, and has lexical additions from Nepali and Bengali.
- It has a generic plural marker and does not use numbers as in Hindi.

### 1.13. RAILTEL & WHO INAUGURATED MOBILE CONTAINER HOSPITAL AT VISAKHAPATNAM.

- The RailTel Corporation of India Ltd had designed and established a **“Health Cloud” at Visakhapatnam** premises of Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ).
- The “Health Cloud” at AMTZ has been **inaugurated by Louise Agersnap**, Head of WHO Innovation Hub, WHO-Geneva.

- **RailTel has provided complete technological support for teleconsultation** solutions for the Mobile Container Hospital which has been designed and built-in AMTZ with all the necessary Hospital setup for ready-to-operationalise in remote areas.
- All the initiatives under this partnership will facilitate empowering of hospitals in rural areas with hi-tech digital healthcare facilities and thereby making universal health care access a reality.

### 1.14. PMFME SCHEME.

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries and NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited) launched Three One District One Product (ODOP) brands under the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme**.

#### About PMFME Scheme

- It is Launched under **Atmanirbhar Abhiyan (in 2020)**
- It **aims to enhance the competitiveness** of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganised segment of the food processing industry and to promote formalisation of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organisations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.
- The scheme **adopts the One District One Product (ODOP) approach** to reap the benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products.
- It will be **implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25**.

#### Financial Support:

- Existing individual micro food processing units desirous of upgrading their units can avail credit-linked capital subsidy at 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs.10 lakh per unit.
- Support would be provided through credit linked grants at 35% for development of common infrastructure including common processing facility, lab, warehouse, etc. through FPOs/SHGs/cooperatives or state owned agencies or private enterprise.
- A seed capital (initial funding) of Rs. 40,000- per Self Help Group (SHG) member would be provided for working capital and purchase of small tools.

#### Funding:

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** with an **outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore**.
- The expenditure under the scheme would be shared in 60:40 ratio between Central and State Governments, in 90:10 ratio with North Eastern and Himalayan States, 60:40 ratio with UTs with legislature and 100% by Centre for other UTs.

### 1.15. PRESIDENT RULE.

- Amit Shah, The Union Home Ministry has ruled out the possibility of State's Emergency

#### WHY IN NEWS

- The demand for central rule in the state is rising, alleging collapsing law and order.

#### State Emergency (President's Rule)

- Article 356 of the Constitution of India gives the President of India power to suspend state government and impose President's rule of any state in the country "if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution".

#### Parliamentary Approval and Duration:

- A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue. Initially valid for six months, the President's Rule can

be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.

### **1.16. PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA (PMJJBY), PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA (PMSBY) AND ATAL PENSION YOJANA (APY) COMPLETE 7 YEARS OF PROVIDING SOCIAL SECURITY NET.**

- PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY were launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 9th May, 2015 from Kolkata, West Bengal.
- These three social security schemes are dedicated to the welfare of the citizens, recognising the need for securing human life from unforeseen risks/losses and financial uncertainties.

#### **ABOUT THE SCHEMES**

##### **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**

- **Scheme:** PMJJBY is a one-year life insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to any reason.
- **Eligibility:** Individuals in the age group of 18-50 years having a savings bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme. People who join the scheme before completing 50 years of age can continue to have the risk of life covered up to age of 55 years upon payment of premium.
- **Benefits:** Life cover of Rs. 2 Lakh in case of death due to any reason against a premium of Rs. 330/- per annum.

##### **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**

- **Scheme:** PMSBY is a one-year accidental insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to accident.
- **Eligibility:** Individuals in the age group of 18-70 years having a savings bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme.
- **Benefits:** Accidental death cum disability cover of Rs.2 lakh (Rs.1 lakh in case of partial disability) for death or disability due to an accident.

##### **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**

- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched to create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector. It is an initiative of the Government to provide financial security and cover future exigencies for the people in the unorganized sector.
- **Eligibility:** APY is open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years and the contributions differ, based on pension amount chosen.
- **Benefits:** Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the age of 60 years, based on the contributions made by the subscriber after joining the scheme.

### **1.17. PRIYANKA MOHITE BECOMES FIRST INDIAN WOMAN TO CLIMB FIVE PEAKS ABOVE 8,000 METRES**

- In news: Priyanka Mohite from Maharashtra's Satara district has become the first Indian woman to climb

#### **Key Points:**

- Five peaks above 8000 metres. Priyanka achieved the milestone after climbing mount Kanchenjunga. The 30-year-old climbed the third highest peak on earth on May 5 at around 4:42 pm.
- Priyanka works for a pharmaceutical research company in Bengaluru. In 2020, she also won the prestigious Norgay adventure award. The 30-year-old climbed Mount Everest in 2013, mount Lhotse in 2018,



mount makalu in 2019 and Annapurna 1 in 2021. Notably, she is also the first Indian woman to climb Annapurna 1 and Makalu.

### 1.18. PRAAPTI Portal:

- According to the portal, total outstanding dues of electricity distribution companies to power producers rose by 4.04 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,21,765 crore (Rs 1.21 trillion) in May 2022.
- DISCOMs owed a total of Rs 1,17,026 crore to power generation firms in May 2021.
- **PRAAPTI stands for- Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing** Transparency in Invoicing of generators.
- The PRAAPTI portal was launched in May 2018 to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between generators and discoms.

### 1.19. Reliance became 1st Indian company to cross USD 100 bn annual revenue.

#### Facts:

- Reliance Industries become the first Indian company to record annual revenue of more than a whopping \$100 billion.
- The company has recorded a 22.5% rise in net profit for the quarter ended March 2022.
- Reliance has recorded strong growth in retail, digital services, and the oil & gas business.
- The company has also reported the highest-ever quarterly EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) of Rs 33,968 crores (28% up) year-on-year

### 1.20. AIM-PRIME → ATAL INNOVATION MISSION-(PROGRAM FOR RESEARCHERS IN INNOVATION, MARKET READINESS, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

#### About AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers in Innovation, Market Readiness, and Entrepreneurship)

- Recently, the AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers in Innovation, Market Readiness, and Entrepreneurship) Playbook was launched by NITI Aayog.
- The playbook was aimed at promoting early-stage science-based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance over a period of 12 months using a blended learning curriculum.

#### Objective:

- Promoting science-based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance over a period of 12 months.
- Deep technology is based on tangible engineering innovation or scientific advances and discoveries. Deep Tech is often set apart by its profound enabling power, the differentiation it can create, and its potential to catalyse change.
- Candidates selected for the programme will get access to in-depth learning via a comprehensive lecture series, live team projects, exercises, and project-specific mentoring.
- They will also have access to a deep tech start-up playbook, curated video library, and plenty of peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

#### Launching & Implementing Agency:

- AIM has collaborated with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to launch this nationwide programme which will be implemented by Venture Centre - a non-profit technology business incubator hosted by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL).

#### Beneficiaries:

1. Technology developers (early-stage deep tech start-ups, and scientists/ engineers/clinicians) with strong science-based deep tech business ideas.

2. Chief Executive Officers and Senior incubation managers of AIM Funded Atal Incubation Centers that are supporting deep tech entrepreneurs.

### 1.21. LS SPEAKER OM BIRLA LAUNCHES ONE OF ITS KIND 'KALAM WEBSITE'.

#### Key Points:

- Lok Sabha (LS) Speaker, Om Birla has launched the one-of-its-kind literary initiative Kalam website of the Prabha Khaitan **Foundation (PKF) to support and encourage vernacular literature.**
- The aim of Kalam is to popularize Hindi literature and provide a platform for veteran and young authors and poets to talk about their writings and love for vernacular literature.
- Kalam started its journey back in the summer of 2015 in the cities of Jaipur and Patna and has conducted over 550 sessions spread over 40 cities in India and overseas since then.
- Kalam is in sync with the philosophy of our nation – 'Unity in Diversity which is reflected in the tagline of Prabha Khaitan Foundation – 'Aapne Bhasha Aapne Log'.
- The Foundation is the custodian of the jewels of literary creations in the Hindi language and Kalam scripts successful sessions enriching the literary heritage of the nation. The hallmarks of Kalam, one of the prized literary verticals of Prabha Khaitan Foundation have a nationwide reach, global identity, and a niche audience.

### 1.22. SUPREME COURT COLLEGIUMS.

#### Key Points

- The Supreme Court collegium has made recommendations **to five new Chief Justices of high courts.**
- It is the **system of appointment and transfer of judges** that has evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court (SC), and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
- The **SC collegium is headed by the CJI** (Chief Justice of India) and comprises four other senior most judges of the court.
- **Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system** and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.

### 1.23. LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

- Recently, the Supreme Court declared that State Election Commissions across the country cannot skip their constitutional obligation to conduct polls to Local Bodies every five years.

#### About Local Self Government:

- Local Self Government is the management of local affairs by such local bodies who have been elected by the local people.
- The local self-Government includes both rural and urban government.
- It is the third level of the government.
- There are 2 types of local government in operation – panchayatas in rural areas and Municipalities in urban areas.

#### Salient Features of 73rd Constitutional Amendment?

##### Compulsory Provisions:

- Organisation of Gram Sabhas;
- Creation of a three-tier Panchayati Raj Structure at the Zila, Block and Village levels;
- Almost all posts, at all levels to be filled by direct elections;
- Minimum age for contesting elections to the Panchayati Raj institutions be twenty one years;
- The post of Chairman at the Zila and Block levels should be filled by indirect election;

- There should be reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in Panchayats, in proportion to their population, and for women in Panchayats up to one-third seats;
- State Election Commission to be set up in each State to conduct elections to Panchayati Raj institutions;
- The tenure of Panchayati Raj institutions is five years, if dissolved earlier, fresh elections to be held within six months;
- A State Finance Commission is set up in each State every five years.

**Voluntary:**

- Giving voting rights to members of the Central and State legislatures in these bodies;
- Providing reservation for backward classes; and
- The Panchayati Raj institutions should be given financial powers in relation to taxes, levy fees etc. and efforts shall be made to make Panchayats autonomous bodies.

**1.24. BHARAT TAP INITIATIVE.****About BHARAT TAP initiative**

- Recently, the **Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs launched** the BHARAT TAP initiative at the 'Plumbex India' exhibition. This exhibition is aimed at products and services related to the plumbing, water, and sanitation industry.
- It is a concept to use low flow tap and fixtures.
- It will provide low-flow, sanitary-ware at scale, and thereby reduce water consumption at the source considerably.
- It is estimated to save approximately 40% of water. This will in turn result in water saving and energy saving due to less water and energy will be required for pumping, transporting, and purification.
- This initiative will also be accepted quickly in the country and will lead to a renewed focus on water conservation efforts.

**1.25. BUDDHA PURNIMA 2022:**

- Every year Buddha Purnima is celebrated on the full moon day of the Baisakh month (April/May). This year, Buddha Purnima will be celebrated on May 16, 2022.
- It is believed that Gautama Buddha obtained Enlightenment on this day. Buddha Purnima is also known as **Buddha Jayanti, Vesak, Vaishaka and Buddha's Birthday**. This is believed to be the 2584th Birth Anniversary of Gautam Buddha.
- Gautama Buddha's birth name was Siddhartha Gautama. Buddha was born between 563-483 B.C in Lumbini, Nepal. He died at the age of 80 at Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- For Buddhists, **Bodh Gaya** is the most important pilgrimage site related to the life of Gautama Buddha. The other three important pilgrimage sites are **Kushinagar, Lumbini, and Sarnath**. It is believed that Gautama Buddha obtained Enlightenment at Bodhagaya and he first taught the Dharma at Sarnath.

**1.26. ANGLO-INDIAN REPRESENTATION BY NOMINATION IN PARLIAMENT.**

- The **Delhi High Court** has ordered the Centre to file its submissions in response to a **petition seeking restoration of Anglo-Indian representation by nomination in Parliament**.
- While hearing a petition challenging the Constitutional (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Act, 2019,
- Delhi High Court asked the Centre to file its submissions. The amendment removed the nomination-based representation of the Anglo-Indian community in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. Erstwhile constitutional provisions

- **Article 331:** Provision for nomination of two Anglo-Indians to Lok Sabha.
- **Article 333:** Provision for nomination of one member of that community to the Legislative Assemblies
- **Article 334:** has laid down provisions for **reserving the seats for SCs and STs and nomination of Anglo-Indians to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies**, which shall cease to be in effect on the 25 January 2020, if not extended further.

### 1.27. YUVA TOURISM CLUBS ARE BEING ESTABLISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AS A PART OF THE 'AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV' CELEBRATIONS.

#### Purpose of YUVA Tourism Clubs

- To develop young ambassadors of the Indian tourism sector who would become aware of the potential for tourism in India, appreciate India's rich cultural heritage, and ignite a passion for tourism.
- These clubs will also promote national integration and carry forward the vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. This is also in line with **Dekho Apna Desh initiative** of the Prime Minister.
- The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** pledged to support the YUVA Tourism Clubs initiative. CBSE issued instructions to its affiliated schools to form Yuva Tourism Clubs

### 1.28. PATWAI (UP): INDIA'S FIRST "AMRIT SAROVAR".

- The first "Amrit Sarovar" in India was inaugurated on 13th May 2022 by Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Swatantra Dev Singh, Uttar Pradesh Jal Shakti Minister at Patwai, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched by PM Modi with the broad aim of water conservation for the future. By 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023, the Mission will be completed.

#### Objective of Mission Amrit Sarovar

- The aim of this mission is to develop and rejuvenate 75 water bodies in each district of India as a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration.
- Under this mission, 50,000 water bodies will be created and each of these water bodies will be an Acre or more in size.
- The **significance of this Amrit Sarovar of Patwai is that will help to conserve water and protect the environment**
- The participating ministries/departments under Mission Amrit Sarovar are Department of land resources, Dept of Rural Development, Department of Water resources, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate changes and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- For Mission Amrit Sarovar, the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) has been engaged as the technical partner.

### 1.29. VARANASI TO GET SKILL INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE TO PREPARE SKILLED WORKFORCE FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT.

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) International (NSDCI) and Hindustan Ports Private Limited (HPPL), the Indian unit of United Arab Emirates(UAE)'s DP World have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up Skill India International Centre at Varanasi.
- This aims to skill Indian youth for pursuing overseas employment opportunities in logistics, port operations and allied areas.
- The centres would host training facilities as per the demand of international employers like UAE, Canada, Australia and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) regions.

### 1.30. UNION COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ASHWINI VAISHNAW LAUNCHED GATISHAKTI SANCHAR PORTAL.

- The Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Communications (MoC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) launched the GatiShakti Sanchar portal for Centralised Right of Way (RoW) approvals. It was launched on the lines of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP).
- This portal will provide a robust mechanism to achieve the goal of Broadband for All as envisaged in the National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP)-2.
- The portal has been developed keeping in view the vision areas of the National Broadband Mission, which is majorly about providing broadband infrastructure to every citizen.
- The portal shall act as an enabler to the objective of “Ease of doing business” for telecommunications infrastructure works.

### 1.31. DELHI HOSTS SCO-RATS MEET:

- At a conference hosted by New Delhi, India, Pakistan, and other members of the Shanghai Collaboration Organisation (SCO) discussed enhancing cooperation in fighting various regional security problems.
- The conference is being held as part of the SCO’s Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS).
- India assumed chairmanship of the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO) on October 28 last year for a period of one year.

#### About RATS:

- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), is headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and is a permanent organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) which serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism.

### 1.32. INTEGRATION OF E-SHRAM PORTAL WITH ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD SCHEME.

- The centre is in the process of integrating the e-Shram portal of the Ministry of Labour and Employment with the One Nation One Ration Card scheme.

#### About the e-Shram Portal:

- Launched in August 2021 by the Union Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- It is a national database to register unorganised workers.
- Each registered worker will be issued an identity card, which can be used across the country to avail any benefits announced by the Government.

#### What is One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)?

- The ONORC scheme is aimed at enabling migrant workers and their family members to buy subsidised ration from any fair price shop anywhere in the country under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- ONORC was launched in August, 2019.
- **Implementing Agency:** Department for the nation-wide portability of ration cards under National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- **Eligibility:** Any citizen, who is declared under Below Poverty Line (BPL) category is eligible to get the benefit of this scheme across the country.

### 1.33. PM TO ADDRESS ‘YUVA SHIVIR’ ORGANISED BY SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE ON 19TH MAY.

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address the 'Yuva Shivir' being organised at **Karelibaug, Vadodara** on 19th May 2022 at 10:30 AM via video conferencing. Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kundalgham and Shree Swaminarayan Temple Karelibaug, Vadodara are organising the Shivir.
- The Shivir aims to **involve more youth in social service** and towards nation building. It also aims to make the youth partners in building a new India through initiatives like **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Swachh Bharat etc.**

### 1.34. SUPREME COURT ORDERED THE RELEASE OF A.G. PERARIVALAN.

- The Supreme Court has invoked its extraordinary powers to do complete justice under Article 142 of the Constitution and ordered the release of **A.G. Perarivalan in former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.**

#### What necessitated this?

- The court ordered Perarivalan's freedom after considering **his extended detention of almost 30 years.**
- The court used its constitutional rights because of **the extended wait and the Governor's unwillingness to take a decision on the pardon petition.**

#### What is Article 142?

- From the **Union Carbide Case in 1989 to the Ayodhya Ram Mandir judgment in 2019**, the top court has many a time invoked its extraordinary powers under **Article 142** of the Constitution.
- **Article 142** "provide(s) a unique power to the Supreme Court, to do "complete justice" between the parties, e., where at times law or statute may not provide a remedy, the Court can extend itself to put a quietus to a dispute in a manner which would befit the facts of the case.

### 1.35. ETHANOL BLEND IN PETROL TO BE RAISED TO 20% IN 3 YEARS:

- The Union Cabinet has approved amendments to **the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018.**
- **As per the amendments:** The deadline for fuel firms to raise the ratio of ethanol in gasoline to 20% will be 2025.
- From April 1, 2023, the policy of introducing 20% ethanol will take effect
- **Ethanol blending -. India's journey so far:** As of March 13, 2022, India had attained a **9.45 percent ethanol blend.** By the conclusion of the fiscal year 2022, this is expected to touch 10%.

#### What is ethanol?

- It is **the organic compound Ethyl Alcohol** which is produced from biomass. It is also an **ingredient in alcoholic beverages.**
- It has a **higher octane number than gasoline**, hence improves the petrol octane number.
- **Since ethanol contains oxygen**, it is supposed to help in complete combustion of fuel, resulting in lower emissions.
- **Sources:** Ethanol can be produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc which are having high starch content.

### 1.36. COMMERCE MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL LAUNCHES INDIA-UAE STARTUP BRIDGE IN MUMBAI; 1ST SUCH BRIDGE BY UAE WITH ANY COUNTRY.

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI), and Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched 'India-UAE Start-Up Bridge' at India-UAE Economic Partnership Summit 2022 in Mumbai, Maharashtra which was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on the theme 'India UAE CEPA – Unleashing the Golden Era'.
- This is the first such bridge/platform by the UAE with any country.

- India-UAE Partnership is best defined by its tagline 'Openness, Opportunity and Growth'.

