

Current Affairs MONTHLY



MAY 2022

**By
CivilsTap Himachal**



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

Prelims

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NATIONAL NEWS

1.1. GSI IDENTIFIES 2 NEW GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE SITES.

Why in news?

- Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified two geological heritage sites in the Indian Himalayan Region of India.
- **Siwalik Fossil Park**, Himachal Pradesh, displays a rich collection of vertebrate fossils recovered from the Siwalik rocks of the area of Plio-Pleistocene age.
- Stromatolite bearing Dolomite / Limestone of **Buxa Formation at mamley, Sikkim**, provides one of the rare examples of early life in Sikkim Himalaya.
- Geological Survey of India (GSI) declares geo-heritage sites/ national geological monuments for protection and maintenance. These sites are preserved in the respective States.

1.2. CONSTITUTIONAL (SC/ST) ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022.

Why in news?

- Recently, Rajya Sabha passed the Constitutional (SC/ST) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to **omit Bhogta community of Jharkhand** from SC list and include them in ST list along with other communities.
- Under **Article 341** and **342** of the Constitution, the first specification of SCs/STs in relation to a particular State/ UT was notified by the President, after consultation with the Governor of the State concerned.
- These orders can be modified subsequently **only through an Act of Parliament**.

1.3. RESERVATION FOR VANNIYARS STRUCK DOWN.

Why in news?

- Supreme Court upheld the Madras High Court judgement striking down the 10.5 per cent reservation provided to Vanniyars.
- Vanniyars is **Most Backward Community (MBC)** in **Tamil Nadu**.
- Tamil Nadu Assembly had in February 2021 passed the bill providing internal reservation for **Vanniyars** in government jobs and admission to educational institutions.

1.4. 'FAST AND SECURED TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRONIC RECORDS' (FASTER) PROGRAMME.

Why in news?

- On 31st March 2022, the Chief Justice of India (01), NV Ramana virtually launched the 'Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records' (FASTER) programme.
- It is a digital platform to communicate interim orders, stay orders, bail orders etc., of the Supreme Court to authorities concerned through a secured electronic communication channel.
- It allows court orders to be transmitted in a quick and secure electronic format.
- **Objective**-To eliminate the situation in which inmates' release is delayed even after the Supreme Court grants them bail.

About 'Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records' (FASTER) programme:

- The FASTER program was created in response to a news report published in July 2021, regarding prisoner release delays.
- It is developed on war footing by the Registry in collaboration with the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.
- All nodal officers have been connected through a specific Judicial Communication Network (JCN) by creating a secured pathway.
- Every proceeding will have digital signatures of authorized Nodal Officers of the Supreme Court as well as institutional digital signatures.
- Such directives would be received by all parties affected on time, allowing them to take the necessary actions.

1.5. ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN.

Why in news?

- Accessible India Campaign's targets will finally be achieved in June 2022.
- The original deadlines for different projects under the three heads were between July 2016 and July 2019. These have now been revised to June 14, 2022.

About Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)

- **Objective** -to achieve universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).
- For creating universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwD), the campaign has been divided into three verticals;
 - Built-up environment,
 - Transportation sector (airports, railways, public transport) and
 - Ict ecosystem (websites and public documents, sign language interpreters and TV viewing).
- Ministry: **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

1.6. UP BECAME INDIA'S TOP VEGETABLE PRODUCER.

Why in news?

- **Uttar Pradesh** has become the **top producer of vegetables**, getting back its first position by demoting **West Bengal** to the second position, with a difference of a million tonnes in production in 2021–22 Crop Year (CY) (July–June), after two years since 2020.
- Vegetable production in Uttar Pradesh is expected to be 29.58 million tonnes (mt) in the 2021–22 crop year (July–June), down from 29.16 mt in 2020–21, while West Bengal output is expected to dip to 28.23 mt in 2021-22 from 30.33 mt in 2020-21.
- Other top producers of vegetables as per the data in the current year 2021-22 include **Madhya Pradesh at 20.59 mt, Bihar at 17.77 mt and Maharashtra at 16.78 mt.**
- **Andhra Pradesh** remains the **top fruit producer**. India's horticulture output is likely to drop marginally by 0.4% to 333.25 mt in 2021–22 from the previous year (2020–21) as production of vegetables, spices, and plantation crops is set to decline.
- In 2021–22, Andhra Pradesh is expected to produce 18.01 million tonnes of fruit, up from 17.7 million tonnes in 2020–21. Maharashtra is anticipated to produce 12.3 million tonnes of fruit, up from 11.74 million tonnes in 2020–21.

1.7. BOUNDARIES OF SANCTUARIES IN LADAKH TO BE RATIONALISED.

Why in news?

- Ladakh has identified proper mapping and boundary identification of Changthang and Karakoram sanctuaries along India-China border as a priority concern.
- Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has been asked to map and identify areas of 'high conservation value to help 'rationalise' boundaries - allowing for addition or deletion of land.
- **Changthang WLS** is located in Ladakhi Changthang plateau in Leh district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Lakes: Home to highest altitude water lakes, namely, **Tso Moriri** (also the highest lake on earth), **Pangong Tso** and **Tso Kar**.
- Fauna: Kiang or Tibetan wild ass along with the black-necked crane (*Grus nicricollis*)
- It has Korzok village, which is also considered to be the world's highest village.
- **Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) WLS** is located in high altitude of easternmost reaches of Karakoram Range in Leh District.
- Fauna: Abode of Chiru or Tibetan Antelope, Tibetan gazale, Himalayan ibex, Shapo, bharal, wild yak, Snow leopard etc.
- Karakoram wildlife sanctuary is located in the easternmost reaches of the Karakoram range in Leh district.

1.8. NATIONAL CADET CORPS (NCC).

Why in news?

- NCC has initiated a nationwide flagship campaign '**Puneet Sagar Abhiyan**' to clean seashores/beaches and other water bodies, including rivers and lakes of plastic & other waste material.

About NCC

- It is a **tri-service organization set up in 1948** through the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948 (based on the recommendations of the **Kunzru committee**).
- It provides for **voluntary participation** by school and college students.
- It aims for armed forces drills & training and also engages in community services.

1.9. PARLIAMENT PASSED DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022.

Why in news?

- It seeks to merge three Municipal corporations of Delhi i.e., South, North, and East.
- It amends The Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, and reverses the 2011 amendment to the Act for trifurcation of MCD into North, South, and East MCD.

Key provisions

- The **number of seats in MCD is to be capped at 250**.
- The **Centre will appoint a Special officer** until the first meeting of the unified MCD takes place.
- Replacement of the word "government" with "Central government".
- Mandatory E-governance system for citizens by the new corporation.
 - Under **Article 239AA** the Parliament is empowered to legislate on any matter, including subjects on which the Assembly can make laws.

1.10. CENTRAL TIBETAN RELIEF COMMITTEE (CTRC).

Why in news?

- Union government has extended the scheme to provide **₹40 crore grants-in-aid to the Dalai Lama's CTRC** for another five years, up to 2025-26.
- CRTC (formed in 1981) is a non-profit organization dedicated to welfare and socio-economic development of Tibetan refugees exiled in India, Nepal and Bhutan.
- CRTC is registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, India.
- CRTC is relief wing of **Department of Home**, Central Tibetan Administration (CTA).
- **It includes members from Tibetan settlements in India, Nepal and Bhutan.**
- In 1959, Dalai Lama established Tibetan exile administration, named CTA which is the continuation of government of independent Tibet.

1.11. ZONAL COUNCILS.

Why in news?

- Eastern Zonal Council, comprising the states of Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand, will hold a meeting on April 26 in Kolkata.
- Idea of zonal council was mooted by the first Prime Minister of India to "develop the habit of cooperative working" among these States.
- Five Zonal Councils were set up vide Part-III of the States Re-organisation Act, 1956.
- **Chairman** - Union Home Minister
- **Members**-Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.

1.12. JUTE.

Why in news?

- Centre has **reduced the maximum stock limit of raw Jute** to 500 quintals for Jute balers (from 750 quintals) and 50 quintals for traders (from 150 quintals).
- It will **prevent hoarding of raw jute** in the market and ease its supply to mills at a reasonable price.

About Jute

- Jute, also known as golden fibre, is a soft, flexible and hard-wearing bast fibre obtained from the plants *Corchorus olitorius* (White Jute) and *Corchorus capsularis* (Tossa Jute).
- It is **native to the Indian subcontinent**.
- **Jute is included** in the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** regime of the country.
- **Temperature:** Between 25-35°C.
- **Rainfall:** Around 150-250 cm.
- **Soil Type:** Well-drained alluvial soil.
- **Top Jute Producing States:** West Bengal > Bihar > Assam > Andhra Pradesh > Odisha.
 - It is mainly concentrated in eastern India because of the rich alluvial soil of Ganga-Brahmaputra delta.
- The world's **largest jute producing countries** are **India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand**.
- India is the largest producer of Jute contributing 50% of raw jute and 40% of jute goods.
- It is known as the **golden fibre** because it is one of the longest and most used natural fibre for various textile applications.
- It is **used in making** gunny bags, mats, ropes, yarn, carpets and other artefacts.
- Due to its high cost, it is **losing market to synthetic fibres and packing materials**, particularly nylon.

1.13. UTSAV PORTAL.

Why in news?

- **Ministry of Tourism** launches the **Utsav Portal** at the inaugural day of Amrit Samagam Conference.
- Utsav Portal website, digital initiative, aims to showcase all the events, festivals and live darshans across India to promote different regions of the country as popular tourist destinations worldwide.
- Objective is to increase tourism awareness, attractions, and opportunities by providing tourists with contextual digital experiences in the form of visually appealing photographs and stills from the events.

1.14. E-DETAILED ACTION REPORT (E-DAR) PORTAL

Why in news?

- It is a web portal from the Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in consultation with insurance companies for integrated data and instant information on road accidents.
- The portal will bring relief to victims' families; check fake claims etc. through Digitalised Detailed Accident Reports (DAR).
- It will be linked with **Vahaan** and the **Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD)**- to act as an e-version of iRAD.
- Also, it will alert PWD/Local Body to examine and record details, helping in identifying the accident hotspots for necessary solutions to avoid future accidents.

1.15. RUBBER BOARD.

Why in news?

- Constituted as a statutory body under the Rubber Act of 1947, the **Rubber Board completed 75 years**.
- Rubber Board [HQ: **Kottayam** (Kerala)] functions under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- **Functions:** Development of Rubber Industry; Conduct of Scientific, technological and economic research, Welfare of labour employed in plantations; Render advice to government on all matters related to rubber etc.
- Rubber production is dominated by **Kerala**, followed by **Tripura**.

1.16. INDIA'S 1ST INTERNET RADIO "RADIO AKSH" FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED LAUNCHED IN NAGPUR.

Why in news?

- India's first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired, named '**Radio Aksh**' has been launched in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**. Nagpur's 96-year-old institution, **The Blind Relief Association Nagpur (TBRAN)** and **Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal (Saksham)** are the organisations behind this idea. The channel will be available on various internet radio platforms for free.
- A dedicated team of trained volunteers, mostly women, help in the creation of content for the radio channel, which can be streamed to the visually impaired across India and the world.
- The complex, carefully-performed processes of going through large amounts of content, recording, sound editing and making corrections do not dampen the productivity and the sense of servitude guides the entire team.

1.17. AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCILS (ADCs).

Why in news?

- Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) in Meghalaya has opposed the State government's deal with Assam to resolve boundary dispute.
- ADCs are institutions of local governance created under Sixth Schedule with Executive, Legislative and Judicial powers.
- **Sixth Schedule** consists of provisions for administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- There are **10 areas** — **three in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram** each and **one in Tripura** that are registered as autonomous districts.
- As per the Sixth Schedule, **each ADC** must have at least **30 members**.

1.18. NATION'S FIRST PORTABLE SOLAR ROOFTOP SYSTEM UNVEILED IN GANDHINAGAR.

Why in news?

- The **first portable solar rooftop system** in India has been inaugurated at **Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. The **10 Photovoltaic PV Port** system has been manufactured by New Delhi-based Servotech Power Systems Ltd and designed by the **German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**. The systems have been installed under the initiative of the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to develop renewable energy cities across India.
- The PV Ports have been manufactured by New Delhi-based Servotech Power Systems Ltd (SPSL), a leading maker of high-end solar products like LEDs, oxygen concentrators and EV charging equipment under the Make in India project, it added.
- The PV Port system is highly cost-effective, requires low maintenance, has a long shelf life of 25-30 years, can be easily installed by a single person and is ideal for the Indian climate.

1.19. CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL (CAT).

Why in news?

- CAT is conducting a special drive across for disposal of cases of most vulnerable section of applicants like the senior citizens / pensioners.
- CAT had been established (1985) under **Article 323 -A** for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts.
 - Members of the defence forces, officers and servants of Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.
- CAT is a **multi-member body** consisting of a chairman and members.
- It is guided by the principles of natural justice.
- Appeals against the orders of the CAT lie before concerned High Court (Chandra Kumar case).

1.20. INDIA TO HAVE THE WORLD'S HIGHEST TUNNEL AT SHINKU LA PASS.

Why in news?

- India is set to have the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La(Shingo la) Pass, between Zaskar Valley in Ladakh and Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh.
- The tunnel is set to be built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at an altitude of 16,580 feet above sea level. Length of the Shinku La tunnel - 4.25 km.

Details of the tunnel

- The BRO will start the construction of the record-breaking tunnel connecting Himachal Pradesh to the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh by July 2022.
- The centre has constituted a BRO team "**Project Yojak**" to execute the project.
- The tunnel is expected to be operational for vehicles by 2025.
- The Shinku La Pass will host the south portal of the tunnel and the north portal will provide access to motorists to enter Lakhang and the Zaskar Valley.
- The tunnel will reduce the travel time from Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh.

1.21. NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 24TH APRIL.

Why in news?

- **National Panchayati Raj Day** is a national holiday in India that honours the **Panchayati Raj system**. Every year on **April 24th**, it is commemorated. The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act**, which was passed in **1992**, is also commemorated on this day. **The Panchayati Raj system**, which is one of the country's oldest governing organisations, governs about **6 lakh communities in India**.
- The day was initially observed in **April 2010** to commemorate the decentralisation of power, which is considered one of India's most significant milestones.
- Every year, the Prime Minister meets with members from **Gram Panchayats** and reviews their progress reports. In addition, a variety of village-level festivities, seminars, and other events are held. This year, however, it will be held **without a theme**.
- The award ceremony, which will honour the outstanding work of panchayats across the country for their participation under the Panchayat Empowerment Accountability Incentive Scheme, will be the centrepiece of the event this year. On **National Panchayati Raj Day**, the Central government honours around 170 Panchayati Raj institutions.
- The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act of 1992, which took effect on **April 24, 1993**, gave Panchayati Raj institutions constitutional standing. As a result, this date symbolises a watershed point in the history of decentralisation of governmental power to the people. The **73rd Amendment's** influence on rural India is palpable, as it has irreparably altered power dynamics. As a result, the Indian government decided, in conjunction with the states, to commemorate April 24th as **National Panchayati Raj Day**. The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** is leading the commemoration.

1.22. GUINNESS RECORD FOR WAVING MOST FLAGS SIMULTANEOUSLY ON VEER KUNWAR SINGH VIJAYOTSAV.

Why in news?

- On April 23, at the "Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav" programme in Bihar's Bhojpur district, 78,220 Indians waved the tricolour. With this, the country has marked its name in the Guinness Book of World records.
- Popularly known as Veer Kunwar Singh, he was born in the Ujjainiya clan of the Parmar Rajputs of Jagdishpur, part of present-day Bhojpur district, Bihar.
- He was a freedom fighter and at the age of 80 he led the Indian Rebellion of 1857 against the British East India Company in Bihar.
- An expert of guerilla warfare, he fought various battles against the British at Arrah, Azamgarh, Kanpur, Baliya etc.

1.23. MEGHALAYA ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE (MEGHEA) PROJECT.

Why in news?

- MeghEA's e-proposal system recently won UN World Summit on Information Society Forum (WSIS) award 2022.
- MeghEA project aims to improve service delivery and governance for people using power of Digital technologies.
- It was launched by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
- It's spread across 6 pillars i.e. Governance, Human Resources, Entrepreneurship, Primary Sector, Infrastructure and Environment, and envision to make Meghalaya a high income state by 2030.
- This is a first of its kind project which is based on India's National Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) framework.

1.24. BIRTH, DEATH REPORTING TO BE AUTOMATED.

Why in news?

- The government is planning to revamp the **Civil Registration System (CRS)** to resolve the current issues of timeliness, efficiency, and uniformity, leading to delayed and under-coverage of birth and death.

About CRS

- It is a **continuous, permanent, compulsory recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events**, like births, deaths, and stillbirths.
- The Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 provides for **the compulsory registration of births and deaths**.
- Chief Registrar is mandated to publish a statistical report on the registered births and deaths during the year.
- It is one of the main sources of data on vital events in India others are Sample Registration System (SRS) and Population Census.
- It is also linked to National Population Register.
- CRS is thus the **only source for providing vital rates at the district level on regular basis**, as the population Census is a decennial exercise and Sample Registration System is an annual exercise.
- CRS provide legal identity to individual and access to the rights of a citizen Including entitlements such as social benefits etc.
- The **Registrar General of India (RGI)** under Ministry of Home Affairs coordinates and unifies the activities of registration throughout the country. However, implementation is vested with the state governments.

1.25. JHARKHAND'S JAMTARA BECAME COUNTRY'S 1ST DISTRICT WITH LIBRARY IN EVERY VILLAGE.

Why in news?

- **Jamtara in Jharkhand** has become the only district in the country where **all gram panchayats** have community libraries. This district with a population of about eight lakh has a total of **118-gram panchayats** under six blocks and each panchayat has a well-equipped library that is open for students from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Career counselling sessions and motivational classes are also held free of cost here. Sometimes, IAS and IPS officers also visit these libraries to guide students. Everyone is welcome to visit these innovative sites.
- Gradually, libraries were set up in panchayats such as **Chandradeep, Panjaniya, Menjhia, Gopalpur, Shaharpura, Champapur, and Jhilua**. The villagers elected a President, Treasurer, and Librarian from amongst themselves, to run these libraries.

PRACTICE MCQS

1. Geological Survey of India has recently identified Stromatolite bearing Dolomite / Limestone of Buxa Formation as geological heritage site. It is located in-

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Assam
- C. West Bengal
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: D

2. Bhogta community, seen recently in news, is found in-

- A. Ladakh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

ANSWER: C

3. Supreme court recently struck down reservation provided to Vanniyars, who are a backward community of-

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Mizoram
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: A

4. What is the name of recently launched digital platform to communicate interim orders, stay orders, bail orders etc., of the Supreme Court to authorities?

- A. FASTER
- B. SPEED
- C. RAPID
- D. DIRECT

ANSWER: A

5. Accessible India Campaign comes under the ambit of-

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C. Ministry of Housing and Rural Development
- D. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

ANSWER: D

6. Which state has become the top most producer of vegetables?

- A. Haryana
- B. West Bengal
- C. Punjab
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: D

7. Consider the following statements regarding Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary-

1. It is home to highest altitude water lakes including Tso Moriri, Pangong Tso and Tso Kar.
2. Tibetan wild ass and black-necked crane are found here.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

8. Consider the following statements regarding National Cadet Corps-

1. It was set up in 1948 based on the recommendations of the Kunzru committee.
2. It is a tri-services organization.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

9. Consider the following statements regarding Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 passed by Parliament recently-

1. It seeks to merge three Municipal corporations of Delhi.
2. The number of seats in MCD is to be capped at 150.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

10. Consider the following statements regarding Central Tibetan Relief Committee-

1. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to welfare of Tibetan refugees exiled in India only.
2. CRTC is registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: B

11. Consider the following statements about Zonal Councils-

1. Zonal Councils are constitutional bodies aimed to achieve cooperation among states.
2. A zonal council is headed by Home Minister.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: B

12. Consider the following statements about Jute-

1. It is included in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime of the country.
2. India is the largest producer of Jute.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

13. Utsav portal seen recently in news has been launched by-

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Tourism
- C. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: B

14. e-Detailed Action Report (e-DAR) Portal is a web portal for integrated data and instant information on road accidents. It is under-

- A. Ministry of Commerce
- B. Ministry of Health and Family welfare
- C. Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways
- D. Ministry of Home affairs

ANSWER: C

15. The headquarters of Rubber Board are located in-

- A. Kerala
- B. Tripura
- C. New Delhi
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

16. India's first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired, named 'Radio Aksh' has been launched in-

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

ANSWER: D

17. Consider the following statements about Autonomous District Councils(ADCs)-

- 1. These are institutions of local governance created under Fifth Schedule.
- 2. There are currently 12 areas registered as autonomous districts.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: D

18. India's first portable solar rooftop system has been unveiled in-

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. New Delhi
- C. Jaipur
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

19. Consider the following statements Central Administrative Tribunal-

- 1. It is guided by the principles of natural justice.
- 2. CAT has been established under Article 323 –A.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

20. Project Yojak, seen recently in news, is an initiative of-

- A. Wildlife Research institute
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Indian Space Research Organisation
- D. Border Road Organisation

ANSWER: D

21. National Panchayati Raj Day is observed every year on-

- A. April 21st

- B. April 22nd
- C. April 23rd
- D. April 24th

ANSWER: D

22. Veer Kunwar Singh was the freedom fighter, who led 1857 revolt from-

- A. Banaras
- B. Bihar
- C. Jhansi
- D. Bareilly

ANSWER: B

23. India's National Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) framework is under the ambit of-

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- C. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
- D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

ANSWER: C

24. Consider the following statements:

1. Registration of births and deaths is compulsory as per law in India.
2. Registrar General of India (RGI) under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation(MoSPI) coordinates and unifies the activities of registration throughout the country.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

25. Which district has become country's 1st district with library in every village?

- A. Jamtara
- B. Idukki
- C. Hoshiarpur
- D. Kota

ANSWER: A

INTERNATIONAL

1.26. INDIA AND AUSTRALIA SIGN MOU FOR JOINT EXPLORATION OF LITHIUM AND COBALT.

Why in news?

- The Government of India and Australia has committed to invest USD 6 million jointly to explore Lithium and Cobalt mines in Australia in the next six months.
- Last year 2021, a Government to Government (G2G) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Government of India and the Government of Australia through Ministry of Mines and Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) respectively for co-operation in the field of mining and processing of Critical and Strategic Minerals.
- Following which a detailed collaborative framework has been signed between **Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL)** and Australia's Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) for carrying out a joint due diligence of select Greenfield and brownfield projects, identifying lithium and cobalt mineral assets for investment and acquisition of the assets in Australia.
- Engagements are also underway with other source countries (primarily Latin-American countries) such as Argentina, Bolivia, Chile etc., which are endowed with lithium and cobalt in hard rock formations and in brine.
- The MoU includes building an Australia-India partnership in the critical mineral ecosystem; development of a robust and commercially-viable critical mineral supply chain to support sustainable production: and ensure reliable supplies of the materials needed to fuel sectors such as transport, energy, telecommunications, medicine, aviation and defence.

About Lithium policy in India:

- Lithium is a key component in the battery used in Electric Vehicles (EV).
- India, through the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, is offering Rs 18,100 crore incentives for companies to build battery cells locally for Electric Vehicles (EV).
- **China** and **Hong Kong** are the biggest lithium battery suppliers to India.

About Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL)

- KABIL is a joint venture company set up with the participation of three Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) namely, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Limited (MECL).
- The objective is to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to the Indian domestic market and ensuring mineral security of the Nation by Import substitution.

1.27. INDIA AND SRI LANKA HAVE SIGNED A MOU FOR MARITIME RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRE.

Why in news?

- India and Sri Lanka have signed a MoU for the Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) to set up a state of the art MRCC in Colombo.
- **MRCCs** are part of an international network under the UN's International Maritime Organisation to monitor the sea lanes with the objective of swift response to emergencies, such as vessels in distress, rescue and evacuation of people, and prevention of and containing environmental disasters such as oil spills etc.
- Each country is responsible for its own Search and Rescue Region.
- MRCC is co-ordinated by the Navy or Coast Guard in each country.
- In India, the Coast Guard is the co-ordinating agency.

1.28. KAFALA SYSTEM.

Why in news?