### 1.37. DR. BIBEK DEBROY RELEASED THE STATE OF INEQUALITY IN INDIA REPORT.

- Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), has released the State of Inequality in India Report.
- The report was written by the Institute for Competitiveness and it provides a comprehensive analysis of the depth and nature of inequality in India. The report compiles data on inequality in the health, education, household characteristics, and labour market sectors. It's an assessment of both inclusion and exclusion.
- Inequities in these sectors, according to the report, make the population more vulnerable and lead to multidimensional poverty. India's unemployment rate is 4.8 % in 2019-20, with a 46.8 % worker population ratio.

### 1.38. RAISING MARRIAGE AGE OF WOMEN.

- The India Child Protection Forum [ICPF] has opposed the move to raise the marriage age of women.
- ICPF is an umbrella body of child rights organisations launched by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi.
- It recently appeared before the parliamentary panel studying the Bill on raising the age of marriage for women to 21 from 18 years.

#### Why ICPF is against raising the age?

- Because, raising the age of marriage for women to 21 will result in criminalising young adults entering into wedlock, especially those who marry against the consent of their parents.
- It will empower the patriarchal violence against women's autonomy" when they exercise their choice to marry.

### 1.39. NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK (NDB).

- New Development Bank (NDB) is setting up a **regional office in Gujarat**, India for funding and monitoring infrastructure projects in that country and Bangladesh.

#### About NDB:

- It is a multilateral development bank operated by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- It was agreed to by BRICS leaders at the 5th BRICS summit held in Durban, South Africa in 2013.
- It was launched in 2015, at the 6th BRICS Summit at Fortaleza, Brazil.
- The bank is set up to foster greater financial and development cooperation among the five emerging markets.
- Headquartered in Shanghai, China.

### 1.40. WORLD GOVERNANCE INDICATORS.

- Released by the **World Bank**. WGI provide a ranking of 215 countries based on **six dimensions of governance**:
  1. 'Voice and Accountability'.
  2. 'Political Stability and Absence of Violence'.
  3. 'Government Effectiveness'.
  4. 'Regulatory Quality'.
  5. 'Rule of Law'.
  6. 'Control of Corruption.'

#### Major Incidents Which Hugely Affected India's WGI Rank:

- Kashmir issue.
- Harassment of Activists.
- Sedition laws.
- Cancellation of NGO licences.

#### 1.41. MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS APPROVES COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH IIT MADRAS ON HYPERLOOP TECHNOLOGY.

- Hyperloop is the 5th mode of transportation, a high-speed train that travels in a near vacuum tube. The reduced air resistance allows the capsule inside the tube to reach speeds of more than 1,000 km/h.

##### Key Points:

1. The collaboration also involves setting up a Centre for Excellence for Hyperloop Technology at IIT-M.
2. At the IIT-M, a team of students, Team Avishkar Hyperloop is working on the emerging domain of Hyperloop-based transportation solutions for a futuristic commuting experience.
3. Team Avishkar aims to build the world's largest student-developed Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras.
4. The model proposed by Team Avishkar can achieve a top speed of over 1,200 kilometres per hour.

#### 1.42. FDI INFLOWS TOUCHED A "HIGHEST-EVER" FIGURE.

- The **foreign direct investment (FDI)** in the financial year 2021-22 has touched a "highest-ever" figure of \$83.57 billion. **India's foreign investment inflows increased 20-fold** since the financial year 2003-04 when it recorded a mere \$4.3 billion.
- **Among the top contributors to India's FDI inflow**, Singapore topped the charts with a share of 27% followed by the US (18%) and Mauritius accounting for 16%.
- **The computer software and hardware remained the top sector** which received the FDI inflow with around 25% share followed by services sector and automobile sector getting 12% each.
- **Karnataka is the top recipient state** with 38% share of the total FDI Equity inflow reported during the previous financial year followed by Maharashtra (26%) and Delhi (14%).

#### 1.43. RBI: CARDLESS CASH WITHDRAWAL FACILITIES AT ALL ATMs.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed all banks, ATM networks, and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) to provide their customers with the option of Interoperable Card-less Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) across all ATMs in the country.
- For Card-less Cash Withdrawal transactions, the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** facility will be used. For this, RBI asked the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to facilitate the integration of UPI with all banks and ATM networks.
- This facility will ensure convenience for customers and will also **reduce scams** such as card skimming, card cloning, etc. as there is no need to use debit or credit cards.

#### 1.44. 4TH INDIAN NAVY-BANGLADESH NAVY CORPAT CONDUCTED IN NORTHERN BAY OF BENGAL.

- On May 22-23, 2022, the 4th edition of the Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy (IN-BN) Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal to ensure maritime security in the region.
- Both sides undertook joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

#### 1.45. JET AIRWAYS GETS DGCA NOD TO START COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS.



- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granted Jet Airways the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) permit which would allow the airline to resume commercial flight operations after being grounded since 2019 due to mounting debts. The AOC enables Jet Airways to resume its scheduled commercial operations in India.

#### **Background**

- The Naresh Goyal-founded Jet Airways, which operated its first commercial flight on May 5, 1993. But collapsed under the mounting debt on April 18, 2019.
- The company then entered bankruptcy proceedings, and was acquired by a consortium of UAE-based businessman Murari Jalan and UK-based Kalrock Capital.

### **1.46. QUTUB MINAR NOT A PLACE OF WORSHIP: ASI**

- The Qutub Minar complex is not a place of worship and its character cannot be changed now, the Archaeological Survey of India submitted in a Delhi court recently, while opposing a plea challenging the dismissal of a civil suit seeking “restoration” of Hindu and Jain temples on the premises.
- The original suit, claiming that 27 temples were demolished to build the QuwwatullIslam mosque at the Qutub Minar complex, was dismissed last year under the provisions of **Places Of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991**.

#### **Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991:**

- It seeks to maintain the “religious character” of places of worship as it was in 1947 except in the case of Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, which was already in court.
- Section 3 of the Act bans the conversion of a place of worship or even a section of it into a place of worship of a different religious denomination or of a different segment of the same religious denomination.
- Section 4(2) says that all suits, appeals or other proceedings regarding converting the character of a place of worship (that were pending on 15th August, 1947) will come to end when the Act commences and no fresh proceedings can be filed.

#### **Exemption:**

- The disputed site at Ayodhya was exempted from the Act.
- Any place of worship which is an ancient and historical monument or an archaeological site covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- Any dispute that has been settled by the parties or conversion of any place that took place by acquiescence before the Act commenced.

### **1.47. MSME MINISTER NARAYAN RANE INAUGURATES INDIA’S FIRST CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR KHADI IN NEW DELHI.**

- Narayan Rane Union Minister for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) inaugurated India’s first Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) in New Delhi, Delhi. The CoEK is set up at **the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** as a hub in Delhi and spokes in **Bangalore, Gandhinagar, Kolkata, and Shillong**.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has collaborated with National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) to set up the CoEK in NIFT, New Delhi. The MoU regarding this was signed in 2021.

### **1.48. CENTRE SCRAPS IMPORT DUTIES ON CRUDE SUNFLOWER AND SOYBEAN OILS .**

- In a bid to cool inflation inedible oils, the Centre allowed **duty free import of 20 lakh tonnes each of crude soybean oil** and crude sunflower oil for this year as well as 2023-24.
- **Inflation:** Inflation is defined as a situation where there is sustained, unchecked increase in the general price level and a fall in the purchasing power of money.

### 1.49. MOHUA LAUNCHED SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2023 UNDER SBMU 2.0 WITH THEME OF “WASTE TO WEALTH”.

- On May 24 2022, The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the 8th edition of Swachh Survekshan 2023 (SS 2023) under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (SBMU 2.0). It is an annual cleanliness survey with the theme of “Waste to Wealth” for garbage free cities.

#### Key Points:

- Under the SS 2023, the Mayors of the cities are also being encouraged to participate in the ranking and felicitate the cleanest wards.
- In addition to that, the cities would also be assessed on dedicated indicators on the issues of ‘open urination’ (Yellow Spots) and ‘open spitting’ (Red Spots).

### 1.50. GOVERNMENT RE-ESTABLISHED THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD ON ARCHAEOLOGY.

- The Central Advisory **Board on Archaeology (CABA)**, which was formed seven years ago to promote ties between the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** and people working in the field of archaeological research, was re-established.

#### KEY POINTS:

- It was reconstituted for a three-year term to promote closer contacts between the **Archaeological Survey of India** and Indian universities conducting archaeological research and other institutions conducting studies related to the application of archaeological principles, as well as to provide for a closer association of learned societies in India with the ASI’s activities.
- Former ASI Director-Generals will also be on the board, as well as five persons chosen in their personal capacity by the Government of India.”

### 1.51. INDIA TO INTRODUCE MADE IN INDIA TB INFECTION SKIN TEST CALLED “c-TB”.

- India will introduce a newly approved “**made in India**” TB infection skin test called ‘**c-TB**’.
- A new initiative, “**Adopt people with TB**” will be launched this year, based on Indian values of collectivism, which will call upon corporates, industries, organisations, political parties and individuals to come forward and adopt TB-infected people and families and provide them with nutritional and social support.

### 1.52. INTER-STATE COUNCIL REESTABLISHED UNDER PM MODI’S LEADERSHIP.

#### Key points

- The council’s mandate is to provide a solid institutional structure to promote and maintain cooperative federalism throughout the country, as well as to activate the council and zonal councils by holding regular meetings.
- It also enables the zonal councils and inter-State councils to address all current and emergent issues of Centre-State and inter-State relations, as well as build a strong mechanism for monitoring the execution of the inter-State council and zonal council’s recommendations.
- The Inter-State Council’s standing committee will be chaired by Amit Shah, and members will include Union ministers **Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar, and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**.
- Members of the Inter-State Council’s standing committee include the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh.
- The standing committee will consult continuously and process items for discussion by the council, as well as any matters relevant to center-state relations before they are brought before the inter-state council for deliberation.
- The standing committee also oversees the implementation of decisions made in response to the council’s recommendations and considers any additional matters presented to it by the chairman or the council.

### 1.53. INDIA TO GET FIRST SEMI-HIGH SPEED FREIGHT TRAIN.

- The Railways is aiming to introduce the **country's First semi-high speed freight train** by December 2022.
- Based on the Vande Bharat platform, the 16 coach 'Gati Shakti' train will be able to run at 160 km/hour, and will be manufactured at the **Integral Coach Factory (ICF)** in Chennai.
- With these trains, the Railways plans to target the e-commerce and courier parcel segment.
- According to Indian coach factory (ICF) official, India had become the 8th largest market for e-commerce.
- India's ecommerce market is expected to reach \$111 billion by 2024, \$200 billion by 2026 and expected to reach \$350 billion by 2030,"
- The Railways is aiming to increase its share in freight **transportation** from the **present 27% to 45% by 2030** through better infrastructure and business development plans, according to **the National Rail Plan**.

### 1.54. NORTH INDIA'S FIRST INDUSTRIAL BIOTECH PARK INAUGURATED AT KATHUA IN J&K.

- The Industrial Biotech Park at Kathua will transform the economy and enable scientists to tackle the challenges of climate change. The enabling infrastructure will fuel a new wave of innovation and impact various sectors, from health and agriculture to cosmetics and materials.

#### About the Industrial Biotech Park:

- With new biotech capabilities and innovation, J&K, bestowed with more than 3500 medicinal plant species, will be able to harness market advantages in the most effective way and help the farmers to generate more income, asserted the Lt Governor.
- The new Industrial Development Scheme has enabled J&K to fetch investment of more than Rs 38,800 crore as of date, which also includes proposals of 338 industrial units associated with the biotech sector in some way or the other.
- The Biotech Park would act as the hub for the incubation of new ideas and will act as a robust platform to support the agri-entrepreneurs, startups, progressive farmers, scientists, scholars and students not only from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh but also from nearby states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

CivilsTap Himachal

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1.55. THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (USTR) HAS RELEASED SPECIAL 301 REPORT 2022.

#### Recent Context:

- Recently, The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has released Special 301 Report 2022
- **Released by:** Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR)
- **Purpose:** To identify trading partners that do not adequately or effectively protect and enforce Intellectual Property (IP) rights or otherwise deny market access to U.S. innovators and creators that rely on the protection of their IP rights.
- **Categories:** The report places countries into:
- **Priority Watch list countries** -These are those countries that are having serious intellectual property rights deficiencies and require increased United States Trade Representative(USTR) attention.
- **Watch List countries** – These countries are having serious intellectual property rights deficiencies but are not yet placed on the Priority Watch list.
- **Priority Watch List Countries:** Argentina, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Russia and Venezuela.

### 1.56. THE HISTORIC INDIA-UAE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (CEPA) WHICH WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS HAS OFFICIALLY ENTERED INTO FORCE.

#### Aim:

- To facilitate higher investment flows for both countries,
- To ensure mutually beneficial and guarantee a maximum advantage in trade for both countries.

#### Benefits of India-UAE CEPA

- India **will benefit from preferential market access** provided by the UAE, especially for all labour-intensive sectors. Such as Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural and wood products, engineering products, medical devices, and Automobiles
- Both sides have also agreed to a separate Annex on Pharmaceuticals to facilitate access to Indian pharmaceuticals products, especially automatic registration and marketing authorisation in 90 days for products meeting specified criteria.
- CEPA is **expected to increase the total value of bilateral trade in goods to over US\$100 billion** and trade in services to over US\$15 billion within five years.

### 1.57. TRANSNISTRIA, THE TINY BREAKAWAY REGION OF MOLDOVA, RISKS BEING DRAGGED INTO THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR BECAUSE OF REPORTS OF A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS IN ITS TERRITORY.

- Transnistria is a **tiny breakaway region of Moldova**.
- It lies between **Moldova to its west and Ukraine towards its east**
- Often described as a “remnant of the Soviet Union”, Transnistria declared independence like Moldova did soon after the break-up of the Soviet Union.
- Transnistria is not recognised as independent even by Russia and its economy is dependent on Russia for subsidies and free gas.
- Most Transnistrians have dual citizenship of Russia and Transnistria or triple citizenship of Moldova, Transnistria, and Russia

## 1.58. DECLARATION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET.

### Context:

- Recently, the **United States and 60 other partner countries** signed a political declaration called the "**Declaration for the Future of the Internet**".

### About Declaration for the Future of the Internet

- The Declaration aims to foster "an interconnected communications system for all humanity."
- It is an **inclusive initiative**, and the partners under the declaration will continue to reach other governments to involve them in the Declaration.
- All partners **will reach out to the private sector, international organisations**, the technical community, academia, and civil society, and other relevant stakeholders worldwide to work in partnership to achieve the vision of an open, free, global, interoperable, reliable and secure Internet.
- The Declaration and its guiding principles are **not legally binding**.

### Aim:

- **The Internet must reinforce core democratic principles, fundamental freedoms and human rights** as reflected in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.
- **Internet should operate as a single, decentralised network of networks**, where digital technologies are used in a trustworthy way, avoiding unfair discrimination between individuals and allowing for contestability of online platforms, and for fair competition among businesses.
- The aim is to **protect human rights, promote a single global internet**, promote trust and inclusivity, and protect a multistakeholder approach to internet development.

### Important Fact

- **India, China and Russia** are among the large nations that are not part of this declaration.
- **India also did not sign the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, 2001.**

## 1.59. VIETNAM OPENS WORLD'S LONGEST GLASS-BOTTOMED BRIDGE.

### Key Points:

- **World's Largest Glass Bottom Bridge was opened in Vietnam.** It is called as Vietnam's Bach Long pedestrian bridge, which is 632m (2,073ft) long and located 150m (492ft) above a huge jungle.
- As per the reports, the Asian country has opened a glass-bottomed bridge suspended above a lush jungle. It surpasses a 526m Glass Bottom Bridge in Guangdong, China.
- The Bach Long pedestrian bridge which means 'white dragon' in Vietnamese. The bridge suspends above the rainforest. The bridge can support up to 450 people at a time and the floor of the bridge is made from tempered glass.

## 1.60. MoAFW SIGNS MoU WITH UNDP FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON AGRICULTURE, CROP INSURANCE AND CREDIT.

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) of the Government of India (GoI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under which the UNDP will provide technical assistance to two GoI schemes: **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** and **Kisan Credit Card-Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (KCC-MISS)**.

## 1.61. HIGHLIGHTS OF UNION AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR'S VISIT TO ISRAEL.

### Key Points:

- India and Israel celebrate 30 years of establishment of diplomatic relations.
- Israel has shown his interest in upgrading the Centres of Excellence (CoE) established by Israel in India.

- Both sides have agreed to complete the process of finalizing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of June 2022.
- **12th Meeting of BRICS Health Minister virtually hosted by China:**
- BRICS Countries Agreed to Launch Pandemic Early Warning System for large scale pandemics.
- China is set to host the BRICS Summit in Xiamen, China in June 2022.

### 1.62. UAE PRESIDENT SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN DIES AGED 73.

- Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, ruler of Abu Dhabi and the President of the United Arab Emirates(UAE) has passed away. He was born in 1948 in the inland oasis of Al Ain, Eastern Region of Abu Dhabi.

### 1.63. "SKY BRIDGE 721": WORLD'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE IN CZECH REPUBLIC.

- On 13th May 2022, The world's longest suspension footbridge named "Sky Bridge 721", was opened in Dolní Morava, Czech Republic for tourists. The bridge connects two mountain ridges and hangs 95 metres above the valley of the Mlýnský Stream.
- The Sky Bridge 721, 721 metres (2365 feet) long and 1.2-meter-wide, was constructed at a cost of 200 million crowns (around USD 8.4 million).
- Prior to Sky Bridge 721, the title of the world's longest suspension footbridge was held by Portugal's 516-metre Arouca Bridge.

### 1.64. SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN BECOMES PRESIDENT OF UAE.

- His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (popularly known as MBZ) has been unanimously
- Elected President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by the Federal Supreme Council. He is also the Ruler of Abu Dhabi (UAE).
- According to the Ministry of Presidential Affairs (UAE), he will succeed the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, former President of the UAE, and his appointment is made in accordance with Article 51 of the Constitution.

### 1.65. LA REUNION.

- The navies of India and France recently conducted their second joint patrolling in the French island of La Reunion in the South-Western Indian Ocean.
- **Objective:** To demonstrate "joint surveillance and patrolling operations" capabilities.
- La Reunion is an island in the Indian Ocean that is an overseas department and region of France.
- It is located approximately 950km east of the island of Madagascar and 175 km southwest of the island of Mauritius.
- Réunion is an outermost region of the European Union and is part of the eurozone.

### 1.66. INDIA REMAINS WORLD'S TOP REMITTANCE RECIPIENT IN 2021: WORLD BANK.

- The World Bank (WB) has released a report titled 'Migration and Development Brief 36, May 2022: A War in a Pandemic: Implications of the Ukraine crisis and COVID-19 on Global Governance of Migration and Remittance Flows'. In accordance to this, **India has emerged as the largest remittance receiving country globally in 2021** worth \$89.4 billion as compared to \$82.73 billion in 2020.
- It is followed by Mexico at 2nd place and China at 3rd, Philippines (4th), and Egypt (5th).

### 1.67. INDIA OVERTAKES GERMANY TO BECOME 4TH LARGEST VEHICLE MARKET.

- According to the report released by Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA), India has surpassed Germany to become 4th largest vehicle market in the world.
- The 1st was occupied by China, followed by the US and Japan.

### 1.68. UNCCD'S GLO2 REPORT LISTS PAKISTAN AMONG 23 DROUGHT-HIT COUNTRIES.

- In accordance with the 2nd edition of 'Global Land Outlook (GLO2)' report released by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), there are 23 countries who have experienced drought emergencies in the last two years (2020-2022), including Pakistan.

#### Key Points:

- This report releases ahead of the UN Desertification and Drought Day on June 17, 2022 that will held on the theme 'Rising up from drought together'. Its global observance will takes place in Madrid, Spain.
- Notably, the highest total number of humans affected by drought was in Asia.

### 1.69. POP-UP AIRPORT AIR ONE – WORLD'S FIRST AIRPORT FOR DRONES & FLYING CARS OPENED IN UK.

- The Coventry City Council and Urban-Air Port Limited, United Kingdom (UK) based Start-up parterened to set up the world's first Urban airport Pop-up Air-One, for electric drones and flying cars in the city of Coventry, England. The aim of the project is to reduce Urban congestion and Pollution.It's designed for zero-emission electric drones and air taxis and the airport itself is powered by hydrogen fuel cells.

### 1.70. MOZAMBIQUE CONFIRMS FIRST WILD POLIOVIRUS CASE IN 30 YEARS.

- **Mozambique has identified its first case of wild poliovirus Type 1** this week after a child contracted the disease. It is the country's first such case since 1992 and the second imported case of wild poliovirus in Southern Africa this year.

#### When a country is declared polio free?

- **There are three variants of the poliovirus, numbered 1 to 3.** For a country to be declared polio-free, **the wild transmission of all three kinds has to be stopped.** For eradication, cases of both wild and vaccine-derived polio infection have to be reduced to zero.

#### Efforts by India in this regard:

- **India was declared polio-free in January 2014, after three years of zero cases.**
- **Under the Pulse Polio programme,** all states and Union Territories have developed Rapid Response Teams (RRT) to respond to any polio outbreak in the country.
- In 2014, the government made **the Oral Polio Vaccination (OPV) mandatory** for those travelling between India and polio-affected countries, such as Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Syria and Cameroon.

### 1.71. APEC TRADE MINISTERS MEETING.

- Representatives of the United States, Japan, and three other countries had briefly walked out of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) trade ministers' meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022 to protest against Ukraine's invasion by Russia.
- This is a two-day meeting that was held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The ministers from the 21-member countries of the APEC met virtually for this meeting with New Zealand serving as the chair.
- The countries involved in the walkout were Japan, Australia, The United States, New Zealand and Canada
- The walkout happened when the economic development minister of Russia, Maksim Reshetnikov started delivering his speech. The delegations from the 5 countries left the meeting room for around three minutes, the duration of the Russian minister's speech. They later returned to their tables.

### 1.72. UIGHURS:

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet is at the Xinjiang region, where Beijing is alleged to have repressed Muslim minorities.
- Various countries have called on China to “ensure full respect for the rule of law” for the Muslim Uighur community in Xinjiang.
- Credible reports indicate that over a million people have been arbitrarily detained in Xinjiang and that there is widespread surveillance disproportionately targeting Uighurs and members of other minorities and restrictions on fundamental freedoms and Uighur culture.
- **China’s response:** Despite mounting evidence, China denies mistreating the Uyghurs, and goes on to insist it is simply running “vocational training” centres designed to counter extremism.

#### Who are Uighurs?

- The Uighurs are a predominantly Muslim minority ethnic group, whose origins can be traced to Central and East Asia.
- China recognises the community only as a regional minority and rejects that they are an indigenous group.
- Currently, the largest population of the Uighur ethnic community lives in the Xinjiang region of China.
- Uighur Muslims for decades, under the false accusation by the Chinese government of terrorism and separatism, have suffered from abuses including persecution, forced detention, intense scrutiny, surveillance and even slavery.

### 1.73. INDIA, US INK INVESTMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT:

- India and the US have signed the Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA).
- The agreement is a legal requirement for the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to continue providing investment support in India.
- Services offered under this agreement include debt, equity investment, investment guaranty, investment insurance or reinsurance, feasibility studies for potential projects and grants.

### 1.74. UNCCD 15TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES HELD IN ABIDJAN, CÔTE D’IVOIRE.

- On May 9-20, 2022, the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) which was hosted by **Côte d’Ivoire** for the 1st time at its Sofitel Abidjan Hôtel Ivoire in Abidjan on the **theme ‘Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity’**. The theme calls for action to ensure land continues to benefit present and future generations.
- **Côte d’Ivoire** President Alassane Ouattara host the UNCCD’s COP15.
- **Focus of COP15:** It focused on the future of land management by galvanizing sustainable solutions for land restoration and drought resilience, and future-proofing land use.

### 1.75. QUAD SIGNS OFF ON INDO-PACIFIC: SPLIT ON RUSSIA, UNITY ON CHINA.

- At the fourth Quad summit — the second since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, there were divergences among the leaders of Australia, India, Japan and US on the war in Europe.
- There was unanimity in their response to China’s belligerence as they strongly opposed “any coercive, provocative or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo” in the Indo-Pacific.
- Indian Prime Minister said: At the Quad level, mutual cooperation is encouraging a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, which is a shared objective for all of us,”



- **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)** is the **informal strategic dialogue** between India, USA, Japan and Australia with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.

### 1.76. KHERSON REGION (UKRAINE).

- Russia has installed a new administration and started to introduce the Rouble as a currency in Kherson Region of Ukraine.
- Adjacent to Crimea (annexed by Russia in 2014), Kherson region lies in Southern Ukraine on west bank of River Dnieper.
- In 1778, it became the first naval base and shipyard of Russian Navy on the Black sea coast.

### 1.77. THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) AND THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND (UNICEF) HAVE RELEASED THE FIRST GLOBAL REPORT ON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (GREAT).

#### KEY POINTS:

- Through a network of academic institutions, researchers, policymakers, donors, and practitioners, **UNICEF** Office of Research – Innocenti is at the forefront of the establishment of a Global Research Agenda and Platform for Children to amplify the voice of children and youth with disabilities.
- With the help of **UNICEF**’s Office of Research – Innocenti, **UNICEF** and **WHO** created a series of 11 free-access background papers to accompany the Report.
- Around the world, 2.5 billion people require assistive technology. According to the estimate, by 2050, the population will have grown to 3.5 billion people.
- The gaps between low- and middle-income countries and high-income countries in terms of access to assistive technology are disturbing.
- Access to assistive technology for individuals who need it is as low as 3% in some low- and middle-income nations, whereas it is significantly higher in high-income countries, with up to 90% of people receiving the assistive devices and services they require.
- The worldwide impact of the **WHO-UNICEF** Global Report on Assistive Technology in this scenario will be unprecedented. Enabling settings and Assistive Technology are recognised in the Global Report as prerequisites for people in need to realise their human rights.

### 1.78. THIRD GLOBAL ORGANIC EXPO 2022 STARTS IN NEW DELHI.

- **Third Global Organic Expo 2022** is poised to be a major platform for **Organic Producers, Aggregators, Processors, Value Chain Integrators, and the Industry Partners** by offering Global level conference, with theme “**Profitability for Humanity**”.

#### Objectives of Global Organic Expo:

- Reducing cost and achieving sustainable productivity through certified organic products and capacity development of organic production systems.
- Organic products will focus on creating market linkages between producers and marketers with the ultimate objective of increasing income without any chemical inputs.
- Sector and People: Organic Expo allows all organic customers, suppliers, partners, and potential new customers to meet in a very comfortable way in person.
- Global Organic Expo is a platform to explore new clients and an opportunity to have face-to-face interaction with existing clients, suppliers, and partners.
- This event will be a 360-degree approach to understand competition and analyze market.

### 1.79. CHINA SETTING UP EMERGENCY AIRBASE NEAR LADAKH.

- After readying Hotan airbase for operating H-20 stealth bombers, China is now setting up an emergency airbase in Tashkurgan district of Xinxiang opposite eastern Ladakh which is likely to be operationalised by September.
- This will be the first Chinese-built high-speed airbase located in the Tajik Autonomous Region of Tashkurgan, Kashgar Province.
- The Chinese intention of making these strategic bombers an area specific asset is clear from Beijing's decision to designate the Hotan base as a testing base for these stealth machines before being deployed in the area to take on targets in Afghanistan, Balochistan or Ladakh.
- Earlier, the H-20 bombers were slated to be inducted in 2025. However, the timeline has been compressed which signals a shift in China's approach in the region and the larger geopolitical space.
- According to a 2020 Pentagon report on Chinese military power, the H-20s are estimated to have a range of 5,281 miles and lift capacity of 10 tons of munitions.

### **1.80. INDIA, VIETNAM EXPLORE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION.**

- India and Vietnam explored new opportunities for partnership to support each other's economic development and national security amid the geopolitical turmoil triggered by the crisis in Ukraine and disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The two sides held extensive deliberations on ways to further ramp up cooperation at the 12th round of political consultations and the ninth round of strategic dialogue in Hanoi.
- India described Vietnam, as a key partner for New Delhi's Act East Policy and the Indo-Pacific vision.

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## DAYS TO REMEMBER

### 1.81. WORLD VETERINARY DAY 2022: 30TH APRIL.

- World Veterinary Day is observed on the last Saturday of April every year. This year it falls on 30th April 2022. World Veterinary Association was established with an objective to provide global leadership for the veterinary profession and promote animal health and welfare and public health through advocacy, education, and partnership.
- The theme for World Veterinary Day 2022 is “Strengthening Veterinary Resilience”. This essentially means providing veterinary doctors with all kinds of help, and resources they require in their journey.
- In 2001 World veterinary Association came up with World veterinary day. It all started with an international veterinary congress meeting led by a person named John Gamgee who was a veterinary college professor.

### 1.82. WORLD TUNA DAY OBSERVED 2022 ON 2ND MAY.

#### About World Tuna Day:

- World Tuna Day is observed globally on 2nd May every year.
- This day is established by the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish.
- Tuna is a significant source of food for humans as the fish has several rich qualities such as Omega 3, Vitamin B12, proteins and other minerals.

### 1.83. INTERNATIONAL NO DIET DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 6TH MAY.

#### Key Points

- ‘International No Diet Day 2022’ is celebrated all over the world on 6 May.
- On this day, people are made aware of body acceptance, leaving aside behaviour like body shaming, which includes people of all shapes and sizes.
- In the year 1992, International No Diet Day was celebrated for the first time in the UK by British lady Mary Evans.

### 1.84. WORLD THALASSEMIA DAY 2022 CELEBRATES ON 08TH MAY.

#### Key Points:

- World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated on May 8 every year to commemorate Thalassaemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease.
- Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder that doesn't let the body to create enough haemoglobin. The disease weakens and destroys the blood cells.
- There are two types of thalassaemia, alpha and beta, along with Thalassaemia minor, intermedia and major as its subcategories.
- The theme for this year's World Thalassaemia day is ‘Be Aware.Share.Care: Working with the global community as one to improve thalassaemia knowledge.’

### 1.85. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ARGANIA 2022 OBSERVED ON 10TH MAY.

#### Key points:

- The United Nations observed 10th May 2022, the second International Day of Argania.
- This celebration crowns the efforts of the Kingdom of Morocco in promoting the Argan tree as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity and an ancestral source of resilient and sustainable development.

- The day will be celebrated **this year under the theme “The Argan tree, symbol of resilience”** and will serve to raise **international awareness around the tree, its ecosystem**, and the important position it holds in Moroccan culture and heritage.

### 1.86. NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 11TH MAY.

#### Key Points:

- National Technology Day is observed every year on 11th May across the country. National Technology Day has significant historical importance in India. Every year on this day, officials pay honour to India's scientists for their achievements.
- This day is commemorated as an achievement of India's technical advances, since on May 11, 1998, the country successfully tested nuclear weapons in Pokhran.
- The theme for **National Technology Day 2022 is “Integrated Approach in Science and technology for sustainable future”**.
- The theme was launched by Union Minister Jitendra Singh.

### 1.87. INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 12TH MAY.

#### Key Points

- **May 12 is observed as International Nurses' Day** across the world to honour the services of nurses. It is the birth **anniversary of Florence Nightingale**, the English social reformer, statistician and founder of modern nursing.
- She was also **known as Lady with the Lamp**. She was the founder of modern nursing and was a British social reformer and statistician.
- The theme for **this year's Nurses' Day is “Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health”**. Many hospitals across the world are observing International Nurses Week from May 6 to 12. As part of it, several activities, including yoga sessions and seminars are being organised.

### 1.88. INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2022 – MAY 18.

- International Museum Day (IMD) is annually observed across the globe on 18th May to create awareness about the Museums which are important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples.
- The theme of International Museum Day 2022 is “The Power of Museum”.

### 1.89. WORLD METROLOGY DAY 2022 – 20TH MAY.

- World Metrology Day (WMD) is annually observed across the globe on 20th May to create awareness about the
- Metrology, the science of measurement and its application. The day highlights the use of Metrology in scientific fields, innovation, industries, trading and other fields. The theme for World Metrology Day 2022 is “Metrology in the Digital Era”.

### 1.90. RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY'S 250TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY:

- **The 250th Birth Anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy** was celebrated on May 22nd this year.
- He is popularly remembered as **the father of Indian renaissance**.
- He was born on 22 May, 1772 in Radhanagar (Bengal Presidency).
- He represented Akbar II in England where he pleaded for his pension and allowances. **Akbar II awarded him the title 'Raja'**.

**Social Contributions:**

- He stood against the practice of The Abolition of Satis Act, 1829, was a result of R.R Mohan Roy's efforts.
- He pleaded for **the right of inheritance and property for women.**
- He fought against polygamy and child marriage which were prevalent back then.
- He supported women education he believed that only education would fetch women equal social status with men.

**Organisations he is associated with:**

- Started **Atmiya Sabha in 1814** in order to crusade against idol worship, meaningless rituals and superstitious beliefs. He spreaded **the monotheistic ideals.**
- In 1817, along with David Hare, he founded **the Hindu College at Calcutta.**
- He created **the 'Brahma Sabha' in 1828 (set up with Debendranath Tagore).**

**1.91. WORLD BEE DAY 2022 – MAY 20.**

- The United Nations (UN)'s World Bee Day is annually observed across the globe on 20th May to raise awareness of the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy.
- The theme of World Bee Day 2022 is 'Bee Engaged: Celebrating the diversity of bees and beekeeping systems'.

**1.92. 22 MAY: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.**

- On the 22nd of May, the International Day for Biological Diversity is observed annually across the globe. This day is observed to generate awareness about the biodiversity issues that are overwhelming the world.
- The theme for this year is "Building a shared future for all life." The theme focuses on developing and supporting the notion that biodiversity is the structure on which humans can build a better life.

**1.93. WORLD TURTLE DAY 2022 – MAY 23.**

- World Turtle Day is annually observed across the globe on 23rd May to create awareness about the plight of turtles and tortoises and their natural habitats.
- 23rd May 2022 marks the celebration of the 22nd World Turtle Day. The theme of World Turtle Day 2022 is "**Shellebrate!**" Asks Everyone to Love and Save Turtles.

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## PERSON IN NEWS

### 1.94. PROF AJAY K SOOD FROM THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE (IISc) HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE NEW PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISER (PSA) TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

- The office of the PSA, established in 1999, aims to provide advice to the Prime Minister and cabinet on matters related to science, technology and innovation.
- It is currently a Secretary level position.
- First Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the government of India was Dr. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

### 1.95. SANGEETA SINGH APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF CBDT.

#### Key points

- Sangeeta Singh, a **1986 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS)** officer has been given additional charge of Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- After incumbent JB Mohapatra retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on April 30.
- Currently, the board has four members including Sangeeta Singh.

### 1.96. TATA SONS APPOINTS CAMPBELL WILSON AS CEO & MD OF AIR INDIA

- On 12th May 2022, Tata Sons Private Limited (Tata Sons), owned by Tata Group, appointed Campbell Wilson as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Air India.
- Campbell Wilson has resigned his position as the CEO of Scoot Pte Ltd, the wholly-owned low-cost airline subsidiary of Singapore Airlines (SIA), for his stint in Air India.

### 1.97. ELECTION COMMISSIONER RAJIV KUMAR WOULD TAKE CHARGE AS THE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER (CEC).

#### About Election commission of India:

- The constitution under article 324 provides for an Election Commission for the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for the conduct of elections to parliament, state legislatures and to the offices of president and vice president.
- It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950 (celebrated as national voters' day).

### 1.98. SANJIV BAJAJ ASSUMES CHARGE AS CII PRESIDENT

- Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director for Bajaj Finserv Limited, took charge as the President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2022-23. Sanjiv Bajaj takes over Presidential responsibility from TV.
- Narendran, CEO and managing director of Tata Steel Limited.

### 1.99. DR. MANIK SAHA SWORN IN AS THE NEW CM OF TRIPURA

- Dr. Manik Saha, the state president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of Tripura and a Rajya Sabha member, was sworn in as the Chief Minister (CM) of Tripura.

### 1.100. FORMER AUSTRALIAN CRICKETER ANDREW SYMONDS PASSED AWAY.

- Andrew Symonds, former Australian all-rounder, died in a car accident outside Townsville in Queensland state of Australia.

### **1.101. ELISABETH BORNE BECAME NEW FRENCH PRIME MINISTER**

- French President Emmanuel Macron has appointed Elisabeth Borne as the country's new Prime Minister. She was a former Minister of transport, ecology and labour. Borne succeeds Jean Castex, who had led the French cabinet since July 2020.

### **1.102. PREETI SHENOY TO PUBLISH NEW NOVEL TITLED "A PLACE CALLED HOME"**

- Bestselling author Preeti Shenoy is set to publish a new novel titled "A Place Called Home", a story set in a coffee estate in Sakleshpur, Karnataka with a strong female protagonist at its core. The new novel is about secrets, family, and finding yourself.
- Preeti Shenoy has authored around 15 novels which include, The Magic Mindset, When Love Came Calling, Wake up Life is Calling; Life is What You Make it, The Rule Breakers, and A Hundred Little Flames.

### **1.103. FORMER RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR SS MUNDRA APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF BSE LTD**

- The BSE (Formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) Limited appointed Subhash Sheoratan Mundra (SS Mundra), Public Interest Director, BSE as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company. Mundra retired as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in July 2017 after completing a stint of three years.

### **1.104. ANTHONY NORMAN ALBANESE SWORN IN AS NEW PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA.**

- On May 23, 2022, Anthony Norman Albanese sworn in as 31st Prime Minister (PM) of Australia by Governor-General David Hurley at a ceremony in Canberra, Australia, ahead of the Quad Summit 2022 in Tokyo, Japan.
- PM Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor Party of Australia defeated previous PM Scott Morrison's conservative coalition in Australia's federal election in 2022. The conservative coalition had been in power under three prime ministers for 9 years.

### **1.105. VINAI KUMAR SAXENA:**

- President Ram Nath Kovind recently appointed Vinai Kumar Saxena as the new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.
- Saxena will replace Anil Baijal.
- Know more about Lt. Governor of Delhi, his powers vis-a-vis Delhi Government here.