- Hosting 2022 Football World Cup, organisers in **Qatar** are condemned for its treatment of migrant workers.
- Many Middle East Countries, including Qatar, follow **Kafala System**- a sponsorship system which defines the relationship between migrant workers and their local sponsor or Kafeel.
- Under it, local sponsors get almost total control over migrant workers' employment and immigration status.
- E.g. sponsor permission is required to leave or change jobs, enter or exit the host country etc.
- Primarily used to meet cheap labour demand, it is used by them for widespread human rights abuses and exploitation of workers.

1.29. INDIA INVOKES PEACE CLAUSE FOR 3RD TIME AS RICE SUBSIDIES EXCEED CAP.

Why in news?

- In order to meet the domestic food security needs of poor population, India has invoked peace clause of World Trade Organisation (WTO) for exceeding the 10% ceiling on support offered to rice farmers.
- India informed the WTO that value of its rice production in 2020-21 was \$45.56 billion while it gave subsidies worth \$6.9 billion, which comes out to 15.14% as against the permitted 10%.
- India became the first country to invoke peace clause in 2020 as rice subsidies exceeded cap in 2018-19.
- Under peace clause, WTO member countries are refrained from challenging any breach in prescribed subsidy ceiling given by a developing nation at dispute settlement forum of WTO.

Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) and Peace Clause

- 3 Pillars of AoA:
- Under market access conditions, both developed and developing nations were to convert all non-tariff barriers into tariffs.
- Domestic support includes the classification of subsidies into 'boxes' depending their effects on production and trade.
- Export Subsidies and other methods used to make exports artificially competitive.
- AoA contains a "due restraint" or "peace clause" which regulates the application of other WTO agreements to subsidies in respect of agricultural products.

Green Box

- These measures **are exempted** from reduction commitments and, indeed, can even be increased without any financial limitation under the WTO.
- Applies to both developed and developing country members but in the case of developing countries special treatment is provided in respect of governmental stockholding programmes for food security purposes and subsidized food prices for urban and rural poor. (**India's PDS does not come under Green Box**)

Amber Box

- All domestic support measures considered to **distort production and trade** (with some exceptions) fall into the amber box.
- For instance, MSP, Procurement Price, sum total of subsidies on inputs like fertilizer, water, credit, power, etc.

Blue Box

- These are basically Amber Box subsidies, but they tend to limit the production. Any support that would normally be in the amber box, is placed in the blue box if the support also requires farmers to limit their production.
- These measures are also **exempted** from reduction commitments.

Special and Differential Treatment Box

- It comprises of **investment subsidies like tractors and pump sets**. Agricultural input services like fertilizers to farmers etc.
- SOT box subsidies can be **given by only developing and low-income countries**.

1.30. INDIA CONTRIBUTES USD 500,000 TO THE UNITED NATION WOMEN'S CORE BUDGET.

Why in news?

- India contributed USD 500,000 to the United Nation (UN) Women, an agency for gender equality and women empowerment, for their core budget.
- It was handed over by India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, TS Tirumurti to Executive Director (ED) Dr Sima Bahous (UN Women Chief).
- With this contribution, India reaffirmed its support for gender equality and women empowerment and development.
- Earlier in 2021, India also contributed USD 300,000 to the United Nations agency for gender equality and women empowerment.
- Gender Equality is the 5th Sustainable Development Goal(SDG)

About United Nation (UN) Women:

- Headquarters-New York, United States (US)
- Founded- 2010

1.31. SERBIA'S PRESIDENT ALEKSANDAR VUCIC RE-ELECTED FOR 2ND TERM.

Why in news?

- Aleksandar Vucic re-elected as the President of Serbia for the second term by winning the presidential election 2022 in Serbia.
- He belong to the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS).He defeated his Opposition presidential candidate Zdravko Ponos, a retired army general, while his United for Victory alliance obtained 13.1%.
- Aleksandar Vucic was born on 5 March 1970 in Belgrade, SR Serbia, SFR Yugoslavia.
- He is a politician by profession, serving as the president of Serbia since 2017 and as the president of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) since 2012.
- He served as the Prime Minister of Serbia in two terms, from 2014 to 2016 and from 2016 until 2017, as well as the deputy prime minister from 2012 until 2014.

1.32. UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA) SUSPENDS RUSSIA FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC).

Why in news?

- UNGA adopted a resolution suspending Russia from the UNHRC over its war in Ukraine.
- UNGA, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, may suspend the rights of membership in the Council of a member of the Council.
 - **Abstentions** do not count and the resolution requires two-thirds of yes/no votes to be adopted.
- Before Russia, **Libya was the last member** to be suspended in 2011.
- India abstained from voting on resolution.
- Possible Implications of the decision
 - Strong and United International Response to further increase pressure on Russia and on countries which are neutral or aligned with Russia.
 - Risk of aggravating the divisions further to intensify the conflict and jeopardise peace efforts.
- The UNHRC, at **Geneva, Switzerland**, is an **inter-governmental body** within United Nations system, which is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world.
 - **Consists of 47 member states**, elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of members of UNGA.
 - It **replaced the former UN Commission on Human Rights**. It was created by UNGA in 2006.

1.33. INDONESIA TIGHTENS PALM OIL EXPORT CURBS IN NEW HIT TO GLOBAL SUPPLIES.

Why in news?

- **Indonesia, world's largest producer and exporter of palm oil** is facing domestic shortages, leading to price controls and export curbs.
- **Reasons of palm oil crisis in Indonesia**
 - Supply disruptions — manmade and natural — in other cooking oils, especially sunflower and soyabean.
 - Soyabean oil is facing supply issues due to dry weather in South America.
 - Use of palm oil as a bio-fuel. Since 2020, Indonesia made 30% blending of diesel with palm oil mandatory as part of a plan to slash fossil fuel imports.
- **India is world's biggest vegetable oils importer.** Out of its annual imports of 14-15 mt, the share of palm oil is 8-9 mt.
 - Indonesia has been India's top supplier of palm oil, however, now it will get lower supplies from Indonesia.
 - This may result in higher imports from Malaysia for Palm oil.
- Palm oil is an edible vegetable oil, comes from the fruit of oil palm trees. It is an efficient crop, producing more oil per land area than any other equivalent vegetable oil crop.
 - Globally, palm oil supplies 40% of the world's vegetable oil demand on just under 6% of land used to produce all vegetable oils.
 - Palm oil has been a major driver of deforestation of the world's most biodiverse forests.

1.34. SRI LANKA ANNOUNCES DEFAULT ON ALL EXTERNAL DEBT.

Why in news?

- The country has announced a pre-emptive default on all its foreign debt totaling \$51 billion as a "last resort" while the island nation struggles to cope with a grave economic crisis. This has led to a situation called Sovereign Default.
- The immediate debt default was to ensure "fair and equitable treatment of all creditors" ahead of an International Monetary Fund assisted recovery programme for the nation.
- **Sovereign Default**- It refers to the failure of the government of a sovereign entity to pay back principal and interest payments when they are due.
- **Consequences of default** - Disposing of the debts reduces the total debt owed by a state to its creditors, and subsequently, the principal and interest repayments.
- It receives a **lower credit rating, becoming less attractive to investors, and it will become difficult for the state to access new funds** from the international bond market.
- Sri Lanka is not the first country to default in its external loans. In 2020 Lebanon, Argentina, Belize, Zambia, Suriname, defaulted. Greece became the first developed country to default on its debt to the IMF in 2015.

1.35. RED SEA.

Why in news?

- The US Navy has created a new task force with allied countries to patrol the Red Sea amid the Yemen War.
- Red Sea is the **world's northernmost tropical sea** between Asia and Africa- connecting the Gulf of Suez and Gulf of Aqaba in the North with the **Strait of Bab el-Mandeb** in South.
- Part of the Great Rift Valley, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti lies on its Western Shore, and Yemen and Saudi Arabia lies on the Eastern Shore.
- Due to high heat and lack of precipitation, it has high salinity.
- It is part of Global 200 ecoregions from World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

1.36. SARNIA SULUHU HASSAN - FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA.

Why in news?

- **Sarnia Suluhu Hassan** became the first female President of Tanzania.
- Tanzania, country in East Africa, includes the islands of Zanzibar, Pemba, and Mafia.
- **Boundaries:** Bordered by the Indian Ocean and Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique.
- **Geographical features:** East African Rift System runs in two north-south-trending branches through mainland Tanzania.
- **Volcano: Mount Kilimanjaro** is the highest point in Africa.
- Lakes: **Lake Victoria** (the world's second-largest freshwater lake) in the north, **Lake Tanganyika** in the west, and **Lake Nyasa** in the southwest.

1.37. KARTARPUR SAHIB CORRIDOR.

Why in news?

- It is being reported that Pakistan's intelligence agency is using the corridor to cultivate contacts among Indians going on the pilgrimage.
- Kartarpur Corridor was **inaugurated in 2019** to Pakistan commemorate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak.
- Corridor **connects the Dera Baba Nanak (in India) with Sri Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara** (in Pakistan), located on the east bank and west bank of River Ravi respectively.
- Guru Nanak spent last 18 years of his life at Kartarpur.
- Kartarpur Corridor allows a **visa-free day only travel** to Sri Kartarpur Sahib for devotees.

1.38. INDONESIA BANS PALM OIL EXPORTS.

Why in news?

- Move comes in the backdrop of Indonesia, world's largest producer and exporter of palm oil, facing domestic shortages which is leading to price controls and export curbs.
- Palm oil is an edible vegetable oil, comes from the fruit of **oil palm trees**. It is an efficient crop, producing more oil per land area than any other equivalent vegetable oil crop.

Reasons behind palm oil crisis in Indonesia

- Domestic shortage, amid rising demand and weak output from top producers Indonesia and Malaysia.
- Mandatory blending of palm oil in diesel.
- Supply side disruptions in other cooking oils
 - Sunflower oil - owing to Russia Ukraine war as both the countries account for nearly 80% of the global trade in sunflower oil.
 - Soyabean oil - owing to supply issues due to dry weather in South America.

Impact on India

- Food Inflation as Indonesia has been India's top supplier of palm oil.
- Edible oils such as palm oil are a key raw material for FMCG and a rise in the prices of these commodities impacts consumer goods beyond food products such as soaps, shampoos, etc.

Steps taken by government for promoting Oil Palm

- **National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)** under which Mini Mission - II (MM - II) was dedicated to oil palm area expansion and productivity increases.
- Centrally Sponsored Oil Palm Development Scheme.

1.39. RAISINA DIALOGUE 2022.

Why in news?

- On 25th April 2022, the Raisina Dialogue was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The chief guest of the event was European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen.
- The Raisina dialogue began on 25th April and will be held in person over three days concluding on 27th
- It is the flagship geo-economics and multilateral foreign policy conference of the country.
- **“Terranova- Impassioned, Impatient, Imperilled”** is the theme of the Raisina Dialogue 2022. The six thematic pillars on which it has been modelled are:
 - End of Multilateralism- a networked global order
 - Rethinking Democracy- trade, technology, and ideology
 - Communities Inc- first responders to health, development, and planet
 - Water Caucuses- turbulent tides in the Indo-Pacific
 - Samson vs Goliath- the persistent and relentless technology wars
 - Achieving Green Transitions- common imperative, diverging realities
- This year’s dialogue is scheduled to have near about 100 sessions with more than 210 speakers from 90 different countries. In this dialogue, there will be various conversations and panel discussions across multiple formats on the six thematic pillars. The United States and Germany will also be hosting side events. Along with this, the Raisina young fellows programme will also be conducted in tandem with the conference.

About Raisina Dialogue

- This dialogue is the country’s premier conference on geo-economics and geo-politics.
- In the year 2016, the Raisina Dialogue was started. The conference aims to address the most challenging issues that are being faced by the global community.
- The Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) organizes this conference. This conference brings together various leaders in business, politics, civil society, and media annually to explore cooperation opportunities and to discuss the current state of the world.

1.40. PAKISTAN OBJECTS TO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS ON CHENAB RIVER.

Why in news?