### **1.106. IFS OFFICER VIVEK KUMAR APPOINTED AS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PM MODI.**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Vivek Kumar, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS)
- Officer of the 2004 batch, as the Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Joint Secretary level.

### **1.107. WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING GRANDMASTER YURI AVERBAKH PASSED AWAY.**

- Yuri Averbakh, a Russian Grandmaster, a trainer, international arbiter, chess composer, and endgame theoretician, has passed away at the age of 100 in Moscow, Russia. He was the world's oldest living Grandmaster. He was born on 8 February 1922 in Kaluga, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

### 1.108. RUSKIN BOND'S BOOK TITLED 'LISTEN TO YOUR HEART: THE LONDON ADVENTURE' RELEASED.

- A new book titled "Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure" authored by Ruskin Bond, was published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) on Ruskin Bond's 88th birthday (19th May 2022).

#### About Ruskin Bond:

- Ruskin Bond, India's famous Children's book author, was born in Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) and grew up in Jamnagar (Gujarat), Dehradun (Uttarakhand), New Delhi and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).





## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1.109. NASA RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED ITS LASER COMMUNICATIONS RELAY DEMONSTRATION (LCRD).

#### About Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD)

- It was launched in December 2021.
- It is the agency's first-ever laser communications system.
- The LCRD will help the agency test optical communication in space.
- LCRD is a technology demonstration that will pave the way for future optical communications missions.
- The LCRD payload is hosted onboard the US Department of Defense's Space Test Program Satellite 6 (STPSat-6).
- It will be in a geosynchronous orbit, over 35,000km above Earth.

#### Features:

- It has two optical terminals. One to receive data from a user spacecraft, and the other to transmit data to ground stations.
- The modems will translate the digital data into laser signals. This will then be transmitted via encoded beams of light.
- These capabilities make LCRD NASA's first two-way, end-to-end optical relay.

### 1.110. ISRO MISSION TO VENUS.

#### Context:

- After sending missions to the Moon and Mars, the ISRO is now readying a spacecraft to orbit Venus

#### Key Points:

- **Purpose:** to study what lies below the surface of the solar system's hottest planet, and also unravel the mysteries under the Sulfuric Acid clouds enveloping it.
- ISRO is planning to launch the mission in December 2024.

#### About Venus:

- Venus is the **second planet from the sun and the hottest planet in the solar system** with a surface temperature of 500C – high enough to melt lead.
- The planet's thick atmosphere has cranked the surface pressure up to 90 bars.
- A day on Venus is longer than a year. It takes Venus longer to rotate once on its axis than to complete one orbit of the Sun.
- That's 243 Earth days to rotate once - the longest rotation of any planet in the Solar System - and only 224.7 Earth days to complete one orbit of the Sun.
- Venus has **been called Earth's twin** because of the similarities in their masses, sizes, and densities and their similar relative locations in the solar system.
- Venus is one of just two planets **that rotate from east to west**. Only Venus and Uranus have this "backwards" rotation.

### 1.111. TISUSE CULTURE PLANTS.

- Recently, the Centre through the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) conducted a webinar on "Export Promotion of Tissue Culture Plants" such as Foliage, Live Plants, Cut Flowers, and Planting Material" with Department of Biotechnology (DBT) accredited tissue culture laboratories spread across India.

### What is Tissue Culture?

- It is the **production of new plants from** a small piece of plant tissue or cells removed from the growing tips of a plant in a suitable growth medium.
- In this process the growth medium or culture solution is very important as it is used for growing plant tissue because it contains various plant nutrients in the form of 'jelly' known as agar and plant hormones which are necessary for the growth of plants.

### What are the Applications of Plant Tissue Culture?

- To study the respiration and metabolism of plants.
- For the evaluation of organ functions in plants.
- To study the various plant diseases and work out methods-for their elimination.
- Single cell clones are useful for genetic, morphological and pathological studies.
- Embryonic cell suspensions can be used for large scale clonal propagation.
- Somatic embryos from cell suspensions can be stored for long term in germplasm banks.
- In the production of variant clones with new characteristics, a phenomenon referred to as somaclonal variations.
- Production of haploids (with a single set of chromosomes) for improving crops.
- Mutant cells can be selected from cultures and used for crop improvement.
- Immature embryos can be cultured in vitro to produce hybrids, a process referred to as embryo rescue

## 1.112. TOMATO FLU.

### Key points

- Tamil Nadu has ramped up surveillance at its borders in the wake of "tomato flu" cases being detected in Kerala
- Tomato flu or fever is a **viral disease**.
- The flu gets its name because of the red blister it causes. The fever is affecting children below the age of five.
- The affected child can get blisters, high fever, body ache, joint swelling and fatigue.
- Transmission → Like other cases of flu, tomato fever is also contagious. If someone is infected with this flu, they need to be kept in isolation as this could spread rapidly from one person to another.
- Treatment → This flu is a self-limiting one and there is no specific drug for this. This means that the symptoms will resolve over time on their own if supportive care is given.

## 1.113. IAF SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED FIRST EXTENDED RANGE VERSION OF BRAHMOS MISSILE FROM SUKHOI SU-30 MKI FIGHTER JET ON THE DESIGNATED TARGET IN BAY OF BENGAL REGION.

### Key Points:

- The range of the Extended range version of BrahMos missile is around 350 kilometres (km) from its original 290 km.
- The BrahMos missile achieved a supersonic speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.
- The achievement is due to the dedicated and synergetic efforts of the IAF, Indian Navy, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The project was conceived to enhance the IAF's capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target on sea or land.

### **1.114. ISRO SUCCESSFULLY TESTS HUMAN-RATED S200 ROCKET BOOSTER FOR 2023 GAGANYAAN MISSION AT SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE (SDSC), SRIHARIKOTA, ANDHRA PRADESH.**

- Design and development of the HS200 booster were completed at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- HS200 booster loaded with 203 tons of solid propellant was tested for a duration of 135 seconds.
- The 20m long and 3.2m diameter booster is the world's second-largest operational booster with solid propellant.

#### **Human Rating**

- S200 rockets tested for the human rating would be called HS200 (Human rated S200) Rocket System.
- Now, ISRO names the human rated version of the GSLV MkIII as the HRLV (Human Rated Launch Vehicle).
- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV MkIII) has a three stage propulsion system.

#### **Background**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared earlier in 2018 that India will send its first man or woman into space by 2022. Thus initiating ambitious Gaganyaan programme.
- The heavy lift launcher, GSLV MkIII's identification and the process for human rating of GSLV MkIII for India's historic space mission was completed in 2020.
- But the plans are spoiled due to COVID-19 thus postponing the launch to 2023 through official communication by Union Minister Jitendra Singh in Rajya Sabha.

#### **Why GSLV is used for Human Mission**

- Following the successful launch of Chandrayaan Mission-2 by GSLV MkIII into geosynchronous orbit of the Earth, GSLV is identified as the perfect launch vehicle to take humans into space by ISRO's venture.

#### **Gaganyaan Programme**

- Envisages undertaking the demonstration of human spaceflight to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in the short-term and will lay the foundation for a sustained Indian human space exploration programme in the long run.
- The objective of Gaganyaan programme is to demonstrate indigenous capability to undertake human space flight mission to Lower Earth Orbit (LEO).

### **1.115. LADAKH: DISCOVERY OF MADTSOIIDAE SNAKE FOSSIL.**

- The fossil of a Madtsoiidae snake was recently discovered in the mountains of Ladakh.
- It is an extinct group of snakes, which grows up to 30 feet in length. They first appeared during the later part of the Cretaceous period.
- They were mainly found in the Gondwanan landmasses (Africa, South America, Australia, Antarctica, the Indian subcontinent, and the Arabian Peninsula).

### **1.116. NATIONAL CYBER FORENSIC LABORATORY (NCFL).**

- National Cyber Forensic Laboratory' (NCFL) was inaugurated on the premises of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) in Hyderabad.
- The NCFL plans to expedite the resolution of cybercrime cases in the country.

### **1.117. SURAT AND UDAYGIRI.**

- These are two indigenous warships of the Indian Navy launched recently at Mazgaon Docks Limited, Mumbai.
- Surat is a **Project 15B (Nilgiri Class)** Destroyer and Udaygiri is a **Project 17A (Shivalik Class)** Frigate.

- The Project 15B class of ships are the next generation stealth guided missile destroyers of the Indian Navy being built at the Mazgaon Docks Ltd, Mumbai.
- Existing indigenously built warships are built under Shivalik class, Talwar class, Brahmaputra class and Godavari class.

### **1.118. PRIME MINISTER (PM) UNVEILS INDIA'S FIRST 5G TESTBED.**

- At silver jubilee celebrations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), PM inaugurated country's first 5G testbed.
- It will allow start-ups and industrial companies to test their products locally, **eliminating reliance on international facilities.**
- The 5G Radio Interface Technology, called 5Gi is a locally designed telecommunication network that has been designed by IIT Hyderabad, IIT Madras and the Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology.
- The technology will be an alternative to the global 5G standards.
- 5Gi offers more range at a lower frequency, which is the opposite of 5G. The latter works between the 700 MHz to 52,000 MHz bands and sacrifices on range.

### **1.119. ISRO PLANS TO BUILD TWO SATELLITES, DISHA-L&H, TO STUDY UPPER ATMOSPHERE.**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to build an identical pair of satellites/twin satellites namely 'DISHA (Disturbed and quiet time Ionosphere-thermosphere System at High Altitudes)' in L and H variants, for studying the earth's upper atmosphere. The twin Aeronomy mission, "DISHA-H&L mission" conceptualized by ISRO.
- The twin aeronomy mission is aimed at capturing latitudinal and longitudinal effects of space weather events on the Earth's upper atmosphere.
- They will be launched in the low earth orbit, about 500 kilometres above earth.

#### **Key Points:**

- DISHA satellites will study space weather and solar-terrestrial interactions. This will help provide advance warnings based on space weather so that preventive actions can be taken quickly.
- The two satellites will carry identical payloads. DISHA H&L will add to the space and ground-based infrastructure for achieving a better understanding of the space weather effects, which will eventually lead to better planning for the protection of the space and ground-based assets.
- The data generated by the proposed ISRO's solar mission Aditya L1 and by DISHA satellites would help to understand the Sun-Earth linkages.

### **1.120. INDIAN NAVY & DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRES FIRST NAVAL ANTI-SHIP MISSILE.**

- The Indian Navy in association with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the first indigenously developed air launched Naval Anti-ship missile from a Seaking 42B Helicopter at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore, Odisha.

#### **Key Points:**

- The missile is fitted with many new technologies such as an indigenously developed launcher for the helicopter, Missile Guidance System, a State-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics.
- The firing adds the silver line, in steps towards achieving Self-reliance in niche missile technology and reaffirms the Indian Navy's commitment to indigenisation.

### **1.121. HANSA-NG – INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS TRAINER AIRCRAFT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ENGINE RELIGHT TEST BY CSIR-NAL.**

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) designed and developed, 'HANSA-NG', India's First Indigenous Trainer Aircraft (new generation two seater flying trainer aircraft) was successfully completed in-flight engine relight test at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) facility of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) at Challakere, Chitradurga district of Karnataka.

### 1.122. CHINA PLANS WORLD'S FIRST HABITABLE PLANET SEARCH WITH SPACE TELESCOPE.

- Chinese scientists have proposed a space project to survey the sky through a space-borne telescope to hunt for habitable Earth-like planets outside the solar system, about 32 light-years from Earth.
- The project, named Closeby Habitable Exoplanet Survey (CHES) would be the first space mission specially designed to search for habitable terrestrial planets around nearby Sun-like stars.

### 1.123. NAT GEO INSTALLED WORLD'S HIGHEST WEATHER STATION ON MT. EVEREST; CHINA FLIES AIRSHIP OVER MOUNT EVEREST TO STUDY ATMOSPHERIC COMPOSITION.

- In order to study the changing weather phenomena in the Mount (Mt) Everest, following Expeditions have made –
- The National Geographic Society has installed the World's highest weather station on Mt Everest.
- **China flew an airship at record height** over Mt Everest to gather Atmospheric Composition data and Water vapour transporting Phenomenon.

#### **Nat Geo Installed the World's Highest Weather Station on Mt. Everest**

- The National Geographic Society has installed the 'World's highest weather station' on Mount Everest at an altitude of 8,830 metres to automatically measure various meteorological phenomena.
- Under the MoU with Nepal Government, the National Geographic team will fully operate the stations till 2025 following which the technology will be transferred to the Nepal Government in 2026.

### 1.124. NASA VOYAGER MISSIONS:

- **NASA's Voyager 1** is continuing its journey beyond our Solar System, 45 years after it was launched. But now the veteran spacecraft is sending back strange data, puzzling its engineers. A glitch is said to be behind this.
- The glitch has to do with Voyager 1's attitude articulation and control system, or AACS, which keeps the spacecraft and its antenna in the proper orientation.
- Preliminary analysis suggests that the craft is confused about its location in space.

#### **About Voyager mission:**

- Launched in the 1970's, and the probes sent by NASA were only meant to explore the outer planets – but they just kept on going.
- Voyager 1 departed Earth on 5 September 1977 and Voyager 2 left our solar system in 2013.
- Voyager 2 is **the only spacecraft to have visited all four gas giant planets — Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune — and discovered 16 moons, as well as phenomena like Neptune's mysteriously transient Great Dark Spot, the cracks in Europa's ice shell, and ring features at every planet.**

### 1.125. PROJECT WARDEC.

- WARDEC is a prototype name given to the '**Wargame Research and Development Centre**' to be developed in New Delhi.
- It will be a **first-of-its-kind simulation-based training centre in India** that will use **artificial intelligence (AI)** to design virtual reality wargames.

- It will be developed by **the Army Training Command and Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)**.
- It will be used by the Army to train its soldiers and test their strategies through “**metaverse-enabled gameplay**”.

### 1.126. INDIAN STARTUP SKYROOT SUCCESSFULLY TESTS KALAM-100 ENGINE ON VIKRAM-1 LAUNCH VEHICLE.

- Hyderabad-based space startup Skyroot Aerospace successfully tested a solid fuel-based engine, Kalam-100 Engine that would be used in the third stage of the launch vehicle called Vikram 1.

#### Key points:

- The company is developing a series of three small satellite launch vehicles called Vikram 1, Vikram 2, and Vikram 3.
- The Vikram 1 rocket will use four fuel-based stages which includes 3 solid fuel and one 1 liquid fuel stages for the launch.
- Launch vehicle contains four stages, in which the third stage contains a solid fuel-based engine called Kalam-100 Engine, named after Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- Kalam-100 engine is the **largest rocket stage ever designed**, manufactured, and tested completely in the **Indian private sector**.
- In 2021, Skyroot successfully demonstrated the country's first privately developed cryogenic engine, Dhawan-1, which will be the upper stage in the Vikram-2 rocket.

### 1.127. WEBB – WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL TELESCOPE COMPLETES FIRST TEST TO TRACK MOVING OBJECT IN DEEP SPACE.

- James Webb Space Telescope, the world's largest and most powerful space-based observatory, recently completed the first test to track a moving object, which verified that the telescope could conduct moving target science.
- The Webb team has already used an asteroid within our solar system to run engineering tests of the 'moving target' (MT) capability. The engineering team tested this capability on a small asteroid in the Main Belt: 6481 Tenzing, named after Tenzing Norgay, the famous Tibetan mountain guide who was one of the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

### 1.128. ASTROSAT:

- **India's Astrosat space telescope** has witnessed **the birth of a black hole in space for the 500th time**.
- AstroSat is **India's first multi-wavelength space telescope**, which has five telescopes seeing through different wavelengths simultaneously — visible, near UV, far UV, soft X-ray and hard X-ray.
- It has been studying **Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRB)**.

#### What is a black hole?

- A black hole is a place in space where gravity is so strong that even light cannot escape its pull.
- According to Nasa, the gravity in black holes is so strong because matter has been squeezed into a tiny space. This can happen when a star is dying.

### 1.129. DR. JITENDRA SINGH LAUNCHES SINGLE NATIONAL PORTAL FOR BIOTECH RESEARCHERS & START-UPS.

- In the spirit of One Nation, One Portal, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T), has established a Single National Portal-**Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal (BioRRAP)**-for Biotechnology researchers and start-ups.
- The “BioRRAP” portal will assist all those seeking regulatory approval for biological research and development activities in India, providing a significant boost to “Ease of Science and Ease of Business.”

### 1.130. BIOSAFETY GUIDELINES FOR GENOME EDITED PLANTS.

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has recently issued ‘Guidelines for Safety Assessment of Genome Edited Plants, 2022’.
- As per the guidelines, researchers who use gene-editing technologies for plants are exempted from seeking approvals from the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).
- Bt-cotton is the only GM crop allowed for cultivation in India.

### 1.131. PARAM PORUL:

- It is a state-of the art Supercomputer at NIT Tiruchirappalli under Phase 2 of National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). Majority of the components used to build PARAM PORUL have been manufactured and assembled within the country.
- It is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology to obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reducing the operational cost.
- Under NSM, till date 15 supercomputers have been installed across the nation with a computing capacity of 24 petaflops.
- PARAM Shivay was the first Supercomputer assembled indigenously.

### 1.132. MAGNETRON.

- Government has announced financial support for development and commercialisation of Indigenous S Band Tunable Magnetron for Particle Accelerators with capability to treat even a 2 mm brain tumor.
- Magnetron is a high-powered vacuum tube that works as a self-excited microwave oscillator.
- It is developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-CEERI).
- **Uses:** It can be used for Non-Destructive Testing of materials, in Radiation Therapy Machines for Cancer Treatment, Radars etc.

### 1.133. IISc, BENGALURU DEVELOPS DEVICE TO IMPROVE DATA SECURITY.

- A team at the Department of Electrical Communication Engineering (ECE), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed a true random number generator (TRNG), which can improve data encryption for sensitive digital data such as credit card details, passwords and other personal information. “Min-entropy” is a parameter used to measure the performance of TRNGs.
- Its value ranges from 0 (completely predictable) to 1 (completely random).
- The device from Majumdar’s lab showed a record -high min-entropy of 0.98.
- The performance of the device on the standard tests for cryptographic applications designed by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has exceeded their expectations.

## ECONOMY

### 1.134. RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) RELEASED THE REPORT ON CURRENCY AND FINANCE (RCF) FOR THE YEAR 2021-22.

#### Key Highlights:

- According to the report, the **Indian economy is likely to take over 12 years** to overcome the COVID-19 losses.
- Taking the actual growth rate of (-) 6.6% for 2020-21, 8.9% for 2021-22, and assuming a growth rate of 7.2% for 2022-23, and 7.5% beyond that, **India is expected to overcome COVID-19 losses in 2034-35.**
- The supply constraints and longer delivery times pushed up shipping costs, and commodity prices, thereby intensifying inflationary pressures and threatening the nascent economic recovery across the world.
- While the **RBI expects the Indian economy to grow at 6.35 in FY24**, the **International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) report pegged India's growth rate for FY24 at 6.9%.**

#### Theme of the report

- The theme of the report is **"Revive and Reconstruct"** in the context of nurturing a durable recovery post-COVID and raising trend growth in the medium term.

#### Other Findings of the Report:

- The report states that for the country to hop on to a strong and sustainable growth path, price stability is a necessary precondition.
- Reducing general government debt to below 66% of GDP over the next five years is important to secure India's medium-term growth prospects.
- The report emphasized providing opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses.
- India's free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations should focus on the transfer of technology and better trade terms for high-quality imports from partner countries.
- The report says that the task is to create a virtuous cycle of greater opportunity for entrepreneurs, businesses, and the fiscal authority.

#### Reforms Highlighted in the Report

- **Seven Wheels of Economic Progress:** The blueprint of reforms proposed in the Report revolves around seven wheels of economic progress:
  - Aggregate demand.
  - Aggregate supply.
  - Institutions, intermediaries and markets.
  - Macroeconomic stability and policy coordination.
  - Productivity and technological progress.
  - Structural change.
  - Sustainability.

### 1.135. INDIA'S PHARMA EXPORTS GROW BY 103% SINCE 2013-14.

#### Important Facts:

- India's **pharma sector witnessed a growth** of 103% since 2013-14, from Rs. 90, 415 crores in 2013-14 to Rs. 1,83,422 crore in 2021-22.
- India's pharma **exports in 2021-22 sustained positive growth** despite the global trade disruptions.
- The trade balance continues to be in India's favor.



- The Indian pharmaceutical industry is **the world's 3rd largest by volume and 14th largest in terms of value.**
- India's **top five pharma export destinations** are the US, UK, South Africa, Russia, and Nigeria.
- The **current market size of the domestic pharmaceutical industry is \$50 billion.**
- **India allows 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in greenfield (new) pharma projects** under the automatic route. For brownfield pharma, or investments in existing companies, up to 74%, FDI is allowed under the automatic route, and approval is required beyond that.

### **1.136. THE CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) HAS APPROVED NOMINATION OF RAJIV RANJAN AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE (MPC).**

#### **About Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):**

- The MPC is entrusted with the **responsibility of deciding the different policy rates** including MSF, Repo Rate, Reverse Repo Rate, and Liquidity Adjustment Facility.
- The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 was **amended by Finance Act (India), 2016** to constitute MPC.

#### **Composition of MPC:**

- The committee **will have six members.** Of the six members, the **government will nominate three.** No government official will be nominated to the MPC.
- The other three members would be from the RBI with the **governor being the ex-officio chairperson.** Deputy Governor of RBI in charge of the monetary policy will be a member, as also an executive director of the central bank.
- **Term:** Members of the MPC will be **appointed for a period of four years and shall not be eligible for reappointment.**

### **1.137. PAN OR AADHAAR MADE MANDATORY FOR CASH DEPOSITS OR WITHDRAWALS ABOVE Rs 20 LAKH**

- The Indian government has made the requirement of a Permanent Account Number (PAN) or Aadhaar number mandatory for deposits or withdrawals of Rs. 20 lakh or more in a fiscal year, or for creating a current account.

### **1.138. SAUDI ARAMCO OVERTOOK APPLE INC. TO BECOME WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE COMPANY.**

- Oil giant Saudi Aramco has surpassed Apple Inc. to become the world's most valuable company due to the recent surge in oil prices.
- Aramco traded near its highest level on record with a market capitalization of about USD 2.43 trillion, surpassing that of Apple for the first time since 2020. Apple Inc. fell 5.2% to close at USD 146.50 per share, giving it a valuation of USD 2.37 trillion.

### **1.139. ACCORDING TO SBI REPORT, INDIA'S GDP GROWTH TO BE 8.2-8.5 PERCENT IN FY22.**

- According to the **State Bank of India's** research paper **Ecowrap**, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in FY22 is predicted to be in the range of 8.2 to 8.5 percent.

#### **KEY POINTS:**

- On May 31, the government will disclose GDP figures for the fourth quarter of FY22.
- According to SBI's Group Chief Economic Adviser **Soumya Kanti Ghosh** that FY22 GDP estimates will be closer to 8.5 percent than Q4 GDP numbers.

- The Central Statistics Office forecast Q4 GDP at Rs 41.04 lakh crore and FY22 real GDP growth at Rs 147.7 lakh crore, an increase of 1.7% over pre-pandemic levels.
- The growth rate of Q4 GDP is pegged at Rs 40 lakh crore by the **SBI** Nowcasting model, which is lower by Rs 1 lakh crore than the CSO early predictions.

#### 1.140. IRDAI ESTABLISHED COMMITTEES TO RECOMMEND CHANGES TO INSURANCE INDUSTRY.

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** is a regulatory agency that is responsible for regulating and licencing the insurance and reinsurance businesses in India. It was **established** by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999**, which was passed by the Indian Parliament. The agency's **headquarters** have been in **Hyderabad**, Telangana, since 2001, when it relocated from Delhi.
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has formed various committees through the **General Insurance Council (GIC)** to suggest reforms in several areas of general, reinsurance, and life insurance, including regulation, product, and distribution, among others, in order to overhaul the industry.
- These panels include leaders of private and public sector insurance companies, members of IRDAI, and representatives from the **GIC**.
- IRDAI established **GIC** to serve as a liaison between the insurance regulator and the non-life insurance business.

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## DEFENCE

### 1.141. GLOBAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

#### Recent Context:

- Total **global military expenditure increased by 0.7 per cent in real terms in 2021**, to reach \$2113 billion, according to new data on global military spending published today by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

#### Important Facts:

- The **five largest spenders in 2021** were the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia, together accounting for 62 per cent of expenditure.
- **India's military spending of \$76.6 billion ranked third highest** in the world. This was up by 0.9 per cent from 2020 and by 33 per cent from 2012.
- The USA and China alone accounted for 52 per cent. China, the world's second largest spender.

### 1.142. AN ANTI-SHIP VERSION OF THE BRAHMOS SUPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILE WAS SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED JOINTLY BY THE INDIAN NAVY AND THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR COMMAND.

#### Recent Context

- Recently, an anti-ship version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired jointly by the Indian Navy and the Andaman and Nicobar Command.

#### About BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

- The BrahMos is a **ramjet supersonic cruise missile** of a short-range developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya**.
- BrahMos was **named after two major rivers** of India and Russia: Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- It is a **two-stage (solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid ramjet in second)** missile.
- It is capable of being **launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface** and sea-based targets and has constantly been improved and upgraded
- It **operates on the "Fire and Forgets" principle** i.e it does not require further guidance after launch.
- Brahmos is one of the **fastest cruise missile** currently operationally deployed **with speed of Mach 2.8, which is nearly 3 times more than the speed of sound.**

### 1.143. GRSE LAUNCHES INDIAN NAVY SURVEY VESSEL 'INS NIRDESHAK'.

- **Nirdeshak**, the second of the **four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) projects** being built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** in collaboration with **L&T shipbuilding** for the Indian Navy was launched, at **Kattupalli, Chennai**.
- The ship has taken its name from erstwhile Nirdeshak which was also an Indian Naval Survey ship and was decommissioned after **32 years of glorious service in December 2014**.

### 1.144. INS GOMATI DECOMMISSIONED AT NAVAL DOCKYARD IN MUMBAI.

- INS Gomati derives her name from the vibrant river Gomti and was commissioned on **16 April 1988** by then Defence Minister, KC Pant, at Mazgaon Dock Ltd, Bombay.
- The third ship of the Godavari class guided-missile frigates, INS Gomati was also the oldest warrior of the western fleet when decommissioned.

#### During her service:

- **INS Gomati** participated in numerous operations including **Cactus, Parakram and Rainbow, and several bilateral and multinational naval exercises.**

- IMS Gomati was twice awarded the coveted Unit Citation, in 2007-08 and again in 2019-20, for remarkable spirit and stellar contribution to national maritime security.



## POLICY AND PROGRAMME

### 1.145. WIDENING DIFFERENCE IN MATHS LEARNING OUTCOME AMONG GIRLS AND BOYS: NAS SURVEY.

- **The National Achievement Survey (NAS)** conducted by the Ministry of Education has found there is a widening difference in mathematics learning outcomes among girls and boys as they reach higher classes.
- The survey found that girls and boys begin at an almost level playing field in mathematics but by the time they reach high school, there is already a gap in learning outcomes which becomes even wider by class 12 when boys significantly outperform girls in the subject.
- In class 10, this gap is most stark and the national scores reflect that girls are at 216 and boys at 219.
- The NAS covered government, government-aided and private schools. The achievement tests along with the questionnaires — pupil questionnaire, teacher questionnaire and school questionnaire — were developed and translated in 22 different languages by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (**NCERT**).

### 1.146. EASE OF LIVING: COMMON PLATFORM CALLED JAN SAMARTH TO BE LAUNCHED SOON.

- The government intends to launch Jan Samarth, a unified platform for the delivery of multiple initiatives administered by several ministries and departments, in order to make life easier for the average man. The new portal will initially enrol 15 credit-linked government initiatives, as part of the government's objective of minimum government maximal governance.

#### KEY POINTS:

- They noted that because some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes include various agencies, the services will be gradually increased based on compatibility.
- Different ministries, for example, run initiatives like the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** and the **Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS)**.
- The proposed portal **aims** to put various schemes together on a single platform so that beneficiaries can access them easily. **State Bank of India** and other lenders are doing **pilot testing** and tying up loose ends before the official launch, according to the statement.
- Because of the portal's open architecture, state governments and other organisations will be able to add their plans to the platform in the future.
- To make it easier for borrowers, the government developed a platform in 2018 that offered a variety of credit products, including **MSME**, home, auto, and personal loans.
- Various state-owned banks can now approve loans for **MSMEs** and other borrowers in principle in **59 minutes**, compared to the previous **turnaround time of 20-25 days**.

## ENVIRONMENT

### 1.147. THE INDIAN OIL CORPORATION (IOC) ROLLED OUT M15 PETROL ON A PILOT BASIS IN ASSAM'S TINSUKIA DISTRICT.

#### About M15 Petrol:

- M15 is a blend of **15 % methanol and 85 % Petrol**.
- It helps **lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** by about 5 to 10%. Blending 15% methanol in petrol would bring down GHG emissions by 20% in terms of particulate matter, NOx, and SOx, thereby improving the urban air quality.
- Coal reserves and municipal solid waste can be converted into methanol.
- It helps in achieving fuel independence and reducing the import burden. Blending of 15% methanol in petrol can result in at least a 15% reduction in the import of crude oil.

#### Methanol economy

- According to NITI Aayog, Methanol Economy will create close to 5 million jobs through methanol production/application and distribution services. Additionally, Rs 6000 crore can be saved annually by blending 20% DME (Dimethyl Ether, a derivative of methanol) in LPG. This will help the consumer in saving between Rs 50-100 per cylinder.

### 1.148. PANTANAL WETLAND:

#### About Pantanal wetland:

- The world's largest wetland, known as the Pantanal, in South America is at risk of collapse.
- This is due to a series of local and seemingly minor decisions that fail to account for their cumulative impact on one of Earth's most biodiverse ecosystems.
- It is also the world's largest flooded grasslands.
- It is fed through the Paraguay River and tributaries.
- It is designated a National Heritage by the Brazilian Constitution and a restricted-use region whose use should be ecologically sustainable.

### 1.149. UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION.

- Recently, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change addressed the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Cote d'Ivoire (Western Africa)**.
- COP 15 is a **key moment in the fight against desertification**, land degradation and drought.
- It will build on the findings of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook and offer a concrete response to the interconnected challenges of land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Drought, land restoration, and related enablers such as land rights, gender equality and youth empowerment are among the top items on the Conference agenda.
- **Theme: 'Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity'**

### 1.150. GREAT INDIAN BUSTARDS:

#### Key points:

- The Supreme Court of India had directed the governments of Rajasthan and Gujarat to ensure installation of bird-diverters on power lines before July 20, 2022.

- The move is aimed at protecting the **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**, the state bird of Rajasthan, and the lesser floricans in the area.

#### **Great Indian Bustards (GIB):**

- **IUCN status:** critically endangered.
- Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and in the CMS Convention and in Appendix I of CITES.
- **Project Great Indian Bustard** — state of Rajasthan — identifying and fencing off bustard breeding grounds in existing protected areas as well as provide secure breeding enclosures in areas outside protected areas.
- **Protected areas:** Desert National Park Sanctuary — Rajasthan, Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary – Andhra Pradesh and Karera Wildlife Sanctuary– Madhya Pradesh.
- **Habitats in India:**
- Only two districts in Rajasthan — Jaisalmer and Barmer — have a breeding GIB population in the wild.
- The bird can also be found in very small numbers in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

#### **1.151. BIRD COUNT INDIA.**

- Bird Count India is an informal partnership of organisations and groups interested in documenting and monitoring India's birds.
- The initiative encourages birdwatchers to upload their bird lists to eBird ([ebird.org/india](http://ebird.org/india)), a global platform for bird observations.
- In India, the event was confined to **Ladakh, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, northwest Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **Uttarakhand** reported the highest number of bird species, at 293.
- The maximum number of checklists (lists of birds seen and heard by birdwatchers), at 192, was uploaded from **Jammu & Kashmir.**

#### **1.152. 60% E-WASTE RECYCLING LIKELY BY 2023.**

- Consumer goods companies and makers of electronics goods have to ensure **at least 60% of their electronic waste is collected and recycled by 2023** with targets to increase them to **70% and 80% in 2024 and 2025**, respectively, according to a draft notification by the Environment Ministry made public this week.
- The rules bring into effect a system of trading in certificates, akin to carbon credits, that will allow companies to temporarily bridge shortfalls.

#### **1.153. NEW ARUNACHAL MONKEY NAMED AFTER SELA PASS.**

- A new species of old-world monkey, "**The Sela Macaque**" was geographically separated from the Arunachal Macaque by the Sela, an eastern Himalayan pass located at an altitude of 13,700 feet.
- **Sela macaque (Macaca selai)**, the new-to-science primate was identified and analysed by a team of experts from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the University of Calcutta.**
- **Phylogenetics** relates to the evolutionary development and diversification of a species or group of organisms.
- The phylogenetic analysis revealed that the Sela macaque was geographically separated from the Arunachal macaque (Macaca munzala) of the **Tawang district** by Sela.

#### **1.154. WII TO ASSESS HUMAN HABITATION IMPACT ON ASOLA BHATTI SANCTUARY.**

- **Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary** is spread over 32.7 square kilometres, and is at the end of important wildlife corridor that starts from Sariska National Park in Alwar, Rajasthan and passes through Mewat, Faridabad and Gurugram districts of Haryana.
- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) will assess the impact of nearby human habitations on the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, which is witnessing an increase in wildlife population.
- The assessment will be part of a study to ascertain the possible effects of the dumping of inert civic waste in the abandoned Bhatti Mines.
- The WII recently submitted a proposal to conduct a multidisciplinary study in the Asola Sanctuary to "collect baseline information on soil and groundwater, and flora, fauna and herpetofauna (lizards, snakes, turtles and tortoises) in the mined-out pits.
- The study will "identify and evaluate the cultural impact of nearby villages on the wildlife sanctuary".
- According to the institute, Activities such as poaching, cattle grazing, fuelwood collection and lopping result in high forest degradation.



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## GEOGRAPHY

### 1.155. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT(MP) FROM BARRACKPORE CONSTITUENCY IN WEST BENGAL HAS MET THE TEXTILE MINISTER TO APPRISE HIM ABOUT ISSUES CONCERNING JUTE FARMERS, WORKERS AND THE OVERALL JUTE INDUSTRY.

#### Jute Industry in India

- In India, Jute is **primarily grown in West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh.** (West Bengal, Bihar and Assam account for almost 99% of India's total jute production)
- The seeds are planted between April and May and harvested between July and August.
- **Jute production is a labour-intensive industry.** It employs about two lakh workers in West Bengal alone and 4 lakh workers across the country
- **India is the largest producer of jute** followed by Bangladesh and China. However, in terms of acreage and trade, Bangladesh takes the lead accounting for three-fourths of the global jute exports in comparison to India's 7%.

#### About Jute:

- Temperature: Between 25-35°C
- Rainfall: Around 150-250 cm
- Soil Type: Well drained alluvial soil.

### 1.156. ANANG TAL LAKE.

#### Key Points:

- Recently, the Ministry of Culture has ordered the restoration of Historic Anang Tal lake in South Delhi.
- The **lake is situated in Mehrauli, Delhi** and is claimed to be created by Tomar King, Anangpal II, in 1,060 AD.
- He is known to have **established and populated Delhi in the 11th century.**
- The millennium old Anang Tal signifies the beginning of Delhi.
- Anang Tal has a strong Rajasthan connection as Maharaja Anangpal is known as nana (maternal grandfather) of Prithviraj Chauhan whose fort Rai Pithora is on the list of the ASI.

### 1.157. STATE OF WORLD'S BIRDS REPORT.

- The State of World's Birds report was recently published.
- It is BirdLife International's flagship science publication, using birds to assess the condition of our ecosystems as a whole.
- BirdLife International is a global partnership of non-governmental organizations that strives to conserve birds and their habitats.
- **Headquarters:** Cambridge, United Kingdom.

#### Highlights of the 2022 report:

- Around 48% of bird species worldwide are known or suspected to be undergoing population declines.
- In India, nearly 80% species are declining in numbers, and almost 50% plummeting strongly.
- The situation is similar in the European Union, where trends across 378 species indicate an overall decrease in breeding bird abundance of 17-19% between 1980 and 2017.
- The study found that bird species and abundance data from the tropics is scarce but in many countries such as India, citizen science driven data was available.

#### Reasons behind this decline:

- The report has attributed the threat to almost half of the 10,994 recognised extant species of birds to the expanding human footprint on the natural world and climate change.

- The degradation and loss of natural habitats as well as direct overexploitation of many species are the key threats to avian biodiversity.

### 1.158. CYCLONE ASANI.

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted the Cyclone Asani to intensify into a 'severe cyclone' over Southeast regions of Bay of Bengal.

#### Key Points:

- The name Cyclone **Asani has been given by Sri Lanka**. It means 'wrath' in Sinhalese.
- Tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean region (Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea) develop during the pre-monsoon (April to June) and post-monsoon (October to December) periods.

#### Tropical Cyclones

- A tropical cyclone is **an intense circular storm that originates over warm tropical oceans** and is characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds, and heavy rain.
- A characteristic feature of tropical cyclones is **the eye, a central region of clear skies, warm temperatures, and low atmospheric pressure**.
- Storms of this type are **called hurricanes in the North Atlantic** and eastern Pacific and **typhoons in SouthEast Asia and China**. They are **called tropical cyclones in the southwest Pacific and Indian Ocean region and Willy-willies in north-western Australia**.
- Storms **rotate counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere** and **clockwise in the southern hemisphere**.
- The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are:
  - a. Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C.
  - b. Presence of the Coriolis force.
  - c. Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
  - d. A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
  - e. Upper divergence above the sea level system.