- Recently, Pakistan objected to the construction of Rattle and Kwar hydroelectric projects on the Chenab River in Kashmir.
- Chenab River is formed by the confluence of Chandra and Bhaga streams (originating from Baralacha La) in Lahaul and Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh.
- It flows through Pangi valley (parallel to the Pir Panjal Range) before entering Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir and enters Sialkot (Pakistan) via Akhnoor of J&K.
- In Pakistan, Jhelum, Ravi and Satluj rivers merges with Chenab to form Panjnad River before draining into the Arabian Sea after its confluence with Indus River.

1.41. UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (USCIRF) DESIGNATES INDIA AS COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.

Why in news?

- USCIRF has designated India as a "Country of Particular Concern (CPC)" for third consecutive year.
 - Designation is reserved for worst violators of religious freedom.
 - Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, North Korea and Russia are also designated as CPCs.
- USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government agency created by 1998 International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA).
- An advisory or a consultative body to US Congress on issues pertaining to international religious freedom.
- It uses international standards, such as Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to monitor violations of religious freedom or belief abroad.

1.42. NEW INDIAN MISSION TO BE OPENED IN LITHUANIA.

Why in news?

- The Cabinet has approved the opening of a new Indian Mission in Lithuania in 2022.

About Lithuania

- Lithuania is an eastern European country situated on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea.
- Largest among the three **Baltic states**, it shares its borders Latvia on the north, Belarus on the east and south, and Poland and the Kaliningrad region of Russia on the southwest.
- It shares a maritime border with Sweden.
- Geographical Features:
 - Largest River: Neman (Nemunas).
 - Highest Point Location: Mount **Juozapine**.

1.43. RUSSIA WITHDRAWS FROM UN WORLD TOURISM ORGANISATION.

Why in news?

- Russia has withdrawn from unwto amid ukraine conflict, losing with immediate effect its rights and privileges as part of un specialized agency.
- Unwto is United Nations agency responsible for promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- **Headquarters** are based in **madrid**, spain since 1976.
- India is the **founder member of unwto**.

PRACTICE MCQS

1. India has recently signed MoU with which of the following countries for joint exploration of lithium and cobalt mines-

- A. Australia
- B. Nepal
- C. Luxembourg
- D. Paraguay

ANSWER: A

2. India has recently signed MoU to set up Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre with -

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Mauritius
- C. Japan
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: A

3. Consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a sponsorship system that binds migrant workers to one employer.
- 2. The practice of the Kafala System has been prevalent in the Middle East countries.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

4. Consider the following statements regarding Special and Differential Treatment Box under Agreement on Agriculture-

- 1. It comprises of investment subsidies like tractors and pump sets.
- 2. SDT box subsidies can be given by only developing and low-income countries.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

5. The headquarters of UN Women are situated in-

- A. Washington
- B. Paris
- C. Brussels
- D. New York

ANSWER: D

6. Aleksandar Vucic has been re-elected as the President of-

- A. Hungary
- B. Serbia
- C. Slovakia
- D. Greece

ANSWER: B

7. Consider the following statements with respect to United Nations Human Rights Council-

1. UNHRC was founded in 1950.
2. It is headquartered at The Hague, Netherlands.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: D

8. Consider the following statements regarding Palm Oil-

1. Indonesia is the world's largest producer and exporter of palm oil.
2. India is world's biggest vegetable oils importer.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

9. What is the consequence if a country declares Sovereign Default?

- A. Becomes less attractive to investors
- B. Receives a lower credit rating
- C. Becomes difficult for the state to access new funds
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

10. Consider the following statements regarding Red Sea-

1. It is the world's northernmost tropical sea.
2. It is enclosed by Strait of Hormuz in the south.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

11. Sarnia Suluhu Hassan has recently become the first female president of-

- A. Zimbabwe
- B. Niger
- C. Tanzania
- D. Ethiopia

ANSWER: C

12. Consider the following statements about Kartarpur Sahib corridor-

- 1. It connects the Dera Baba Nanak with Sri Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara located across river Beas.
- 2. It allows a visa-free day only travel to Sri Kartarpur Sahib for devotees.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

13. Consider the following statements about Palm Oil-

- 1. Indonesia is the world's largest producer and exporter of palm oil.
- 2. It is an efficient crop, producing more oil per land area than any other equivalent vegetable oil crop.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

14. Consider the following statements about Raisina Dialogue-

- 1. The Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) organizes this conference.
- 2. The theme of the Raisina Dialogue 2022 is "Terranova- Impassioned, Impatient, Imperilled".

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

15. Consider the following statements about Chenab river-

- 1. Chenab River is formed by the confluence of Chandra and Bhaga streams.
- 2. Ratle and Kwar hydroelectric projects are located on river Chenab.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

16. Consider the following statements-

1. United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has designated India as a "Country of Particular Concern" for the first time.
2. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, North Korea and Russia are also designated as CPCs.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: B

17. Which of the following is not a border country of Lithuania?

- A. Latvia
- B. Belarus
- C. Poland
- D. Estonia

ANSWER: D

18. Consider the following statements regarding UN World Tourism Organisation-

1. India is the founder member of UNWTO.
2. The headquarters are based in Madrid.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

DAYS TO REMEMBER

1.44. INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY 2022 OBSERVED ON MARCH 31ST

Why in news?

- The **International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)** occurs annually on **March 31** to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, while also celebrating their contributions to society.
- The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as celebrating their contributions to society.

History of the Day:

- The day was founded by US-based transgender activist **Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009**. As a reaction to the lack of LGBT recognition of transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centred day was the Transgender Day of Remembrance which mourned the murders of transgender people but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community.
- The first International Transgender Day of Visibility was held on **March 31, 2009**. It has since been spearheaded by the U.S.-based youth advocacy organization Trans Student Educational Resources.

1.45. INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK DAY CELEBRATES ON 2ND APRIL.

Why in news?

- The **International Children's Book Day (ICBD)** is organised annually on the **2nd of April since 1967**, by the **International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)**. IBBY is an international non-profit organization, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books.
- In 2022, **Canada** is hosting International Children's Book Day with this chosen theme: **"Stories are wings that help you soar every day."** Every year, a different international section of IBBY hosts a children's books event on or around April 2 (which is the birthday of classic children's book author Hans Christian Andersen).
- The host country picks a theme and invites a well-known author and illustrator to create a message for children around the world.

1.46. NATIONAL MARITIME DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 5TH APRIL.

Why in news?

- **National Maritime Day in India** is observed on **5 April** every year. This year is the **59th** edition of the National Maritime Day. The National Maritime Day is celebrated every year day to illustrate the awareness in supporting intercontinental commerce and the global economy as the most well-organized, safe and sound, environmentally responsive approach of transporting goods from one corner to another corner of the world.
- On this day '**NMD Award of Excellence**' is usually given during the celebrations and there is a trophy and citation, given to recognize and honour individuals for their lifetime distinguished and exceptional achievements and performances in the Indian Maritime sector at a senior level.
- The theme of the National Maritime Day is **"Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19"**.
- **History of National Maritime Day of India:** National Maritime Day was first celebrated on **April 5, 1964**. The saga of Indian shipping first started on **April 5, 1919**, when the SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd travelled from Mumbai to the United Kingdom (London).
- On this day an award called **"Varuna"** is conferred to those who made an outstanding contribution to the Indian maritime sector.

1.47. UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CONSCIENCE OBSERVED ON 5TH APRIL.

Why in news?

- The United Nations General Assembly has designated **5 April** to be observed as an **International Day of Conscience** every year.
- The resolution was adopted on 31 July 2019 by the UN General Assembly.
- The year 2022 marks the third edition of the celebrations.
- This day serves to remind people to self-reflect, follow their conscience, and do the right things.
- This Day is observed every year on the 5th of April and the **first International Conscience Day was observed in 2020.**

1.48. WORLD PARKINSON'S DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 11TH APRIL.

Why in news?

- Every year, **April 11** is observed as **World Parkinson's Day** to raise awareness of Parkinson's disease, which is a progressive nervous system disorder.
- This year, the **theme is integrated healthcare.**
- The day marks the birthday of **Dr James Parkinson from London**, who was the first person to systematically describe the six individuals with the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Additionally, the month of **April** is observed as **Parkinson's Awareness Month.**

1.49. WORLD ART DAY OBSERVED ON 15TH APRIL.

Why in news?

- **World Art Day** is observed every year on **15 April** globally. This day is being celebrated all over the world to emphasize the importance of art that nurtures creativity, innovation and cultural diversity for all peoples across the globe.
- The day was declared by the **International Association of Art (IAA)**, an NGO working in official partnership with UNESCO.
- The date has been selected in honour of the birthday of Leonardo da Vinci, the famous painter of the Mona Lisa.
- He was chosen as a symbol of world peace, freedom of expression, tolerance, brotherhood and multiculturalism as well as art's importance to other fields.

1.50. WORLD LIVER DAY 2022 OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 19 APRIL

Why in news?

- **World Liver Day** is observed on **19 April** annually to spread awareness about the causes of liver disease and tips for its prevention so as to take **holistic care of the liver.**
- The liver is the second largest and the second most complex organ in the body, after the brain.
- It performs crucial body functions and is associated with a person's digestion, immunity, metabolism, and nutrition storage.
- The liver regulates blood sugar, removes toxic substances from the body, helps blood clot, and controls cholesterol levels.

1.51. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MONUMENTS AND SITES OBSERVED ON APRIL 18.

Why in news?

- The International Day for Monuments and Sites also known as World Heritage Day. is annually observed across the globe on 18th April to celebrate and spread awareness about the cultural heritage and diversity of the planet.
- The day aims to encourage local communities and individuals throughout the world to consider the importance of cultural heritage to their lives, identities and communities.
- The day also promotes awareness of the diversity and vulnerability of the heritage sites and the efforts required to protect and conserve them.

- The **theme** of International Day for Monuments and Sites 2022 is “**Heritage and Climate**”. The theme for activities to be organized is annually proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).
- The **2022 theme** 'Heritage and Climate' offers a platform to respond to questions the how to employ climate justice and equity to protect heritage and the ways to achieve equitable protection of vulnerable communities through crenate action while responding to the United Nations (UN)'s Decade of Action.

About ICOMOS

- ICOMOS, a non-governmental international organization dedicated to the conservation of the world's monuments and sites established 18th April as the International Day for Monuments and Sites in 1982 followed by united Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adoption during its 22nd General Conference.
- Headquarters- Paris, France
- The day was first observed first in 1983 by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Heritage sites of India:

- The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ministry of Culture is the premier organization for archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of India.
- At present, 3,691 monuments across India are protected by the ASI, with the highest number, 745, in Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- At present, 40 properties of India are inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage sites, which include the recently added Dholavira: A Harappan City (Gujarat) (2021) and Kakatiya Rudreshwas (Ramappa) Temple (Telangana) (2021).
- The 40 sites include 1 mixed site, 7 Natural sites and 32 cultural sites.

1.52. NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES DAY 2022 OBSERVED 21 APRIL.

Why in news?

- India observes **National Civil Services Day** on **April 21** every year to acknowledge the works of officers engaged in several public service departments in the country. The day also marks a reminder for civil servants, who collectively run the country's administrative machinery and their dedication to serving the citizens of the country.
- Civil Services Day is celebrated on April 21 to commemorate the day when **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, the first Home Minister of Independent India addressed probationers of Administrative Services Officers at **Delhi's Metcalf House in 1947**. In his address, he called Civil Servants, the '**Steel Frame of India**'. This meant that civil servants, employed at various levels of the government, act as supporting pillars of the country's administrative system.
- Earlier, during the British rule, the name of civil services was Indian Civil Services which was later changed to All India Services and it was fully controlled by India.
- Every year, on this occasion, the **Prime Minister's Awards of Excellence in Public Administration** are presented to District/Implementing Units for the implementation of priority programmes and innovation categories.

1.53. WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY OBSERVED ON 23RD APRIL.

Why in news?

- Every year on **April 23, World Book and Copyright Day** is observed to promote the love of reading. April 23 is significant in world literature because it commemorates the death on this date of prominent writers such as **Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare**.
- This date was an obvious option for **UNESCO's General Conference**, which was convened in Paris in 1995, to pay a worldwide tribute to books and authors on this day, urging everyone to read.