### 1.159. ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS TO GET GAS PLANT.

#### Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- The Andaman & Nicobar Islands is a union territory of India. This territory is known as A & N Islands, or ANI.
- It is located **in the Indian Ocean**, in the southern reaches of the Bay of Bengal, nearer to Indonesia and Thailand. This comprises of two island groups - the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands - which separates the Andaman Sea to the east from the Indian Ocean.
- These two **groups are separated by the 10° N parallel, the Andamans lying to the north of this latitude, and the Nicobars to the south**. The capital of this territory is the Andamanese town of Port Blair.
- **Hindi and English are the official languages of the islands**. Bengali is the dominant and most spoken language, with 26% of the population speaking Bengali.
- Particularly vulnerable **Tribal Groups (PTGs) who have been identified in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands**. **They are:-**
  - Great Andamanese of Strait Island
  - Onges of Little Andaman
  - Jarawas of South and Middle Andaman
  - Sentinelese of Sentinel Islands
  - Shompens of Great Nicobar

### 1.160. POWAI LAKE.

- In a setback to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the Bombay High Court allowed PILs challenging the construction of a cycling and jogging track around Powai Lake and said the cycle track was illegal.

#### About Powai Lake:

- Recognized as a wetland, the Powai Lake is **located in the north-eastern suburbs of Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
- The Powai Lake is an artificial man-made lake located to the north of Mumbai and southwest of Thane.
- It was formed as a result of two dams built on the Mithi River in 1891.
- The purpose was to create a reservoir for providing water supply in Mumbai.
- However, water quality degraded within a few years, and it was declared unfit for drinking. It is being used for industrial purposes.
- The Maharashtra State Angling Association (then called Bombay Presidency Angling Association), formed in 1936, currently controls and manages the lake
- In 1995, the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) included Powai Lake among India's 10 main lakes to be revived and improved.
- This program, launched in 2002, was implemented by BMC. As a result of this move, the condition of the lake has considerably improved

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## HEALTH

### 1.161. INDIA'S TOTAL FERTILITY RATE.

- As per the report of the 5th round of the National Family Health Survey -5
- The total fertility rate of India has declined from 2.2 to 2.0 between the fourth National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted in 2015-16 and the fifth one in 2019-21.
- This indicates the significant progress of population control measures.
- There are only five states in India, which are above the replacement level of fertility of 2.1.
- This includes Bihar (2.98), Meghalaya (2.91), Uttar Pradesh (2.35), Jharkhand (2.26) and Manipur (2.17).
- **Note - The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is measured as the average number of children per woman.**

### 1.162. MONKEY POX.

- Recently, Health authorities in the United Kingdom have confirmed a case of monkeypox, a rare viral infection similar to smallpox, in an individual who recently travelled to that country from Nigeria.

#### Key Points:

#### About Monkeypox:

- It is a **viral zoonotic disease** that occurs primarily in **tropical rainforest areas** of Central and West Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions.
- Monkeypox virus infection has been detected in squirrels, Gambian poached rats, dormice, and some species of monkeys.
- Monkeypox is **caused by monkeypox virus**, a **member of the Orthopoxvirus genus** in the family Poxviridae.
- Monkeypox typically presents clinically with fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes.
- Monkeypox virus is **mostly transmitted to people from wild animals such as rodents and primates, but human-to-human transmission also occurs.**
- The incubation period (time from infection to symptoms) for monkeypox is usually 7-14 days but can range from 5-21 days.
- The clinical presentation of monkeypox resembles that of smallpox, a related orthopoxvirus infection which was declared eradicated worldwide in 1980.
- Vaccinia vaccine used during the smallpox eradication programme was also protective against monkeypox.
- A new third generation vaccinia vaccine has now been approved for prevention of smallpox and.

## ART AND CULTURE

### 1.163. PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI BOWS TO GURUDEV TAGORE ON HIS 161ST JAYANTI.

#### About Rabindra Nath Tagore

- According to the Bengali calendar, the Tagore Jayanti falls on the 25th day of the Boishakh month.
- This year, the Jayanti will be celebrated across the Bengali community in India and Bangladesh on May 9
- Rabindranath Tagore was born in Calcutta on May 7, 1861. He was also referred to as 'Gurudev', 'Kabiguru', and 'Biswakabi'.
- Rabindranath was an exceptional literary figure and a renowned polymath who singlehandedly reshaped the region's literature and music.
- In 1913 Rabindranath Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his work on Gitanjali.
- He was the first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize .
- In 1915 Tagore was awarded knighthood by the British King George V. In 1919, following the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre he renounced his Knighthood.
- Besides all his literary achievements he was also a philosopher and educationist who in 1921 established the Vishwa-Bharati University, a university that challenged conventional education.
- Rabindranath Tagore was a good friend of Mahatma Gandhi and is said to have given him the title of Mahatma.
- He not only gave the national anthems for two countries, India and Bangladesh, but also inspired a Ceylonese student of his, to pen and compose the national anthem of Sri Lanka.

### 1.164. PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI TRIBUTES TO GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE ON HIS 156TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY.

#### About Gopal krishan Gokhale

- Birth: Gopal Krishna Gokhale was born on 9 May 1866 in Kotluk village in Maharashtra in a Brahmin family.
- **Role in Colonial Legislatures:**
- Between 1899 and 1902, he was a member of the Bombay Legislative Council followed by work at the Imperial Legislative Council from 1902 till his death (1915).
- At the Imperial legislature, Gokhale played a key role in framing the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909.
- **Role in INC:**
- He was associated with the Moderate Group of Indian National Congress (joined in 1889).
- He became president of INC in 1905 in Banaras session.
- This was the time when bitter differences had arisen between his group of 'Moderates' and the 'Extremists' led by Lala Lajpat Rai and Bal Gangadhar Tilak among others. The two factions split at the Surat session of 1907.
- Despite the ideological difference, in 1907, he intensely campaigned for the release of Lala Lajpat Rai, who was imprisoned that year by the British at Mandalay in present-day Myanmar.
- He established the Servants of India Society in 1905 for the expansion of Indian education.
- He was also associated with the Sarvajanic sabha journal started by Govind Ranade.
- In 1908, Gokhale founded the Ranade Institute of Economics.
- He started english weekly newspaper, The Hitavada (The people's paper).
- Mentor to Gandhi:
- As a liberal nationalist, he is regarded by Mahatma Gandhi as his political guru.
- Gandhi wrote a book in Gujarati dedicated to the leader titled 'Dharmatma Gokhale'.

### 1.165. REJUVENATION OF DAL LAKE.

- To combat the increasing pollution and rejuvenate Dal Lake, a unique initiative known as 'Athwas' has been launched by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.
- 'Athwas' is a unique partnership between citizens and authorities for the rejuvenation of Lake. It involves community participation.
- Under the initiative, the de-weeding and dredging will be conducted in collaboration with the citizens.

#### About Dal:

- It was known as the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is named the "Jewel in the crown of Kashmir" or "Srinagar's Jewel".
- The lake is also an important source for commercial operations in fishing and water plant harvesting.
- The lake is located in the Zabarwan mountain valley, in the foothills of the Shankracharya hills, which surround it on three sides.
- The lake has four main interconnected basins namely, Hazratbal, Bod dal, Gagribal and Nagin.
- The floating gardens here, known as "Raad" in Kashmiri, blossom with lotus flowers during July and August.

### 1.166. RAKHIGARHI.

#### Why in News

- 5000-year-old jewellery factory found in Haryana's Indus Valley site Rakhi Garhi

#### About Rakhigarhi

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which has been working in Rakhi Garhi in Haryana for the last 32 years, made one of its biggest discoveries yet with the excavation of a 5000 year old jewellery making factory.
- Rakhi Garhi is a village and one of the oldest archaeological sites belonging to the Indus Valley Civilisation in Hisar district of Haryana.
- The structure of some houses, a kitchen complex and a 5000-year-old jewellery making factory was discovered, which shows that the site must have been a very important trade centre. Copper and gold jewellery were also found which had been hidden for thousands of years.
- Like Sinauli in Uttar Pradesh- which gained attention for its Bronze Age solid-disk wheel carts found in 2018, which were interpreted by some as horse-pulled "chariots"- graveyards have been found in the excavation sites which archaeologists say explain that civilisation believed in life after death.

### 1.167. MARTAND SUN TEMPLE:

- A controversy has erupted over a puja ceremony attended by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the premises of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected Martand Sun temple in Anantnag, with the ASI claiming that it was in violation of rules.

#### About Martand Sun Temple:

- The **eighth-century Martand Temple** is one of the **oldest sun temples** in India and a symbol of invaluable ancient spiritual heritage.
- Built by **Lalitaditya Muktapida** in the 8th Century AD, the Martand Sun Temple is said to have been an excellent specimen of Kashmiri architecture and one of the holiest shrines for the Kashmiri Pandits.
- The temple was **destroyed by Sikandar Shah Miri in the 14th Century AD** and the ruins are now marked as a "site of national importance" by the Archaeological Survey of India.

### 1.168. THE IRON AGE IN TAMIL NADU DATES BACK 4,200 YEARS, 'OLDEST IN INDIA':

- The Tamil Nadu government stated that **carbon dating of excavated artefacts in the state dates evidence of iron use in India back to 4,200 years ago**, based on an archaeological assessment. **Excavations site:** Mayiladumparai near Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu.

### 1.169. KANHERI CAVES.

- Various amenities were inaugurated at ancient Kanheri Caves on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.
- They are located in the forests of the **Sanjay Gandhi National Park**, in the western outskirts of Mumbai.
- They cover the period from 2nd to 9th century AD. It has around 100 caves.
- They belong to the Hinayana phase of Buddhist architecture.
- However, additions were made when Mahayana Buddhism was gaining ground. Ex: 5th century image of Buddha.
- Kanheri was mentioned in the travelogues of foreign travellers. The earliest reference of Kanheri is ascribed to Fa-Hein who visited India during 399-411 CE.

### 1.170. PURI HERITAGE CORRIDOR PROJECT

- According to ASI, the Odisha state government was constructing the Puri Heritage Corridor project without proper licence in protected and controlled areas of the monument. A PIL has been filed in court against the proposal, which has prompted worries about its influence on the structural safety of the Puri temple.

#### What is the Puri heritage corridor project?

- Conceived in 2016, the Project aims to transform the holy town of Puri into an international place of heritage.
- The project includes redevelopment of Puri lake and Musa river revival plan.
- Puri Jagannath Temple is an important Vaishnavite temple dedicated to Jagannath, a form of Sri Krishna in Puri in Odisha.
- The temple is believed to have been constructed in the 12th century by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
- Jagannath Puri temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
- The Puri temple is famous for its annual Ratha Yatra, or chariot festival, in which the three principal deities are pulled on huge and elaborately decorated temple cars.

## INDEX AND REPORTS

### 1.171. THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) HAS RELEASED THE WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK REPORT.

#### Recent Context:

- Recently, The **World Economic Outlook 2022 by IMF has been published** and cut its forecast for India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in FY 2022-23 to 8.2%, making it the fastest-growing major economy in the world, almost twice faster than China's 4.4 %.

#### Key Findings:

- It has also lowered India's growth projection by 0.8 % points for 2022-23 from its previous forecast (9%) for the same period in 2021.
- In 2021, India registered a growth rate of 8.9 %.
- In 2023-24, India is estimated to grow at 6.9 %.
- The IMF has projected global growth at 3.6 % in 2022 and 2023, 0.8 and 0.2 % lower than in the January 2022 forecast, respectively

#### Reports by IMF:

- Global Financial Stability Report.
- World Economic Outlook.

### 1.172. WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX 2022.

#### Key Points:

- On the World Press Freedom Day (3rd May), the 20th edition of the World Press Freedom Index was **published by Reporters without Borders**.
- **Theme for 2022::** Journalism under digital siege
- It has been published every year since 2002 by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters without Borders.
- The Index's rankings are based on a score ranging from 0 to 100 that is assigned to each country or territory, with 100 being the best possible score (the highest possible level of press freedom) and 0 the worst.
- **Top and Worst Performers:**
  - a. **Top positions.** Norway (1st) Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd) Estonia (4th) and Finland (5th) grabbed the top positions.
  - b. **Worst Performer:** North Korea remained at the bottom of the list of the 180 countries.
- **India's Ranking:**
  - India ranked 150th among the 180 countries.
  - India has fallen eight places from 142nd to 150th in the 2022 among the 180 countries.

#### Ranking of Countries

1. Nepal has climbed up by 30 points in the global ranking at 76th position.
2. The index placed Pakistan at 157th position, Sri Lanka 146th, Bangladesh 162nd and Myanmar at 176th position.
3. China was ranked at 175th position.

### 1.173. STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS 2022.

#### About State of the World's Forests Report 2022



- Released by **the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.
- The report is **published bi-annually** and is widely regarded as one of the most important stock takes on forest ecosystems.

#### Highlights of the report

- The **420 million hectares (mha) of forests have been lost between 1990 and 2020**, due to deforestation, though forests cover 4.06 billion ha of the earth's geographical area.
- **15% of 250 emerging infectious diseases have been linked to forests.**
- Example: Covid-19, Drug-resistant infections (Antimicrobials), Zika Virus, etc.
- The **world population is projected to reach 9.7 billion people by 2050**, which will increase competition for land, as the demand for food for this large population will rise by 35 to 56% by the 2050s.

### 1.174. SEX RATIO AT BIRTH IN INDIA:

#### Key points:

- According to the recently released **annual report on Vital Statistics** based on the 2020 **Civil Registration System Report (CRS)**, the **Union Territory of Ladakh recorded the highest sex ratio at birth** in the country in 2020.
- The report was published by the Registrar General of India.

#### Findings:

- The Union Territory of Ladakh (1104) recorded the **highest sex ratio at birth** in the country in 2020, followed by **Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala**.
- **Lowest sex ratio at birth** was reported by Manipur (880), followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (898), Gujarat (909), Haryana (916) and Madhya Pradesh (921).
- **In 2019, the highest sex ratio at birth was reported by Arunachal Pradesh (1024)**, followed by Nagaland (1001).

#### What is Sex Ratio at birth?

- Sex ratio at birth is the number of females born per thousand males. It is an important indicator to map the gender gap of a population

### 1.175. ILO MONITOR ON THE "WORLD OF WORK":

- The latest edition of the "World of Work" report was recently released by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

#### Highlights of the Report:

- 2 crore jobs might have lost between the last quarter of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022.
- Deterioration of the gender gap in work hours in the second quarter of 2020 in the lower-middle-income countries.
- **Job loss in women:** For every 100 women at work prior to the pandemic, 12.3 women would have lost their job as an average through the entire period considered by the report.
- **Job loss in men:** For every 100 men at work prior to the pandemic, 7.5 men would have lost their job as an average through the entire period considered by the report.
- A **"great and growing divergence between richer and poorer economies"** continues to characterise the recovery.

### 1.176. GLOBAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT INDEX.

- Released by: World Economic Forum.

- Index assesses 117 economies biennially, identifying key factors in enabling the sustainable and resilient growth of travel and tourism economies.
- India ranked at 54th position out of 117 assessed countries while Japan ranked 1st in the index.



## SPORTS

### 1.177. HARSHADA SHARAD GARUD.

- Eighteen years old **Harshada Sharad Garud** has become **India's first weightlifter** to have won a gold medal at the IWF Junior World Championships that is being organized in Heraklion, Greece from 2nd to 10th May 2022.
- She has secured the gold medal in the women's 45 kg category
- She won the gold with a total effort of 153kg i.e. 70kg+83kg. Along with her Gyaneshwari Yadav and V Rithika have also won medals in the 49 kg category.
- Till now only six Indians have won medals at the Junior World Championships for the country.
- The Junior World Championships is organized **by the International Weightlifting Federation**. The first tournament was held in the year 1975 in Marseille, France.
- **International Weightlifting Federation** was founded in the year 1905 and its headquarter is **located in Lausanne, Switzerland**.

### 1.178. TOKYO OLYMPIAN DISCUS THROWER KAMALPREET KAUR PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED.

#### Key Points

- Olympian discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur has been provisionally suspended by Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for testing positive for a banned substance.
- Kamalpreet was suspended for the presence/use of the prohibited substance stanozolol in her sample, a breach of the World Athletics anti-doping rules.
- Kaur had made it to the Tokyo Olympics final, finishing sixth with a throw of 63.7m.

### 1.179. INDIAN GRANDMASTER D GUKESH WINS SUNWAY FORMENTERA OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT.

#### Key Points:

- Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh has emerged as **champion in the 1st Chessable Sunway Formentera Open 2022 chess tournament in Punta Prima**.
- It was a hat-trick of titles for him after he had previously won the La Roda tournament and the Menorca Open in recent weeks.
- The 15-year old Gukesh (Elo 2637) settled for a draw with Armenian GM Haik M Martirosyan in the final round to win the title with eight points.
- He had defeated compatriot and second-seed K Sasikiran in the ninth and penultimate round. He has now moved up to no.64 in the world rankings.

### 1.180. WORLD'S OLDEST CHESS GRANDMASTER YURI AVERBAKH PASSES AWAY.

#### Key Points:

- Russian **chess grandmaster, Yuri Averbakh** who was among the world's best players for a decade, trained world champions and was the last surviving participant in one of the greatest competitions in history, has died in Moscow at 100.
- He won the Moscow Championship in 1949 and earned the Grandmaster title in 1952. In 1954, he became the champion of the USSR. He also chaired the Chess Federation of the USSR from 1972 to 1977.

### 1.181. 12TH IBA WOMENS WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS KICK-STARTED IN ISTANBUL

**Key Points**

- The 12th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships was kick-started in Istanbul, Turkey. In this event, more than 400 boxers from a record 93 countries are set to take part in this year's event, which also marks the 20th anniversary of the prestigious event.
- Olympian Lovlina Borgohain will represent the Indian country. The other representatives of this game are Pooja Rani (81 kg), Nandini (+81 kg) and Nikhat Zareen (52 kg), Nitu (48kg), Anamika (50kg), Shiksha (54kg), Manisha (57kg), Parveen (63kg) and Sweety (75kg).

**About International Boxing Association (IBA)**

- International Boxing Association (IBA) was formed in 1946
- Headquarters of IBA: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- President of IBA: Umar Nazarovich Kremlev.

**1.182. INDIA SCRIPTED A HISTORIC WIN BY LIFTING THEIR MAIDEN THOMAS CUP.****Key points**

- The Indian Badminton Team defeated 14-time champions **Indonesia by 3-0 in Bangkok, Thailand.**
- Thomas Cup is an international badminton competition. The 16 teams that compete for the prestigious title are representing member nations of the **Badminton World Federation (BWF).**
- The championship was started by a legendary **badminton player of England Sir George Alan Thomas**, who was inspired by Tennis's Davis Cup and Football's World Cup.
- Team India had participated in 1952 for the first time in this tournament and after a wait of 70 years, they have finally clinched the title.
- This is so far the best performance of India in the competition, the last time the country was closest to the title was in the year 1979 when they made it to the semi-finals.

**1.183. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2021 SUMMER DEAFLYMPICS HELD IN CAXIAS DO SUL, BRAZIL; UKRAINE TOPS.**

- The 24th edition of 2021 Summer Deaflympics i.e. Caxias 2021, officially called the XXIV Summer Deaflympic.
- Games, was an international multi-sport event held at Festa da Uva, Caxias do Sul, Brazil, from 1 May to 15 May 2022.
- The International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) is the main governing body responsible for the organisation of Deaflympics and other World Deaf Championships.
- India holds 9th position in 24th edition of 2021 Summer Deaflympics whereas Ukraine placed first position followed by USA and Iran.
- India has won a total medal tally of 17, out of which Gold 8, Silver 1 and Bronze 8.