- **Guadalajara, Mexico**, will be the **World Book Capital** in 2022, with a year-long programme focusing on the role of books and reading in inspiring social change, combating violence, and cultivating a culture of peace.
- Every year on **April 23 – the anniversary of the deaths of three great authors of world literature, Miguel de Cervantes, William Shakespeare, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega** – we honour their enthralling ability to inspire creativity, knowledge, and alter minds.

1.54. UN ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAY OBSERVED ON APRIL 23.

Why in news?

- United Nations (UN)'s English Language Day is annually observed across the globe on 23rd April to spread awareness and promote the history, culture and achievements associated with the English language. The day also promotes books, poetry and literature in the English Language.
- The English Language Day, 23rd April also marks the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare, an English playwright, poet and actor, colloquially as "The Bard" or "The Bard of Avon".
- UN's English Language Day was first observed by the United Nations' Department of Global Communications in 2010 as a part of its initiative to establish language days to promote and celebrate the 6 official languages of the UN.
- UN language days aims to increase awareness and respect for the history, culture and achievements of each of the **6 official languages** (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) among the UN community.

1.55. WORLD MALARIA DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 25TH APRIL.

Why in news?

- Every year on **April 25th, World Malaria Day** is commemorated to raise awareness about this **life-threatening disease** that continues to be a **menace to humanity**. **Malaria** affects over **half of the world's population**, with the chances of people living in **poor nations** catching the disease being substantially higher.
- The theme for **World Malaria Day** this year is **"Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives"**.
- The day grew out of **African Malaria Day**. Since 2001, African governments have observed **Malaria Day**. However, it was only in 2007, during the **World Health Organization's 60th session**, that it was recommended to designate **Africa Malaria Day as World Malaria Day** in order to recognise the disease's global impact. In 2008, the inaugural **World Malaria Day** was observed.

About Malaria

- **Malaria** is spread through the **female Anopheles mosquito's bite** (which is infected with the malaria-causing **plasmodium parasite**).
- **Malaria** affects over half of the world's population, with the chances of people living in poor nations catching the disease being substantially higher.
- According to **WHO figures**, as many as **241 million people** would be affected with this deadly disease in 2020, with the majority of cases occurring in Africa.
- Despite the fact that the **WHO** states that malaria is a curable and preventable disease with proper treatment, many people continue to die due to a lack of competent healthcare.

1.56. WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON APRIL 26.

Why in news?

- **World Intellectual Property Day** is celebrated on the **26th of April** to learn about the role that intellectual property (IP) rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity. The day recognizes the huge potential of young people to find new and better solutions that support the transition to a sustainable future.

- This year, World Intellectual Property Day 2022's **theme** focuses on **IP and Youth innovating for a Better Future**. It is an opportunity for young people to find out how IP rights can support their goals, help transform their ideas into reality, generate income, create jobs and make a positive impact on the world around them. With IP rights, young people have access to some of the key tools they need to advance their ambitions.
- The event was **established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000** to "raise awareness of how patents, copyright, trademarks and designs impact on daily life."
- April 26th was chosen as the day to celebrate World Intellectual Property Day as it coincides with the date when the convention establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization came into effect in **1970**.

1.57. WORLD PENGUIN DAY OBSERVED ON 25TH APRIL.

Why in news?

- World Penguin Day is annually celebrated on 25th April to celebrate penguins, the unique, aquatic, flightless birds living in the southern hemisphere. The day also aims to create awareness about the threats and challenges faced by the Penguins.
- According to the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), 25th April coincides with the annual northern migration of Adelie penguins, a species of penguin that is native to Antarctica.
- The researchers in Antarctica documented that a colony of Adelie penguins returned from spending months at sea on April 25 for multiple consecutive years.
- The scientists began celebrations on the 25th April to welcome the penguins and later the day became a global celebration of penguins.

Conservation of Penguins:

- At present all 18 species of penguins are legally protected from hunting and egg collecting.
- 12 nations signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1959 and reauthorized it in 1991 to protect Antarctica and preserve its living resources. The treaty makes it illegal to harm, or in any way interfere with, a penguin or its eggs.
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) International treaty was developed in 1973 to regulate trade in certain wildlife species, including penguins.

Threats:

- The top 5 threats faced by the Penguins are overfishing, plastic pollution, industrial development, invasive Predators, and Climate Change.

1.58. WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK OBSERVED ON 28 APRIL.

Why in news?

- The annual **World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April** promotes the **prevention of occupational accidents and diseases** globally. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2022 focuses on enhancing social dialogue towards a culture of safety and health.
- World Day for Safety and Health at Work represents the awareness and promotion of ways that help prevent occupational diseases and accidents worldwide. It represents the development and maintenance of a robust Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) management system. And ever since the pandemic, the OSH management system has gained more importance than it had before.
- This year's **theme** of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work is " **Participation And Social Dialogue In Creating A Positive Safety And Health Culture**"
- The Annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work was first observed in 2003 by the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**. It stresses the importance of the prevention of accidents and diseases at work. The day is considered as a crucial tool for carving out a top-shelf political position for occupational safety and health.

1.59. WORLD HOMEOPATHY DAY.

Why in news?

- Celebrated each year on April 10 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of German physician Dr **Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann**, the founder of homeopathy.
- Homeopathy is based on two unconventional theories
 - "**Like cures like**"—the notion that a disease can be cured by a substance that produces similar symptoms in healthy people.
 - "**Law of minimum dose**"—the notion that the lower the dose of the medication, the greater its effectiveness.
- Steps taken for promotion by Indian government
 - Creation of AYUSH Ministry
 - Setting up of National Commission of Homeopathy (2021)



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PRACTICE MCQS

1. International Transgender Day of Visibility is annually observed on-

- A. 26th March
- B. 28th March
- C. 31st March
- D. 1st April

ANSWER: C

2. International Children's Book Day is celebrated on -

- A. 31st March
- B. 1st April
- C. 2nd April
- D. 3rd April

ANSWER: C

3. National Maritime Day in India is observed on 5th April

- A. 2nd April
- B. 3rd April
- C. 4th April
- D. 5th April

ANSWER: D

4. United Nations International Day of Conscience is observed on-

- A. 2nd April
- B. 3rd April
- C. 4th April
- D. 5th April

ANSWER: D

5. The theme of World Parkinson's Day 2022, observed on 11th April, is-

- A. Mental healthcare is important
- B. Mind matters
- C. Integrated healthcare
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

6. World Art Day is observed every year on 15 April honoring of the birthday of-

- A. Vincent Van Gogh
- B. Ludwig van Beethoven
- C. Leonardo da Vinci
- D. none of the above

ANSWER: C

7. World Liver Day is observed annually on

- A. 16th April
- B. 17th April
- C. 18th April
- D. 19th April

ANSWER: D

8. Consider the following statements regarding heritage sites in India-

- 1. At present, 3,691 monuments across India are protected by the Archeological Survey of India, with the highest number in UP.
- 2. 41 sites of India are inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

9. Consider the following statements-

- 1. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel called Civil Servants, the 'Steel Frame of India'.
- 2. National Civil Services Day is celebrated on April 21 every year.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

10. World Book and Copyright Day is observed every year on-

- A. 21st April
- B. 22nd April
- C. 23rd April
- D. 24th April

ANSWER: C

11. Which of the following is not one of six 6 official languages of United Nations?

- A. French
- B. Russian
- C. German
- D. Spanish

ANSWER: C

12. Consider the following statements regarding Malaria-

- 1. Malaria is spread through the female Aedes Egypti mosquito's bite.
- 2. World Malaria Day is observed on April 25th.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: B

13. World Intellectual Property Day 2022 is observed on April 26 under the banner of-

- A. World Intellectual Property Organization
- B. World Trade Organisation
- C. United States Patent and Trademark Office
- D. World Economic Forum

ANSWER: A

14. World Penguin Day is annually celebrated on-

- A. 24th April
- B. 25th April
- C. 26th April
- D. 27th April

ANSWER: B

15. World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed annually on

- A. 26th April
- B. 27th April
- C. 28th April
- D. 29th April

ANSWER: C

16. Who was the founder of Homeopathy?

- A. Edward Jenner
- B. Hippocrates
- C. Joseph Lister
- D. Samuel Hahnemann

ANSWER: D

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PERSON IN NEWS

1.60. DR. S RAJU TAKES CHARGE AS DG OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.

Why in news?

- **Dr S Raju** has taken over as the **Director-General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI)** with effect from April 01, 2022. He succeeds **R. S. Garkhal** who superannuated on March 31, 2022. Prior to this, Dr Raju was holding the post of Additional Director General and National Head, Mission-III & IV at GSI HQ.
- Dr.S. Raju joined the Geological Survey of India in 1988. During the initial period of his career, he was instrumental in geological mapping of Bundelkhand Granitic Complex in Uttar Pradesh and also executed an investigation on gold mineralization and carried out a geo-environmental appraisal of Jhansi district of Bundelkhand Region, Uttar Pradesh.
- With his expertise, he has also supplemented in the geology of Tamil Nadu especially, establishing the metamorphic and tectono-magmatic history of the Satyamangalam Group of rocks.

1.61. EMINENT SCHOLAR-ACADEMICIAN MANOJ SONI APPOINTED NEW UPSC CHAIRMAN.

Why in news?

- Currently a Member of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**, **Dr Manoj Soni** has been appointed the **chairman** of the country's premier government recruiting agency.
- He has been associated with the Swaminarayan sect's Anoopam Mission, at Mogri in Anand district, since a young age and received **diksha (initiation)** as a **nishkarma karmayogi (selfless worker)** on Jan 10, 2020.
- Dr Soni has been appointed to replace the previous UPSC chairman Pradip Kumar Joshi.
- Prior to this assignment, Soni has also served as the vice-chancellor of two universities and has earned several national and international awards and recognitions.

1.62. ASSAMESE POET NILAMANI PHOOKAN CONFERRED WITH 56TH JNANPITH AWARD.

Why in news?

- Assam Chief Minister presented the country's highest literary award, the **56th Jnanpith for the year 2021** to one of the most celebrated poets of Assam, **Nilamani Phookan**.
- Nilmani Phookan is the third person to win the Jnanpith Award from Assam after Mamoni Roisom Goswami and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya. The Award carried a Citation, a shawl, and Rs. 11 lakh.
- The octogenarian was awarded the Padma Shri in 1990 and received the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 2002. He was selected as an 'Emeritus Fellow' for a period of two years by Cultural Department, Govt. of India in 1998. Assam Sahitya Sabha also conferred 'Sahityacharya' honour to him. The notable works of Phukan are 'Xurjya Henu Naami Aahe Ei Nodiyedi', 'Kabita' and 'Gulapi Jamur Lagna'.

PRACTICE MCQS

1. Who has taken charge as Director-General of the Geological Survey of India?

- A. Ravi Mittal
- B. R. S. Garkhal
- C. Dr. S Raju
- D. Anu Sharma

ANSWER: C

2. Who has been appointed as the new UPSC chairman?

- A. Ravi Mittal
- B. Pradip Joshi
- C. Manoj Soni
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

3. Who has been awarded the country's highest literary award, the 56th Jnanpith award for 2021?

- A. Nilmani phookan
- B. Birendra bhattacharya
- C. Mamoni roisom goswami
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A



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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1.63. INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO) TO STEP UP TRACKING OF SPACE DEBRIS.

Why in news?

- ISRO is building up an orbital debris tracking capability under the 'network for space objects tracking and analysis (NETRA)' project which is an early warning system to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.
- At present, we have a Multi Object Tracking Radar at Sriharikota range, but it has a limited range.
- A **space debris tracking radar** with a range of 1,500 km and an optical telescope will be inducted.
- The radar, which will be capable of detecting and tracking objects 10 cm and above in size. It will be indigenously designed and built.
- **Space Debris** is any piece of machinery or debris left by humans in space—principally in Earth orbit. These include dead satellites, fragments of rocket bodies and spacecraft etc.
- Currently, an **estimated 20,000 objects including satellites and space debris** are crowding low-Earth orbit.
- It can be a hazard to active satellites and spacecraft; Potential collision threat to space station; Earth orbit could even become Impassable if the risk of collision grows too high.
- Radars and optical telescopes are vital ground-based facilities for keeping an eye on space objects, including orbital junk.

1.64. GERMANY SHUTS DOWN SERVERS FOR RUSSIAN DARKNET MARKETPLACE HYDRA.

Why in news?

- Germany has shut down Russia-linked '**Hydra Market**'- considered as world's biggest and oldest DarkNet marketplace of illegal items and services.

About DarkNet

- Also known as **Dark Web**, it is that part of Internet which cannot be accessed through traditional search engines like Google nor is it accessible by normal browsers like Chrome or Safari.
- It generally uses **non-standard communication protocols** which make it inaccessible to internet service providers (ISPs) or government authorities.
- Content on Dark Net is encrypted and requires specific browser such as TOR (The Onion router) browser to access those pages.
- Dark Net itself is only a part of **Deep Web** that is a broader concept, which includes sites that are protected by passwords.
 - Part of Internet that is readily available to general public and searchable on standard search engines is called as **Surface Web**.
- It is used by Journalists and citizens working in oppressive regimes (to communicate without any government censorship), researchers and students to do research on sensitive topics, law enforcement agencies etc.
- **Concerns over its use:** Anonymity, Haven for illicit activity, Privacy and ethical seeking concerns, drug dealing, communication by terrorists etc.

1.65. NEAR FIELD COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (NFCT).

Why in news?

- Google Pay has launched a new feature, 'Tap to pay for UPI' which makes use of NFCT.
- NFC is a **short-range wireless connectivity technology** that allows NFC-enabled devices to communicate with each other and **transfer information quickly and easily with a single touch**.
- NFC transmits data through **electromagnetic radio fields**, to enable communication between two devices.
- NFC-enabled devices must be either physically touching or within a few centimetres from each other for data transfer to occur.
- **Nokia released the first NFC-enabled phone in 2007.**

1.66. NEXO LAUNCHED WORLD'S 1ST CRYPTO-BACKED PAYMENT CARD "NEXO CARD".

Why in news?

- London-based Cryptocurrency lender, **Nexo** has joined hands with global payments company Mastercard to launch the world's first "**crypto-backed**" payment card. Electronic money firm DiPocket is Nexo's card issuer.
- The card requires no minimum repayments, monthly, or inactivity fees. There are no FX fees for up to **20,000 euros per month**. Interest remains at 0% for customers who maintain a loan-to-value ratio of 20% or below.
- This move by crypto and incumbent financial networks forces digital assets to become more mainstream.
- Initially, the card will be available in selected European countries. There are no restrictions on how much a customer can spend or withdraw from the open credit line and interest is only paid on the amount of credit actually used.

1.67. NASA'S PERSEVERANCE ROVER.

Why in news?

- It has captured the solar eclipse on Mars featuring **Phobos**, one of Mars' two moons (other is Deimos).
- It was launched in 2020 under **Mars 2020 Mission** and landed at **Jezero crater, Mars in 2021**.
- The rover is on an **astrobiology mission** to-
 - Better understand the Mars geology and seek signs of ancient life,
 - Collect and store a set of rock and soil samples for possible return to Earth, and
 - Test new technology to benefit future robotic and human exploration of Mars.

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PRACTICE MCQS

1. ISRO's Project NETRA is associated with-

- A. Lunar exploration
- B. Deep sea exploration
- C. Tracking space debris
- D. Observation of martian atmosphere

ANSWER: C

2. Consider the following statements regarding Dark Web-

- 1. It uses non-standard communication protocols which make it inaccessible to internet service providers (ISPs) or government authorities.
- 2. It is part of Internet that cannot be accessed through traditional search engines.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

3. Consider the following statements about Near Field Communication Technology-

- 1. NFC is a medium-range wireless connectivity technology that allows NFC-enabled devices to communicate with each other.
- 2. NFC-enabled devices must be within a few feet from each other for data transfer to occur.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: D

4. What is the name of the world's 1st crypto-backed payment card?

- A. Crypto card
- B. Fi card
- C. Nexo card
- D. Bit Card

ANSWER: C

5. NASA's Perseverance Rover is set up on-

- A. Mars
- B. Venus
- C. Titan (moon of saturn)
- D. Moon

ANSWER: A

ECONOMY

1.68. NATIONAL CONCLAVE ON "PRODUCTION OF BEES WAX" WAS ORGANIZED.

Why in news?

- A National Conclave on "Production of Bees Wax" was organized by National Dairy Development Board in collaboration with National Bee Board (NBB), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

About National Bee Board

- Formed as a registered Society under Societies Registration Act in 2000 and promoted by the Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC).
- Reconstituted in 2006.
- Objective:
- Overall development of Beekeeping by promoting Scientific Beekeeping,
- Increase the Honey production for increasing the income of the Beekeepers/ Farmers.

Beeswax

- Bees wax is a **food grade wax with a white color** when it is freshly prepared. **Later the color changes into yellow** because of the presence of propolis and pollen colorants.
- **Characteristics:**
- Inert with high plasticity, **insoluble in water** and resistant to many acids, but soluble in most organic solvents.
- Beeswax has uses as a vehicle for drugs, as an emulsion and foundation for cosmetics, in chromatography, used as a fragrance in soaps and perfumes etc.

1.69. INDIA AND AUSTRALIA SIGN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE AGREEMENT TO BOOST ECONOMY.

Why in news?

- India's Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Australian Trade Minister signed India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind Aus ECTA) in a virtual ceremony with the presence of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and Australian PM Scott Morrison.
- The above agreement is set to provide zero-duty access to **96 per cent of India's exports to Australia** including shipments from key sectors such as engineering goods, gems and jewellery, textiles, apparel and leather.
- It also set to **provide 85 per cent of Australia's exports zero-duty access to the Indian market**, including coal, sheep meat and wool, and lower duty access on Australian wines, almonds, lentils, and certain fruits.
- The bilateral trade was emphasised to raise the existing 27 billion USD to 45-50 billion USD in the upcoming 5 years.

About India & Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

- This is the first trade agreement that India has signed with a developed country after a decade.
- Also, India will be offering 70 percent of its tariff lines, which includes export interest of Australia such as raw materials and intermediaries such as coal, mineral ores and wines etc.
- Australian goods exports to India (valued at more than \$12.6 billion a year), rising to almost 91 per cent (valued at \$13.4 billion) over 10 years.
- Zero-duty access for Indian goods is set to be expanded to 100 per cent over five years under the agreement.
- Under the agreement, Indian graduates from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) will be granted extended post-study work visas.

Exports and Imports:

- 'Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India, and New Delhi will be Canberra's 9th largest partner.
- India's goods exports worth United States Dollar (USD) 6.9 billion and imports aggregated to USD 15.1 billion in 2021. 2021 the bilateral trade in goods and services stood at USD 27.5 billion.

1.70. SATCOM OPERATORS PIVOT TO HIGH BANDWIDTH SATELLITES TO TAKE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES (TELCOS).

Why in news?

- Satellite internet operators are turning to Very High Throughput Satellites (VHTS), a type of **fixed service satellites** (FSS) that offer significantly higher data bandwidth over the previous generation FSS satellites provided by Telcos.
 - Bandwidth refers to maximum amount of data transmitted over an internet connection in a given amount of time.
- FSS are used in television broadcasting and telephone communication, and depend on dish-style antennas.
 - FSS are typically deployed at a **geostationary equatorial orbit** (GEO) of 35,786km above Earth's surface.
- Satellite Internet Services is a wireless internet connection which uses satellites in space to get an Internet signal from Internet Service Provider (ISP) to users.
- Satellite-based low-bit-rate connectivity is possible using Geo Stationary, Medium and low Earth orbit Satellites.
- It is different from satellite television as Internet signals have to go both ways with a much greater amount of bandwidth to move all that data.
- They operate by sending and receiving broadband signal to a satellite in space rather than using an underground copper/fibre network.
- Benefits of Satellite Internet Services: Cheap and easy internet option for rural areas. hilly terrains. Faster than Digital Subscriber Line (DSO connection etc).

Models for satellite-based connectivity

- **Direct to Satellite Model:** Allows devices to directly communicate with the satellite without the need of any Intermediate ground gateway.
- **Hybrid (LPWAN + Satellite) or Indirect Model:** In this, each sensor and actuator in a network may communicate with the satellite through an Intermediate sink node. i.e., Low Power Wide-Area Network gateway.

1.71. CHHATTISGARH TOPS STATES WITH THE LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE.

Why in news?

- According to the latest data (5 April 2022) released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Chhattisgarh has been ranked first among states with the lowest unemployment rate of 0.6 percent in the country.
- The overall Unemployment rate in India has decreased to 7.6 percent (March 2022) from 8.10 percent in February 2022.
- As per the data, Haryana has the highest unemployment rate at 26.7 per cent.

Reasons for Decline:

- The Chhattisgarh government had adopted a new model of development on lines of Mahatma Gandhi's vision of 'Gram Swaraj' envisaging inclusive development of the state and launched various schemes including Suraji Gaon Yojana, Narva-Garva-Ghurva-Bari programme, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana etc. for boosting the rural economy.
- The state government has also set up the 'Chhattisgarh Employment Mission' intending to create around 15 lakh new employment opportunities in the next five years.

States with Highest Unemployment rate

- Haryana - 26.7%
- Rajasthan- 25%
- Jammu and Kashmir- 25%
- Jharkhand- 14.5%

States with Lowest Unemployment rate

- Chhattisgarh- 0.6%
- Madhya Pradesh- 1.4%
- Karnataka- 1.8%
- Gujarat- 1.8%

1.72. ZERO-COUPON BONDS.

Why in news?

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes has amended the Income Tax rules to allow infrastructure debt funds (IDFs) to issue zero-coupon bonds.
- It will help in the mobilization of resources in a tax-efficient manner.
- A zero-coupon bond is a **debt security instrument that does not pay interest**.
- It is **traded at deep discounts**, offering full face value (par) profits at maturity. The difference between the purchase price of a zero-coupon bond and the par value indicates the investor's return.
- Its value is inversely related to the rise in the interest rates.

1.73. CABINET COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (CCEA) APPROVES DISTRIBUTION OF FORTIFIED RICE ACROSS GOVERNMENT SCHEMES.

Why in news?

- CCEA has approved the supply of fortified rice in government-run food schemes by 2024 in a phased manner with an aim to combat nutrition deficiency in all states and UTs.
- Supply of fortified rice through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) will be done **under National Food Security Act (NFSA), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), PM POSHAN, and other welfare schemes (OWS)**.
- Entire cost of rice fortification would be borne by Centre.
- Three phases are envisaged for full implementation
 - **Phase-I:** Covering ICDS and PM POSHAN in India all over by March, 2022 which is under implementation.
 - **Phase-II:** Phase I above plus TPDS and OWS in all Aspirational and High Burden Districts i; on stunting (total 291 districts) by March 2023.
 - **Phase-III:** Phase II above plus covering the remaining districts of the country by March 2024.
- **Rice fortification** is a process of adding micronutrients, commonly iron, Vitamin B12 and folic acid, to regular rice to improve the dietary requirement.
- **Benefits of rice fortification**
 - Provide nutritional boost to undernourished and vulnerable populations.
 - Combat anaemia.
 - Cost-effective.
 - Helpful in pregnancy for growth of the baby.

About Extrusion technology

- In India, rice is fortified using extrusion technology.
- In this technology, milled rice is pulverized and mixed with a premix containing vitamins and minerals.
- Fortified rice kernels (FRK) are produced from this mixture using an extruder machine.
- FRK is added to traditional rice in ratio ranging from 1:50 to 1: 200 resulting in fortified rice nearly identical to traditional rice in aroma, taste, and texture.

1.74. RBI TO OPERATIONALISE STANDING DEPOSIT FACILITY (SDF).

Why in news?

- Under the new monetary policy, RBI announced the introduction of SDF as a basic tool to absorb surplus liquidity (deposit) from banking system.

- Earlier, liquidity measures undertaken in the wake of pandemic, combined with liquidity injected through various other operations of RBI, have left excess liquidity in the system.
- When liquidity is surplus, as it is now, the RBI absorbs liquidity through the reverse repo facility.
- However, **reverse repo window is a collateralised one**. So when banks park their money at that window, the RBI gives them securities in return to hold. But given a large amount of surplus liquidity, the RBI was running out of securities to offer.
- Therefore, government has introduced SDF as a non-collateralised window. So the RBI can absorb liquidity without offering securities now.
- SDF has its origins in a 2018 amendment to RBI Act (based on **Urjit Patel Committee recommendations**) and allows RBI to absorb liquidity from commercial banks without giving any collateral in return.
- SDF rate will be the new floor rate for the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) corridor, replacing fixed-rate reverse repo.
- LAF is a monetary policy tool that allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements or repos.
- All LAF participants will be eligible to participate in SDF scheme.