**1.184. 2022 IBA WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD AT ISTANBUL; TURKEY TOPS MEDAL TALLY.**

- The 12th edition of 2022 International Boxing Association (IBA) Women's World Boxing Championship (WWBC) was held at Başakşehir Youth and Sports Facility, Istanbul, Turkey from May 8 to May 20, 2022.
- The event saw the participation of 310 Boxers from 73 nations.

**Key points:**

- India for the first time in the past four years, had won a total medal tally of 3, which includes one Gold and two.
  - a. Bronze.

- The India Boxer **Nikhath Zareen** (from Nizamabad, Telangana) won the gold in flyweight (52kg) division with 5-0 points against Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas. With this win she became the **fifth Indian women boxer** to win the World Championship.
- Other Four Indian boxers who have won the world title for India are – **Six-time champion Mary Kom (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018), Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006) and Lekha KC (2006)**
- The other two Indian women boxers **Manisha Moun (from Haryana) and Parveen Hooda (from Haryana)** had won the bronze medals in 57kg and 63kg categories respectively.

### 1.185. RAMESHBABU PRAGGNANANDHA WINS 36TH REYKJAVIK OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT 2022.

- Rameshbabu Praggnanandha wins Reykjavik Open 2022 held in Iceland at the age of 16.
- At the age of 16, he became the youngest player ever to defeat the world champion, Magnus Carlsen, on 22nd February 2022 at Airthings Masters Rapid Chess Tournament.
- He again defeated Carlsen, at the Chessable Masters Online rapid chess tournament on 20th May 2022.
- It was his second win again the world champion Magnus Carlsen within 3 months.

### 1.186. SREESHANKAR BAGS GOLD IN THE LONG JUMP EVENT IN GREECE.

- Tokyo Olympian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar bagged a Gold medal in Greece with a 7.95m jump at Venizeleia-Chania 2022 athletics meet.
- Earlier in the month, 23- year-old M Sreeshankar won **the long jump event** in Kallithea, Greece with an 8.31m jump.

## AWARDS

### 1.187. BRO'S ATAL TUNNEL RECEIVES 'BEST INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT' AWARD.

#### Recent Context

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) engineering marvel, Atal Tunnel, built-in Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh, received the Indian Building Congress (IBC) 'Best Infrastructure Project' award in New Delhi.

#### About Atal Tunnel

- The 9.02-km tunnel is the **longest highway tunnel in the world above the height of 3,000 metres.**
- It **cuts through a mountain west of the Rohtang pass** and shortens the distance between Solang Valley and Sissu by around 46 km and takes around 15 minutes to cover. Earlier, it would take nearly 4 hours to travel between the two points.
- Rohtang Pass is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is present on the Pir Panjal Range of Himalayas.
- The tunnel, built using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM), was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020.
- Fires inside the tunnel will be controlled within an area of 200 metres, and fire hydrants are provided at specific locations throughout the tunnel.
- Pollution sensors continuously monitor the air quality in the tunnel, and if the air quality is below the desired level, fresh air is injected into the tunnel via two heavy-duty fans on each side of the tunnel.

### 1.188. SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATIONIST CHARUDUTT MISHRA WINS WHITLEY GOLD AWARD.

#### About Whitley Gold Award:

- Snow leopard expert and wildlife conservationist **Charudutt Mishra has won the prestigious Whitley Gold Award** for his contribution to involving indigenous communities in the conservation and recovery of big cat species in Asia's high mountain ecosystems.
- **Princess Anne presented the award to Mishra at London's Royal Geographic Society.** This is his second Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) Award. He got the first in 2005.

#### About Charudutt Mishra

- Mishra is **co-founder of Mysore (Karnataka)-based Nature Conservation Foundation and executive director of the Snow Leopard Trust.**
- Mishra established India's first community-based initiatives to save the endangered snow leopard. These include innovative livestock insurance programmes to boost income and discourage retaliatory killings and locally-managed wildlife reserves on community land.

### 1.189. KERALA BEAT WEST BENGAL TO LIFT THEIR SEVENTH SANTOSH TROPHY TITLE.

- Kerala beat West Bengal 5-4 in the penalty shootout to win the **75th Santosh Trophy 2022** at the Manjeri Stadium in Malappuram, Kerala.
- This is Kerala's **third win in a Santosh Trophy tournament** on home soil.
- Earlier, they had **won two editions in Kochi, in 1973-74 and 1992-93.**
- Kerala captain Jijo Joseph, was adjudged the player of the match for a commanding performance in the middle of the park.

### 1.190. WORLD FOOD PRIZE

#### About World Food Prize:

- Recently, **Cynthia Rosenzweig**, a Nasa climate research scientist who has spent much of her career explaining how global food production must adapt to a changing climate was awarded the World Food prize.
- It is the **foremost international honor recognizing the achievements of individuals** who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world.
- It is an **annual award** that recognizes contributions in any field involved in the world food supply including plant, animal and soil science; food science and technology; nutrition, rural development, etc.
- In addition **to the cash award of \$2,50,000**, the laureate receives a sculpture designed by the noted artist and designer, Saul Bass.

### 1.191. GALLANTRY AWARDS

- Recently, President conferred 13 Shaurya Chakras, including six posthumous, to the personnel of Armed Forces during Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1).

#### Highest Gallantry awards

- **Param Vir Chakra:** It is India's highest military decoration awarded for displaying distinguished acts of valor during wartime whether on land, at sea or in the air.
- **Maha Vir Chakra:** It is the second highest gallantry award for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air.
- **Vir Chakra:** It is the country's third-highest wartime gallantry award after Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra

### 1.192. ROYAL GOLD MEDAL 2022:

#### Key Points:

- **Indian Architect Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi** was bestowed with the prestigious Royal Gold Medal 2022.
- **Royal Gold Medal, one of the world's highest honours for architecture**, by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), London, United Kingdom (UK).
- **The Royal Gold Medal is approved personally by Queen Elizabeth II** of the UK and the award is given to a person or group of people who have had a significant influence either directly or indirectly on the advancement of architecture.

### 1.193. FORBES GLOBAL 2000 LIST 2022: RIL TOPS INDIAN COMPANIES; BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY TOPS GLOBALLY

- According to the Forbes Global 2000 List 2022, which ranks the world's largest companies using 4 metrics (sales, profits, assets, and market value), Reliance Industries Limited(RIL) led by Mukesh Ambani has ranked
- 53rd on the list (global) and ranked first among Indian companies.

### 1.194. LIONEL MESSI TOPPED FORBES' HIGHEST-PAID ATHLETES LIST FOR 2022

- Lionel Messi, a football player from Argentina is reportedly earning pre-tax gross earnings of \$130 million a year from on-field and off-field pursuits on the Forbes' Top 10 List 2022 of the World's Highest-Paid
- Athletes followed by LeBron James, an American professional basketball player, and Cristiano Ronaldo, a Portuguese Professional Footballer.

### 1.195. ASHA WORKERS HONOURED BY WHO:

- ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers have received the Global Health Leaders Award-2022 in the backdrop of the on-going 75th World Health Assembly.
- The other recipients include eight volunteer polio workers who were shot and killed by armed gunmen in Takhar and Kunduz provinces in Afghanistan in February this year.
- ASHA workers are volunteers from within the community who are trained to provide information and aid people in accessing benefits of various healthcare schemes of the government.

**ASHA workers in the country:**

- There are around 10.4 lakh ASHA workers across the country.
- The largest workforces of ASHA workers are in states with high populations – Uttar Pradesh (1.63 lakh), Bihar (89,437), and Madhya Pradesh (77,531).
- Goa is the only state with no such workers.

**1.196. GAUTAM ADANI, KHURRAM PARVEZ, & KARUNA NUNDY AMONG 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF 2022 BY TIME MAGAZINE.**

- Gautam Adani, Chairman and founder of the Adani Group, Supreme Court lawyer and public activist Karuna Nundy and Kashmiri rights activist Khurram Parvez were among the list of 100 Most Influential People of 2022 published by TIME magazine, an American news magazine.

**1.197. MAMATA BANERJEE RECEIVED SPECIAL BANGLA ACADEMY AWARD.**

- On 10 May 2022, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee received the Bangla Academy Award for her 'relentless literary pursuit'. The award was presented for her book "Kabita Bitan", which pays tribute to the best writers of West Bengal and the book contains a collection of over 900 poems.

**1.198. WHO DG TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS RE-ELECTED FOR THE SECOND TERM.**

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) member states has re-elected Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus for a second 5 year term as the Director-General (DG) of WHO. His new mandate as DG will officially commence on
- August 16 2022. His re-election was confirmed during the 75th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was first elected as DG of WHO in 2017.

**1.199. INDIAN NOVEL 'TOMB OF SAND' WINS INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE.**

- Indian writer **Geetanjali Shree** and American translator **Daisy Rockwell** won the **International Booker Prize** for "Tomb of Sand,".
- Originally written in Hindi, it's the first book in any Indian language to win the high-profile award, which recognizes fiction from around the world that has been translated into English.
- The book tells the story of an octogenarian widow who dares to cast off convention and confront the ghosts of her experiences during the subcontinent's tumultuous 1947 partition into India and Pakistan.



## STATE CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 1.200. GOOGLE-TELANGANA MOU ON USING TECH FOR DEVELOPMENT.

#### Recent Context

- Google signed a MoU with the Telangana government to bring the benefits of the digital economy to the state's young and women entrepreneurs, and officially off the construction of its three million square foot headquarters in the city from the ground up

#### About the collaboration

- Under this MoU, Google will be extending Google Career Certificate scholarships to the youngsters of the state to make them job-ready.
- Google will also be collaborating with the Telangana government to support the state's women entrepreneurs through business, digital, and financial skills training.
- Google will also be strengthening the government's school modernization efforts via learning and digital teaching tools and solutions.
- The organization will also be looking to support the government's efforts of using digital technologies in agriculture and improving public transportation.

### 1.201. HARYANA GOVERNMENT TO BUILD STADIUM IN NEERAJ CHOPRA'S HOMETOWN.

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced that a stadium will be built in Olympic gold-medal list Neeraj Chopra's native village in Panipat.
- A stadium would be built in Neeraj Chopra's village for Rs 10 crore.
- Last year, Chopra became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Olympic track and field.

### 1.202. J&K DELIMITATION

- Recently, a commission set up by the Centre Government submitted its final report for the delimitation of Assembly and parliamentary constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir.

#### About Delimitation Commission:

- Delimitation is the act of fixing or redrawing the limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies (Assembly or Lok Sabha seat) in a country or a province having a legislative body, as per the Election Commission.
- The Delimitation Commission is **appointed by the President of India** and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.

#### Composition:

- Retired Supreme Court judge
- Chief Election Commissioner
- Respective State Election Commissioners.

#### Articles in Constitution of India:

- Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
  - Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.
  - The delimitation commission is an independent body constituted under Article 82 after the Parliament enacted a Delimitation Act after every census.

### 1.203. ODISHA TO HOST INDIA'S FIRST TRIBAL HEALTH OBSERVATORY

- Odisha is planning to create India's only observatory, which will house data on the state's indigenous population's health.
- The ST and SC Development Department and the RMRC, a regional institution of the Indian Council of Medical Research, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard.
- The Tribal Health Observatory (TriHOb) is the "first in the nation," which is aimed to be an effective, evidence-based, and policy-oriented centre.
- It will monitor illness burden, health-seeking behaviour, and the healthcare delivery system in relation to tribal health in the state in a systematic and continuing manner.

### 1.204. MANIPUR'S POUMAI NAGA AREAS DECLARED 'DRUG FREE ZONE'

#### Key Points:

- In Manipur, the **Poumai tribe** has declared that Poumai inhabited areas will be a Drug-Free Zone supporting the State government's War on Drug campaign.
- The Chief Minister welcomed the resolution of the Poumai Naga tribe and affirmed that the State government will not tolerate deforestation and poppy plantation in hill districts in Manipur.
- The leaders of the Paumai tribe also conveyed that the community will join the fight against the drug menace in the State.

### 1.205. DIRECT SEEDING OF RICE.

#### Context:

- Recently, the Punjab government announced Rs 1,500 incentive per acre for farmers opting for Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR).

#### About Direct seeding of rice

- Here, the pre-germinated seeds are directly drilled into the field by a tractor-powered machine.
- There is no nursery preparation or transplantation involved in this method. Farmers have to only level their land and give one pre-sowing irrigation.

#### Advantage of DSR:

- Water savings. The first irrigation (apart from the pre-sowing rauni) under DSR is necessary only 21 days after sowing. This is unlike in transplanted paddy, where watering has to be done practically daily to ensure submerged/flooded conditions in the first three weeks.
- Less Labour. About three labourers are required to transplant one acre of paddy at almost Rs 2,400 per acre.
- The cost of herbicides under DSR will not exceed Rs 2,000 per acre.
- Reduce methane emissions due to a shorter flooding period and decreased soil disturbance compared to transplanting rice seedlings.

#### Limitations:

- Non-availability of herbicides.
- The seed requirement for DSR is also high, 8-10 kg/acre, compared to 4-5 kg/acre in transplanting.
- Further, laser land levelling is compulsory in DSR. This is not so in transplanting.
- The sowing needs to be done timely so that the plants have come out properly before the monsoon rains arrive.

### 1.206. HIMACHAL PRADESH IS THE FIRST 'SMOKE-FREE STATE' IN INDIA.

- In the last financial year, 90 lakh beneficiaries of Narendra Modi government's flagship welfare scheme **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** did not refill their cylinders, according to a report. The same report appreciated Himachal Pradesh for its feat for becoming the first 'smoke-free state' in India.

- Himachal Pradesh, in January 2022, became **the first 'smoke-free state' in India.**
- The major milestone was achieved while riding on the back of welfare schemes like **'Ujjwala Yojana'** of Centre and **'Himachal Grihini Suvidha** scheme of the state government'.
- **It is also the 100 percent LPG-enabled state in the country.** It simply refers to the fact that 100% of households in Himachal have LPG connections in their houses.

### **1.207. CHHATTISGARH FIRST STATE TO RESTORE OLD PENSION SCHEME.**

- Chhattisgarh has become the first state in the country to restore the old pension scheme in order to provide assured income to retired employees. The state issued Gazette notification to switch back to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) from National Pension Scheme (NPS) will be effective from April 1, 2022.
- In Feb.2022 Rajasthan had also announced restoration of OPS in its 2022-2023 budget the state has not issued a Gazette notification.

#### **Benefits and Exemption**

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in 2022 -2023 Budget announced the government's decision to revert to the old pension system (OPS) for State government employees.
- The move will benefit over three lakh employees who joined service after January 1, 2004.
- However, it will not be applicable to officials of the All India Services like members of the Indian Administrative Service or the Indian Police Service.

#### **Main Difference in the Old and New Pension Scheme**

- The main difference between two pension systems is that while an employee has to make a voluntary contribution towards pension by undertaking a 10% deduction from the basic salary and dearness allowance, there is no such deduction under OPS. However, a minimum of 12 per cent of basic salary will be deducted as per the General Provident Fund rule.
- Under the Old Pension Scheme, the government gives 50% of the salary of an employee as pension at the time of retirement.

### **1.208. SIKKIM STATEHOOD DAY: ON MAY 16, 1975, SIKKIM BECAME THE 22ND STATE OF INDIA.**

- In 1950, three years after India's independence, a treaty was signed between Sikkim and the Republic of India. Under the agreement, the former continued its status as a 'protectorate' state within the Union of India.
- By 1970s, Sikkim's ruling Chogyals had become increasingly unpopular, and calls, seeking the now-former kingdom's integration with India, began to rise.
- In September 1974, the Chogyals called for a referendum. In April next year, after an appeal by the Prime Minister of Sikkim, the Indian Army entered and took control of the kingdom.
- On May 15, 1975, then-President of India, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, signed a constitutional amendment, and a day later, Sikkim became the 22nd state of India; the position of the Chogyal was abolished as well.

### **1.209. CHAR DHAM YATRA HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AS A RISKY PILGRIMAGE BECAUSE AT LEAST 23 PILGRIMS HAVE DIED EN ROUTE SINCE THE CHAR DHAM YATRA BEGAN ON MAY 3 IN UTTARAKHAND. THIS WAS PRIMARILY OWING TO CARDIAC-RELATED ILLNESSES LIKE HEART ATTACK, HYPERTENSION, OR OTHER COMORBIDITIES.**

#### **Key point:**

- Tough terrains, high altitudes and changing weather conditions make the pilgrimage a tough one, especially for senior citizens.

- Those visiting are affected by sudden low temperature, low humidity, increased ultraviolet radiation, low air pressure, and low oxygen levels.
- Due to low humidity, within the first few hours of altitude exposure, water loss also increases, resulting in dehydration.
- The Supreme Court has urged its former **Justice AK Sikri** to take over as the Chairman of **the high-powered committee constituted by it** to “consider the cumulative and independent impact of **the Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana (Char Dham Highway Development Project)** on the entire Himalayan valley”.

### 1.210. ENDOSULFAN VICTIMS CASE:

- The Supreme Court has slammed the Kerala government for State’s inaction in providing relief to the Endosulfan pesticide exposure victims.
- From the mid-70s, Kerala villages used aerial spraying of endosulfan on 4,600-ha. cashew nut plantation. Locals reportedly experienced illnesses, palsies and deformities.
- This also amounts to a breach of the apex court’s 2017 judgment, which had ordered the State to pay ₹5 lakh each to the victims in three months.

#### What is endosulfan?

- It is a widely-banned pesticide with hazardous effects on human genetic and endocrine systems.
- It does not occur naturally in the environment.
- It is listed under the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent.
- Use of endosulfan is banned by Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
- The Supreme Court in India has banned the manufacture, sale, use, and export of endosulfan throughout the country, citing its harmful health effects in 2011.
- **Uses:** Sprayed on crops like cotton, cashew, fruits, tea, paddy, tobacco etc. for control of pests in agriculture such as whiteflies, aphids, beetles, worms etc.
- **Effects on humans:** This pesticide is a known carcinogen, neurotoxin and genotoxin (damages DNA).
- **Environmental effects:** Endosulfan in the environment gets accumulated in food chains leading to higher doses causing problems.

### 1.211. RAMGARH VISHDHARI SANCTUARY

- The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Rajasthan was notified as India’s 52nd tiger reserve.
- This is Rajasthan’s fourth tiger reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska and Mukundra.
- The newly notified tiger reserve includes the tiger habitat between Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the northeast and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the southern side and facilitates dispersal of tigers from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

### 1.212. AICF & TN GOVERNMENT SIGNED MOU FOR 44TH CHESS OLYMPIAD 2022

- The All India Chess Federation (AICF) signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Tamil Nadu (TN) for the upcoming 44th Chess Olympiad 2022, organised by the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE – International Chess Federation), which is set to be held from 28th July 2022 to 10th August 2022.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Sanjay Kapoor, President of AICF and MK Stalin, Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu.
- For the **first time, India is set to host the world’s biggest chess event.**

### 1.213. TAMIL NADU NAMED NANJARAYAN TANK AS ITS 17TH BIRD SANCTUARY

- The Tamil nadu State Minister of Forests, K Ramachandran announced in the Legislative Assembly of Tamilnadu for the creation of Nanjarayan Tank in Tiruppur district as a Bird Sanctuary with the budgetary support of Rs 7.5 crore. Nanjarayan Tank is the 17th Bird Sanctuary in the State.
- Nanjarayan Tank was built by the then local King Nanjarayan as a source for irrigation.