Definitions

- **Repo rate** is the interest rate that the RBI charges when commercial banks borrow money from it.
- **Reverse repo rate** is the interest rate that the RBI pays commercial banks when they park their excess cash with the central bank. RBI borrows a part of this money at a fixed rate and some of it at variable rate

1.75. BANARASI PASHMINA.

Why in news?

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched **Banarasi Pashmina** in Varanasi.
- This is for the first time that Pashmina products are being produced outside the region of Leh-Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Changthangi** or **Pashmina goats** are raised for ultra-fine cashmere wool, known as Pashmina once woven.
 - Changthangi or Pashmina goat is a special breed of goat indigenous to the high altitude regions of Ladakh (domesticated and reared by Changpa nomadic communities).
- **Kashmir Pashmina** has been assigned Geographical indication (GI) tag.

1.76. NATIONAL TIME RELEASE STUDY (NTRS), 2022

Why in news?

- It was recently released by **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**.
- NTRS 2022 presents the annual report of cargo clearance process through four categories of ports-
 - Seaport,
 - Inland Container Depots (ICDs),
 - Air Cargo Complexes (ACC) and
 - Integrated Check Posts (ICPs).
- NTRS 2022 has reported improvement in the average cargo release time for all the four port categories in 2022.
- Time Release Study is a performance measurement tool for assessing cargo clearance process of international trade, as recommended by World Trade Organization (WTO) under Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and World Customs Organization (WCO).

1.77. SAKSHAM 2022.

Why in news?

- It was launched recently which is an annual one-month long people centric fuel conservation campaign of the **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)**.
- Its objective is to spread the message of fuel conservation and greener environment across India.
- **PCRA** is a registered society set up under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- It helps the government in proposing policies and strategies for petroleum conservation, aimed at reducing excessive dependence of the country on oil requirement.

1.78. DOMESTIC PATENT FILINGS SURPASS INTERNATIONAL ONES AFTER 11 YEARS.

Why in news?

- For the first time in the last 11 years, the number of domestic patent filing surpassed the number of international patent filing at Indian patent office.
- Overall, in the last 7 years the total filings of patents have increased by more than 50%.
- India's ranking in Global Innovation Index (GII) has increased to 46th in 2021 as compared to 81st in 2015-16.
- Intellectual Property refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce. E.g. patents, copyright and trademarks.

Factors behind increasing domestic patents

- National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy (2016) for a Creative India; Innovative India.
- Consistent efforts from Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), as a nodal point on policy implementation, towards strengthening of the IPR regime.
- Scheme for IPR Awareness
 - Reduction in time of patent examination from 72 months in Dec 2016 to 5-23 months at present, for different technological areas.
 - Fee concessions like 10% rebate on online filing, 80% fee concession for Start-ups, Small Entities and educational institutions.
 - Expedited examination for Startups and MSMEs along with other categories.
 - **India Innovation Index (I3)** by **NITI Aayog** to promote innovation etc.
- **GII**, published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) along with Cornell University and INSEAD, takes the pulse of these innovations and ranks the innovation ecosystem performance of different countries on 81 different indicators.

1.79. POISON PILL STRATEGY.

Why in news?

- Twitter has decided to adopt "poison pill strategy" after Tesla Chief Executive Officer offered to buy the social media platform.

About poison pill strategy:

- Officially known as the **shareholder rights plan**, it allows existing shareholders to purchase additional shares in a company at a discount.

1.80. EGYPT APPROVES INDIA AS A WHEAT SUPPLIER: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Why in news?

- Egypt, one of the world's biggest importers of wheat which has been importing wheat from Russia and Ukraine, has agreed to source wheat from India.
- India is **second largest producer of wheat after China**.

Current Status of global food security

- Between 2019 and 2022, number of people at the brink of famine rose from 27 million to 44 million.

- 40.5 million People in 17 countries faced acute food insecurity.
- Global food prices rose by over 20% in February 2022.

Reasons for global food crisis includes

- Increasing prices of food, fertilizer, oil, gas and even metals like aluminium, nickel and palladium.
- Supply chain constraints and coronavirus pandemic has caused prices to spike.
- High energy costs.
- Climate change- droughts, floods and fires.

Suggestions to address food insecurity

- Integrating humanitarian, development and peace-building policies in conflict-affected areas.
- Scaling up climate resilience across food systems.
- Social protection policies.
- Strengthening resilience of the most vulnerable to economic adversity.
- Intervening along food supply chains to lower the cost of nutritious foods.

1.81. MARGINAL COST OF FUNDS BASED LENDING RATE.

Why in news?

- State Bank of India has raised the MCLR for the first time in three years.
- **MCLR** instituted by RBI with effect from April 1, 2016.
- It is the lowest interest rate that a bank or lender can offer.
- Brings transparency in financial institutions while determining their interest rates.
- Calculated based on **four components**:
 - Marginal cost of funds,
 - Negative carry-on account of cash reserve ratio,
 - Operating costs and
 - Tenor premium.
- **Tenor means** that the amount of time left for the repayment of a bank loan.

1.82. PURCHASING POWER PARITY (PPP) OF \$3.2 BE MADE INDIA'S FORMAL POVERTY LINE.

Why in news?

- A recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) working paper suggests that \$3.2 on PPP could be made an official poverty line since India has almost eliminated extreme poverty at 51.9 PPP (defined by World Bank).
- According to the IMF paper, number of people living in extreme poverty was 0.86 per cent of the population in 2020-21 up from 0.76 per cent during 2019-20 (pandemic year).
- Suggestion assumes significance since **India does not have any official poverty line**.
- Last poverty estimates were released by erstwhile Planning Commission following the methodology recommended by **Tendulkar Committee for 2011-12**.

Poverty estimation in India

- Planning Commission Expert Group (1962) formulated separate poverty lines for rural and urban areas (Z20 and Z25 per capita per year respectively).
- **Dandekar Rath (1971)** defined poverty line as expenditure adequate to provide 2250 calories per day in rural and urban areas.
- Subsequently different committees — **Alagh (1979), Lakdawala Committee (1993), Tendulkar Committee (2009)** did the poverty estimation.
- Latest estimation was by **Rangarajan committee (2014)**, which defined poverty line as Monthly Per Capita Expenditure of Rs. 1407 in urban areas and Rs. 972 in rural areas.

1.83. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AMENDS NIDHI RULES, 2014.

Why in news?

- Development comes amid a sharp rise in number of 'nidhi' companies and is aimed at improving their governance and safeguarding public interest.

Key amendments

- A public company set up as a Nidhi with share capital of Rs. 10 lakhs needs to first get itself declared as a Nidhi from Union government. Earlier, there was no such need for a company to get declaration.
- Promoters and Directors of company have to meet the criteria laid down in rules.

About Nidhi company

- Similar to a Non-Banking Financial Company, a Nidhi is formed to borrow and lend money to its members. It inculcates saving habits among its members and works on the principle of mutual benefit.
- Not required to get an RBI license but need approval under the Companies Act.
- **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** regulates its operational matters and **RBI** has the power to issue directions for its deposit-taking activities.
- Can't deal with chit funds, hire-purchase finance, leasing finance, insurance or securities business. It is strictly prohibited from accepting deposits from or lending funds to, any other person except members.
- Only individual members are allowed in Nidhi companies.

1.84. INDIAN TRAVELLERS IN UAE CAN NOW USE UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE (UPI) FOR PAYMENTS.

Why in news?

- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), an International arm of National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced that **BHIM UPI is now available at NEOPAY terminals, across the UAE.**
 - Globally, UPI is accepted in Bhutan and Nepal, and is likely to go live in Singapore in 2022.
- UPI is an **instant real-time payment system developed by NPCI** facilitating inter-bank transactions.
 - It is the most successful real-time payments systems globally, providing simplicity, safety, and security in person to person (P2P) and person to merchant (P2M) transactions.
 - BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money), pioneered and developed by NPCI, enables fast, secure, reliable cashless payments through mobile phone.
 - UPI is one of the most prominent forms of digital payments worth \$1 trillion in FY 2022.
 - BHIM, launched in 2016, brings in Financial Inclusion to the nation and a digitally empowered society.
- **NPCI** is an initiative of **RBI** and **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** under provisions of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment and Settlement Infrastructure in India.
 - It aims to create a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India and operates **RuPay** (Indigenously developed Payment System), **IMPS**, **NACH** (National Automated Clearing House), **ABPS** (Aadhaar Payment Bridge System), **NFS** (National Financial Switch), **Bharat Bill Payment System** etc.

1.85. RBI LOWERS LIMIT FOR WAYS AND MEANS ADVANCES (WMA) FOR STATES.

Why in news?

- In view of Improving pandemic situation, RBI decided to reduce WMA for States and UTs to ₹ 47,010 crore from ₹ 51,560 crore.
 - Considering COVID-19 related uncertainties, RBI had raised WMA limit in 2021.
- Under RBI Act 1934, WMAs are **temporary advances** given by the RBI to Centre and States to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments.
 - States/Centre pay interest linked to the repo rate on WMA withdrawals.

- WMA is not part of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) because they **get paid within the year itself.**
- Two types of WMA - normal and special.
 - While **normal WMA are clean advances, Special WMA or Special Drawing Facility (SDF) is provided against the collateral of government securities held by state.**
 - After the state has exhausted SDF limit, it gets normal WMA.
- In addition to WMA, the **Over Draft facility is also provided** whenever financial accommodation to a State exceeds its SDF and WMA limits.
- There is a **State-wise limit for the funds** that can be availed via WMA. These limits depend on factors such as total expenditure, revenue deficit and fiscal position of the State.
- Limits for WMA are decided by the government and RBI mutually and revised periodically.

1.86. INDIA URGES IMF TO CLASSIFY SRI LANKA AS LOW-INCOME COUNTRY FOR PURPOSE OF DEBT RESTRUCTURING.

Why in news?

- India has urged the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to re-classify Sri Lanka as a lower-income country and give Sri-Lanka emergency funding similar to one granted to Ukraine under the emergency support programme, **Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI).**
- Objective is to assist the country in debt restructuring as it will help Sri Lanka become party to the **Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)** and the '**Common Framework for debt treatment beyond the DSSI (Common Framework).**
 - The above are **joint initiatives by the WB, IMF and G-20 for least-developed countries and Low Income Countries respectively** to help them sustain debt challenges brought forward by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - **Debt restructuring** is defined as an event in which the debtor is in financial difficulty and the creditor grants concession to debtor in accordance with a mutual agreement.
- **Sovereign debt** crisis occurs when a country is unable to pay its bills and country's leaders ignore these indicators for political reasons.
- To solve the sovereign debt crisis, the IMF helps in identifying sovereign debt risks and provides policy advice, provides technical support on formulating debt management strategy and developing their local currency bond markets etc.

1.87. PLI SCHEME FOR WHITE GOODS (AIR CONDITIONERS AND LED LIGHTS).

Why in news?

- It was launched by Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Its objective is to create complete component ecosystem in India and make India an integral part of global supply chains.
- Scheme offer an incentive of 4-6% on incremental sales of goods manufactured in India.
- The white goods industry consists of air conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers, dishwashers, and LED Lights.
- PLI scheme aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units, and encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units.

1.88. HEATWAVES, LOW COAL STOCKS, AND DELAYED PAYMENTS LEAD TO POWER OUTAGES.

Why in news?

- Over the past week, the total electricity shortage in India hit 623 million units (MU).

Reasons for power shortages

- Heat wave conditions have increased the demand for energy intensive cooling infrastructure.

- States are reluctant to purchase power from the open market due to high rates and competition among states.
- Thermal plants usually face coal shortages during monsoon, however now, coal shortage started early due to lesser coal supply and shortage of wagons for ferrying coal to plants.
- Due to Russia-Ukraine Crisis, the global coal prices increased by 250% over the last few months.