### 1.214. SRESTHA-G PROJECT

- **The World Bank** has granted USD 350 million for **Gujarat's "Systems Reform Endeavors for Transformed Health Achievement,"** or the **SRESTHA-G initiative.**
- This project aims on **transforming key health delivery systems in Gujarat.**
- It will also focus on **the disease surveillance systems' capacity.**

### 1.215. RFID TAGS WILL NOW BE USED TO TRACK AMARNATH PILGRIMS.

- The decision was taken amid heightened security threats to the pilgrimage.
- **Radio Frequency Identification** is a wireless tracking system that **consists of tags and readers.**
- Radio waves are used to communicate information/identity of objects or people.
- The tags can carry encrypted information, serial numbers and short descriptions.

#### How do they work?

- RFID tags use an integrated circuit and an antenna to communicate with a reader using radio waves at several different frequencies – low frequency (LF), high frequency (HF), and ultra-high frequency (UHF).
- The message sent back by the tag in form of radio waves is translated into data and analysed by the host computer system.
- Unlike Barcodes, RFIDs do not require direct line of sight to identify objects.

### 1.216. ASSAM RIFLES, AXIS BANK AND NIEDO JOIN HANDS TO ESTABLISH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN NAGALAND

- Assam Rifles, Axis Bank and National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO) have signed a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Centre of Excellence and Wellness, to secure a better future for the youth of Nagaland.
- Centre would be named as the 'Late Capt N Kenguruse, MVC Centre of Excellence and Wellness' which would be located at Chieswema in the outskirts of Kohima, Nagaland.
- The centre was named after an Indian Army officer Late Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse from Nagaland.

#### Key Takeaways

- The programme emanating following the establishment of Centre of Excellence and Wellness in Nagaland, has following significance:
- The MoU conceptualised Centre of Excellence and Wellness would provide a year-long fully residential coaching and mentoring facility for students from economically weaker and underprivileged sections of Nagaland to prepare them for competitive examinations.
- It is expected to be fully functional for the first batch of 30 students by the first week of July 2022

### 1.217. J&K IS ORGANIZING ITS FIRST EVER BIRD FESTIVAL.

- A first of its kind Bird Festival is going to be organized in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) to promote sustainable ecotourism and give impetus to nature-based alternative sources of livelihood for the local people. The festival is planned to be held in Pahalgam and Dachigam, Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Tourism Department, Forests and Wildlife Departments with the support of Sanctuary Nature Foundation will conduct the pre-festival bird watching trails for more than a month all across J&K.

### 1.218. PANGONG LAKE IN LADAKH:

- India is closely monitoring the construction of a bridge by China on the Pangong Tso (lake) in eastern Ladakh.

#### What's the issue?

- On the north bank, there is a PLA garrison at Kurnak fort and on the south bank at Moldo, and the distance between the two is around 200 km.
- The new bridge between the closest points on two banks, which is around 500 m, will bring down the movement time between the two sectors from around 12 hours to three or four hours.
- This will significantly bring down the time for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to move troops and equipment between the two sectors.
- The bridge is located around 25 km ahead of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

### 1.219. DELHI GOVT INDUCTS TWO ROBOTS IN THEIR FIREFIGHTING FLEET.

- Delhi Government has undertaken a unique initiative of using robots for extinguishing fires in Delhi. By inducting the two robots into Delhi's firefighting fleets, the fire fighters would be able to extinguish fires easily in narrow streets, warehouses, basements, stairs, forests and enter places like oil and chemical tankers and factories.

### 1.220. GREENKO IS TO SET UP WORLD'S LARGEST IRESP IN KURNOOL, ANDHRA PRADESH.

- The Greenko Group and the Government of Andhra Pradesh is setting up the World's largest Integrated Renewable Energy Storage Project (IRESP) with a capacity to store 5,230 Mega Watt (MW), in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

#### Key Points:

- The Greenko Group is one of India's leading Renewable Energy companies, providing solutions for energy transition and decarbonisation.
- It will be the **first-of-its-kind Single location energy storage project** with wind and solar capacities.
- The project is scheduled to be commissioned by the last quarter of 2023.
- The project will help avoid 15 million tonnes of CO2 annually which is equivalent to emissions from three million cars.

### 1.221. RAMBAN TUNNEL:

- The Centre has constituted a committee of three independent experts to investigate the reasons for recent collapse of a part of under-construction **tunnel in Ramban on Jammu-Srinagar highway and suggest remedial measures.**
- **Ramban** is a town in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It **lies on the banks of the Chenab river** in Chenab Valley on the National Highway-1A (now NH-44) at about 150 km from Jammu and about 150 km from Srinagar.
- Its location makes it almost the central point on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

### 1.222. KERALA TO LAUNCH INDIA'S 1ST STATE-OWNED OTT PLATFORM 'CSpace' IN NOVEMBER.

- The Government of Kerala is set to launch India's first State-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform named "CSpace" on 1st November 2022. This will be managed by Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC).
- This will allow the user to watch a particular film by paying for it alone. This will ensure a long-lasting income for the producers like a pension on their intellectual property.

### 1.223. UTTARAKHAND BECOMES THE 1ST INDIAN STATE TO ROLL OUT COMMERCIAL DRONE SERVICES IN HEALTHCARE.

- Redcliffe Labs, a unit of Redcliffe Lifetech Inc based in the United States of America (USA), has opened its commercial drone corridor between Uttarkashi and Dehradun, Uttarakhand. This will be the **first commercial drone flight in India's healthcare sector**.
- The use of drones between Uttarkashi and Dehradun has drastically **reduced the travel time to 88 minutes** with one battery swap in between. Or else, the 144 Kilometres travel would take 6-8 hours by road and 12 hours during landslide times.

### 1.224. INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LAUNCHED IN DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU.

- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M.K. Stalin remotely launched the **"Kalaigarin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme"** in the districts of Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri and Erode.
- Under this scheme, coconut saplings, home farming saplings, horticultural saplings, sprays needed for farming, kit for vegetable garden would be distributed and a 100% subsidy would be provided to Adi Dravida farmers for sinking wells in dry lands, employ drip irrigation, and to dig farm ponds.

### 1.225. INDIA'S FIRST OLYMPIC VALUES EDUCATION PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN ODISHA.

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched India's first Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) in the state of Odisha. It will be implemented in 90 schools across two smart cities Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in the first phase.
- OVEP launched in 27 schools in Rourkela and 63 schools in Bhubaneswar.
- Objective – This values-based curriculum was initiated to help children become active, healthy and responsible citizens.

### 1.226. KOLKATA BECOMES FIRST METRO CITY TO GET ITS BIODIVERSITY REGISTER.

- During the UN International Biodiversity Day (22 May), Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) released the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) for the city, the first-of-its-kind report of any Indian metro.
- The Biodiversity Register is prepared by the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) of the civic body under the supervision of the state biodiversity board and with help from NGOs.
- Kolkata is the first major metro to prepare the PBR.
- Chandigarh and Indore are other important cities which have prepared the document.

### 1.227. KERALA EMPOWERS LOCAL BODIES TO CULL WILD BOARS.

- Kerala government has empowered local bodies to cull wild boars that pose a threat to agriculture crops or human life.

- The secretaries of the local bodies concerned will act as the delegated officers.

### 1.228. POSTAL DEPARTMENT AND INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK (IPPB) AAROHAN 4.0 BEGINS IN SHIMLA.

- The agenda of the meeting is to discuss and deliberate ways to further deepen the Financial Inclusion drive in the country and to provide banking solutions to every citizen of India.
- Postal Department along with IPPB is working on the vision of the **Prime Minister's Digital India initiative** to promote digital payments and bring digital banking services to every nook and corner of the country in a customer-friendly manner.

### 1.229. CHIEF MINISTER JAI RAM THAKUR LAUNCHES JUARE DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME.

- It is a week-long disaster management programme "JUARE" (Joint United Action for Resilience in Emergencies) organised by Kullu district administration at Atal Sadan Kullu.
- The programme was based on community participation and was an ambitious program which would ensure the participation of village panchayats, urban local bodies, school students for community risk, preparation of resource maps and identification of volunteers for civil protection at the time of disaster.

### 1.230. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA: BIHAR HAS INDIA'S LARGEST GOLD RESERVES.

- A survey by the Geological Survey of India has stated that a gold reserve of around 222.88 million tonnes including 27.6 tonnes of mineral-rich ore are present in the Jamui District of Bihar.

#### Key points:

- The State Mines and Geology Department is in **consultation** with agencies engaged in the exploration, including GSI and the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), for the exploration of gold reserves in Jamui.
- The consultation process had started after analysing the survey findings which indicated the presence of gold in areas such as Karmatia, Jhajha and Sono in the Jamui district.
- The Bihar government is likely to sign a memorandum of understanding with a central agency or agencies for G3 (preliminary) stage exploration within a month's time, adding that in certain areas G2 (general) exploration can also be carried out.

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## HIMACHAL PRADESH NEWS

### 1.231. GOVERNOR OPENS NATIONAL FAUNAL REPOSITORY OF HIMALAYA-CUM-MUSEUM IN SOLAN.

- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar opens the National Faunal Repository of Himalaya- cum-Museum in Solan.
- This repository and museum reflects an illustration of Indian cultural Identity.
- Dhriti Banergee, Director, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), said Himalayan Faunal Repository-cum-Museum tells the story of our faunal wealth.
- **It also encourages visitors to learn more about the Himachal Pradesh nature, biodiversity and much more.**

### 1.232. MOUNTAIN BIKING EVENT IN MANDI FROM JUNE 10-13.

- In a bid to promote new unexplored tourist destinations, the Himalayan Adventure Sports and Tourism Promotion Association (HASTPA) will organise the MTB Himachal Janjehli edition under the Naye Rahein Naye Manzilein scheme from June 10 to 13.
- Around 60 cyclists from around the country are expected to participate in the event. There are six categories in MTB Himachal Janjehli 2022.
- These are Grandmasters (above 50 years), Masters (under 50 years), Elite (under 35 years), U-23 (under 23 years), Junior (Under 19 years) and Youth (Under 16 years).
- The race is aimed at promoting the virgin and unexplored destinations across the state, which have tremendous potential for tourism and adventure sports.

### 1.233. JEEVAN DHARA PROVES TO BE A LIFELINE FOR POPULATION IN REMOTE HIMACHAL PRADESH DISTRICTS.

- With an **aim** to provide **health facilities in inaccessible areas**, Jeevan Dhara ambulance and mobile medical unit services have been started in Himachal Pradesh.
- Priority is being given to providing health facilities to the most inaccessible, deprived and backward areas through these services in Himachal Pradesh.
- The Himachal government has pressed into service at least 10 such mobile ambulances.
- Through these, an **OPD facility** is also being provided along with screening for other diseases, including blood pressure, diabetes and cancer. After the health check-up, treatment and medicines related to the disease are also being provided to the patients as well.
- **In the initial phase**, health facilities are being provided through the mobile ambulance service in the inaccessible areas of seven districts of **Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur and Solan.**

### 1.234. EAT RIGHT FAIR ORGANISED IN MANDI.

- In the series of programmes of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**, a one-day “Eat Right Fair” was organised by **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.**
- The main **objective** of the fair is to make people **aware of good diet.**

## OTHER IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

1. The Tallinn, Estonia NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, abbreviated as CCDCOE has hosted the world's largest cyber exercise Locked Shields 2022.
2. A national seminar on Logistics Management 'LOGISEM VAYU – 2022' was held on 28 April 2022 at Air Force Auditorium, New Delhi.
3. Cipla Ltd is the winner of the Indian Pharma Leader of the Year award.
4. PM Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz signed Joint Declaration of Intent for establishing Green and Sustainable Development Partnership.
5. EC announces schedule for Assembly Bye-Election to one seat each in Odisha, Kerala, and Uttarakhand.
6. India gets its 100th unicorn startup as neobank Open crosses billion-dollar valuation.
7. China aims to build world's highest automatic weather station on Mt Everest.
8. Maharashtra Cabinet approved first-of-its-kind 'Maharashtra Gene Bank Project' for biodiversity conservation.
9. In Asia Badminton Championships, India's P.V. Sindhu won her second Asian bronze medal after a heartbreaking three-game loss to top-seed and defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the semifinal in Manila.
10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit along with Prime Ministers of Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Sweden and Norway. The summit is being hosted by Denmark.
11. Goa: 12th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2022 to begin on 4th may 2022.
12. A prominent crossing in Ayodhya will be developed and named after legendary singer Bharat Ratna late Lata Mangeshkar who passed away on February 6 this year.
13. Veteran Himachal Pradesh Congress leader and former Union minister Pandit Sukh Ram has passed away at 94.
14. Country's first organic waste-powered EV charging station at Keshavrao Khadye road near Haji Ali in Mumbai. The project is a joint venture between the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation and AeroCare Clean Energy. This EV Charging Plant is connected with the Waste-Energy Unit at Minatai Thackeray Park.
15. South Korea became the first Asian country join in North Atlantic Treaty Organization Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence.
16. Recently, the surviving soldiers of Operation Dudhi were felicitated by Assam Rifles. In 1991, 72 militants were eliminated by the Assam Rifles in a single counter-insurgency operation that was conducted in Jammu & Kashmir.
17. World Lupus Day – 10TH MAY : Raising Awareness of Autoimmune Disorder
18. Rajiv Kumar appointed next Chief Election Commissioner, to assume charge on May 15.
19. India Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address Utkarsh Samaroh in Bharuch, through video conferencing. The programme will mark the celebration of 100 per cent saturation of four key schemes of the State Government in the district, which will help provide timely financial assistance to those in need.
20. Ranil Wickremesinghe returns for a sixth term as Sri Lanka PM with the country mired in political and economic crises.
21. Mamata Banerjee recieved Special Bangla Academy Award.
22. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated the India's biggest Drone Festival - Bharat Drone Mahotsav-2022 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

23. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh undertook a sea sortie on a Scorpene class submarine INS Khanderi at Karwar Naval base in Karnataka. The submarine built at Mazagon Docks in Mumbai was commissioned in September 2019.
24. Tamil Nadu govt taken steps to roll out 2nd phase of BharatNet project in state to make the infrastructure for the services available in rural areas. It is the second phase of the BharatNet project will help connect 12,525 Gram Panchayats in the state with high-speed bandwidth using Optical Fibre Cable. The Centre has approved the project, which is estimated to cost 1815.31 crore rupees.
25. Bangladesh to conduct its first digital census between June 15-21.
26. 12th Hockey India Junior Men's National C'ship: Uttar Pradesh to take on Chandigarh in title clash on May 29.
27. IPL: Rajasthan Royals to face Gujarat Titans in summit clash on May 29.
28. The third edition of Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise 'Bongosagar' commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh.
29. International Missing Children's Day is an awareness event that is observed every year on 25th of May. The aims of the day are to place a spotlight on the issue of child abduction, educate parents on safeguarding measures to protect their children.
30. Pope Francis announced that he will create 21 new Cardinals, including two from India at a Consistory on, 27 August. The two Cardinals from India are Archbishop Filipe Neri António Sebastião di Rosário Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa and Damão and -Archbishop Anthony Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad.
31. Goa Statehood Day is celebrated on May 30 as it was on this day in 1987 that Goa ceased to be a Union Territory and became the 25th state of India. Goa was annexed by India and liberated from the Portuguese rule on December 19, B1961, after 451 years.
32. Gujarat Titans win IPL final defeating Rajasthan Royals at Ahmedabad. Hardik Pandya's all-round performance powered debutants Gujarat Titans to seven wickets win over Rajasthan Royals at the Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad last night.
33. Asia Cup Hockey: India draws game with Malayasia in Super 4s pool game.
34. Indian Council for Cultural Relations's ten days programme Gen Next Democracy Network concluded IN New DELHI. . In the closing ceremony, 27 delegates from six countries- Ghana, Bangladesh, Peru, Nepal, Brunei and Norway shared their experiences of visiting India.
35. Supreme Court appointed 3-member committee to manage functioning of All India Football Federation; headed by AR Dave.
36. Uttar Pradesh Hockey have been crowned Champions of the 12th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2022, Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu.
37. Captain Abhilasha Barak; Indian Army's first woman combat pilot.
38. The 12th edition of 2022 International Boxing Association (IBA) Women's World Boxing Championship was held at Basaksehir Youth and Sports Facility, Istanbul, Turkey.
39. Bollywood actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui has been honoured with an international award for his contribution to cinema. At the prestigious French Riviera Film Festival, Emmy award-winning American actor Vincent De Paul bestowed the honour on Siddiqui. He is the only actor in the world to have eight films officially selected and screened at the Cannes Film Festival.
40. Uttarakhand government has announced to form 5-member drafting committee headed by Judge Ranjana Desai to implement the much-debated Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
41. World No Tobacco Day is being observed today to raise awareness about the damage caused by consuming tobacco. This Day is celebrated on 31st May every year to inform the public on the dangers of using tobacco, and the business practices of tobacco companies. The theme of World No Tobacco Day is "Protect The Environment".

42. Swedish director Ruben Ostlund's class warfare comedy Triangle of Sadness won the Palme d'Or at the 75th Cannes Film Festival.
43. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS 2022 Observed on 29th May. The theme for this year's Day is "People. Peace. Progress."
44. Elon Musk, the multi-billionaire CEO of Tesla and SpaceX highest-paid executive in the world. Musk has topped the Fortune's new list of the most highly compensated CEOs on the Fortune 500.





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| 1 Online Recorded Lectures in English Medium | 2 Lectures & Notes of GS             | 3 Hindi & English Languages Lectures & Notes |
| 4 Prelims Test Series                        | 5 Live Doubt Session Class on Sunday | 6 Current Affairs                            |
| 7 Essay Writing                              |                                      |  |

**Fees : Rs 12,500 /-**

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### NT / HPAS Prelims Test Series 2022



**Fees** Rs - 899/-

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### HPAS Mains Test Series 2022

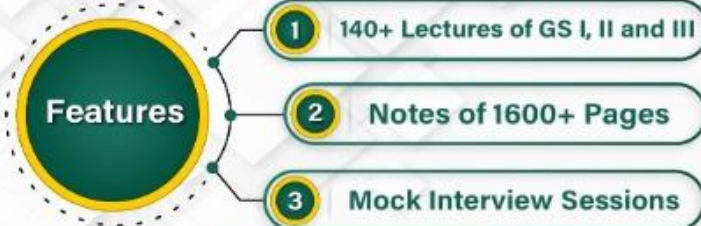


- Evaluation & Detailed Feedback
- 20 Tests ( 9 Sectional + 9 Full Length + 2 Essay)
- Model Answers
- Video Discussions

**Fee :- Rs 10,000**

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## HPAS 2023

### Batch 5

STARTING FROM 30TH MAY 2022

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