Power generation via coal

- About 70% of India's power demand is met by coal-fired power plants.
- India is the world's 2nd largest coal producer, with the world's 5th largest reserves as on 2020.

Classification of coal

- **Anthracite (best quality):** Carries 80 to 95 per cent carbon content, found in small quantity in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Bituminous:** Carries 60 to 80 per cent of carbon content and a low level of moisture content. Found in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Lignite-** It carries 40 to 55 percent carbon content. Found in Rajasthan, Lakhimpur (Assam) and Tamil Nadu.

1.89. POST OFFICES TO PROVIDE NATIONAL PENSION SERVICES ONLINE.

Why in news?

- Department of Posts has started providing NPS services through online mode.
- Any Citizen of India in **age group of 18 to 70 years** can avail this online facility.
- Subscribers are eligible for a tax deduction in NPS as per declaration made by Ministry of Finance under section 80CCD 1(B).
- NPS is **voluntary Pension Scheme**, regulated by **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, through its designated post offices since 2010.
- NPS Trust is registered owner of all assets under NPS.

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PRACTICE MCQS

1. Consider the following statements about Bees Wax-

1. Bees wax is a food grade wax with a white color when freshly prepared.
2. It is insoluble in water and resistant to many acids.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

2. Consider the following statements with respect to recently signed Economic cooperation and trade agreement between India and Australia-

1. It will provide zero-duty access to 96 per cent of India's exports to Australia.
2. Currently, Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

3. Consider the following statements regarding Fixed Service Satellites (FSS)-

1. FSS are used in television broadcasting and telephone communication.
2. FSS are typically deployed at a lower earth orbit of 600 km above Earth's surface.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

4. As per recent Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy data, state with minimum unemployment rate is-

- A. Haryana
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: B

5. With respect to Zero-coupon bonds, consider the following statements-

1. It is a debt security instrument that does not pay interest.
2. Its value is inversely related to the rise in the interest rates.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

6. Consider the following statements rice fortification-

- 1. It is process of adding micronutrients, commonly iron, Vitamin B12 and folic acid to rice.
- 2. In India, rice is fortified using extrusion technology.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

7. Consider the following statements regarding Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)-

- 1. SDF has its origins in a 2018 amendment to RBI Act.
- 2. It allows RBI to absorb liquidity from commercial banks without giving any collateral in return.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

8. Ultra-fine cashmere wool, known as Pashmina, is derived from which of the following animal?

- A. Changthangi
- B. Chiru
- C. Ladakh Yak
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

9. National Time Release Study was recently released by-

- A. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
- B. GST Council
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Bureau of Indian Standards

ANSWER: A

10. Saksham 2022 is a one-month long people centric fuel conservation campaign of-

- A. The Energy and Resources Institute
- B. Petroleum Conservation Research Association
- C. NITI Aayog

D. Bureau of Energy Efficiency

ANSWER: B

11. India Innovation Index is released by-

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Science and Technology
- D. Ministry of Education

ANSWER: A

12. The term “poison pill strategy”, seen recently in news, is associated with-

- A. Euthanasia
- B. Company shareholding
- C. Tackling invasive species
- D. War tactic used in Ukraine

ANSWER: B

13. Consider the following statements about wheat production-

- 1. Wheat is a major crop of rabi season.
- 2. India is second largest producer of wheat after China.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

14. Consider the following statements Marginal cost of funds based lending rate(MCLR)-

- 1. It is calculated based on twelve components.
- 2. It is the lowest interest rate that a bank or lender can offer.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: B

15. Consider the following committees on poverty estimation-

- 1. Dandekar Rath Committee
- 2. Lakdawala Committee
- 3. Alagh Committee
- 4. Tendulkar Committee

Arrange the above committees in chronological order-

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

ANSWER: C

16. With respect to Nidhi Companies, consider the following statements-

- 1. They are required to get a RBI license.
- 2. Only individual members are allowed in Nidhi companies.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: B

17. Consider the following statements about National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)-

- 1. It is an initiative of RBI and Ministry of Finance.
- 2. It operates RuPay payment system, ABPS (Aadhaar Payment Bridge System) and Bharat Bill Payment System among others.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: B

18. Consider the following statements about Ways and Means advances (WMAs)-

- 1. WMAs are temporary advances given by the RBI to Centre and States.
- 2. Centre and States do not have to pay interest on WMAs.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

19. Consider the following statements regarding Debt Service Suspension Initiative-

- 1. It is a joint initiative of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and G-20.
- 2. It aims to help least-developed countries to sustain debt challenges that arose out of Covid crisis.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only 1

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

ANSWER: C

20. Which one of the following is a white good?

- A. Refrigerators
- B. Dishwashers
- C. Led lights
- D. all of the above

ANSWER: D

21. Consider the following statements about coal reserves in India-

1. India is the world's 2nd largest coal producer, with the world's 5th largest reserves.
2. Anthracite coal, the best quality of coal is only found in Assam.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

22. Consider the following statements about National Pension Scheme-

1. NPS is voluntary Pension Scheme, regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.
2. Any Citizen of India in age group of 18 to 60 years can avail benefit of NPS.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

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DEFENCE

1.90. INDIA AND FRANCE UNDERTAKE VARUNA EXERCISE.

Why in news?

- India and France are conducting the 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise "**VARUNA - 2022**" in the Arabian Sea from March 30, 2022, to April 03, 2022.
- Bilateral naval exercises between India's and France's navies began in 1993. In 2001, the exercise was given the name "Varuna," and it has since become an essential part of the two countries' strategic bilateral cooperation.
- The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise 'VARUNA-2021' was conducted from 25-27 April 2021 in the Arabian Sea.
- Various units from both navies participated in the exercise, including ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft, and helicopters.
- These units will work to improve and enhance their maritime operational skills, develop interoperability to conduct maritime security operations, and demonstrate their commitment to the region's peace, security, and stability as an integrated force.
- The VARUNA series of exercises provides both the navies' opportunities to learn from each other's best practices. The exercise sets the stage for operational level understanding between the two navies, highlighting both nations' shared commitment to the global maritime commons' security, safety, and freedom.

1.91. MAN-PORTABLE AIR-DEFENSE SYSTEM (MANPADS)

Why in news?

- Recently, the Indian Army has inducted Igla-S systems from Russia.
- **Igla-S** (Igla- Super) is a very short range air defence system which acts as last line of defence against enemy combat aircraft and helicopters in the multi-layered air defence network.
- It has a maximum range of 6 km, fired from shoulder to neutralise low-flying aircrafts and helicopters.

1.92. KHANJAR 2022: THE 9TH EDITION OF THE INDIA-KYRGYZSTAN JOINT SPECIAL FORCES EXERCISE.

Why in news?

- The **9th Edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise** was held in March-April, 2022 at **Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (HP)**. **Special Forces** contingents from **India and Kyrgyzstan** have shared their experience and best practices in terms of tactics, techniques, and procedures for countering present and emerging threats throughout the conflict spectrum.
- During the Exercise, **combat shooting, sniping, mountain survival, hostage rescue drills, and unarmed warfare** were all extensively performed.
- The collaborative training reinforced the existing link between **India and Kyrgyzstan**, which has grown over years of mutual respect for **strategic autonomy, democratic ideals, and zero tolerance for terrorism**.

1.93. PINAKA MISSILE SYSTEMS.

Why in news?

- **Pinaka Mk-1** (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and **Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM)** rocket systems have been successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Army at Pokhran.
- The new Pinaka ER gives it a range of around 70 km, over the 45 km existing range of the missile which has been with the Indian forces for nearly a decade.
- The Pinaka is a Multi-Barrel Rocket-Launcher (MBRL) system which can fire a salvo of 12 rockets over a period of 44 seconds.

1.94. HELENA.

Why in news?

- Recently, indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' was successfully flight tested.

About HELINA (Helicopter based NAG):

- It is third generation fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system mounted on the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
- The system has all weather day and night capability.
- It can defeat battle tanks with conventional armour as well as explosive reactive armour.
- Developed by: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

1.95. ISRAEL SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRES ITS LASER MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM "IRON BEAM"

Why in news?

- Israel has successfully test fired a first of its kind laser missile defence system called as "Iron Beam", the world's first energy-based weapons system.
- The Iron Beam is developed by the Rafael Advanced Defence Systems. It uses a directed-energy weapon system and can travel a long way to provide aerial defence. The tests took place in the Negev Desert, Israel.

About Iron Beam

- Iron Beam works on a fibre laser system to destroy any airborne object. It ranges up to 7 km, which is often considered too close for the Iron Dome system to intercept projectiles effectively.
- The Iron Beam is the world's first energy-based weapons system that uses a laser to shoot down incoming aerial objects such as missiles, rockets, mortars, anti-tank missiles, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and drones.
- It cost around 3.50 United States Dollar (USD) or Rs.250 per laser shot.
- The Israel forces have planned to deploy Iron Beam on land, in the air and at sea.
- Iron Beam is executed in the defence of Israel as it is cost effective when compared to Iron Dome defence system. But still the Iron Dome defence system has the interception of 90% against incoming rocket fire.
- The Iron Beam is Israel's fifth element of the integrated air defence system, consisting of Arrow 2, Arrow 3, David's Sling, and Iron Dome.

1.96. INS VAGSHEER.

Why in news?

- Vagsheer, sixth and last submarine of Project 75, has been launched.
- Vagsheer is a diesel attack submarine, designed to perform sea denial as well as access denial warfare.
- It is also capable of performing anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying and area surveillance related operations.
- **P 75** is one of two lines of submarines, other being P75I, as part of a plan for indigenous submarine construction with technology taken from overseas firms.
- Under P75, Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj and Vela have been commissioned. Sea trials are on for Vagir.
- Constructed by: Mazagon Dock Ltd

1.97. INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL SYMPOSIUM (IONS) HOLDS MAIDEN MARITIME EXERCISE.

Why in news?

- Maiden edition of IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was conducted at **Goa** and in Arabian Sea with the aim to enhance interoperability in **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** operations among member navies.
- It witnessed participation of 15 out of the 25 member nations of IONS.

About IONS

- IONS, established in 2007, is a **voluntary initiative** that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues.
- It has enabled discussions on regional maritime issues, promoted, friendly relationships, and significantly improved maritime security cooperation in the IOR.
- **Inaugural IONS Seminar** was held by the **Indian Navy in 2008**.
- IONS include 24 nations that permanently hold territory that lies within the IOR.

Importance of IONS for India

- Strengthening and deepening relations with Indian Ocean littoral states.
- Establishing its leadership potential and aspirations of being a net-security provider.
- Fulfilling India's vision of a rules-based and stable maritime order in IOR.
- Counter-balance the increasing presence of China in the region.



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PRACTICE MCQS

1. India conducts Varuna naval exercise with which of the following countries?

- A. UK
- B. France
- C. USA
- D. Germany

ANSWER: B

2. Indian Army has inducted Igla-S short range air defence systems from-

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

ANSWER: B

3. India conducts exercise Khanjar with which of the following countries?

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

ANSWER: A

4. Pinaka, seen recently in news, is a -

- A. Corvette
- B. Anti-Tank missile
- C. Multi-Barrel Rocket-Launcher
- D. Offshore Patrol Vehicle

ANSWER: C

5. HELINA seen recently in news is a/an

- A. Corvette
- B. Man-portable air-defense systems
- C. Anti-tank missile
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

6. Laser Missile Defence System "Iron Beam" has been recently tested by-

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

ANSWER: A

7. Consider the following statements about project P 75-

1. It is a programme by the Indian Navy that envisaged building six Scorpene-Class attack submarines.
2. The submarines are being constructed by Mazagon Dock Ltd.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Ocean Naval Symposium -

1. The first ever inaugural IONS Seminar was held by the Indian Navy in 2010.
2. There are 14 members of IONS that permanently hold territory that abuts or lies within the Indian Ocean.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: D



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POLICY AND PROGRAMME

1.98. CABINET APPROVES USD 808 MILLION FOR RAISING AND ACCELERATING MSME PERFORMANCE (RAMP).

Why in news?

- RAMP is a World Bank assisted **Central Sector Scheme**, supporting various COVID Resilience and Recovery Interventions of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- It is a **new scheme** that would commence in financial year 2022-23 for 5-year period.
- It aims at improving access to market and credit, strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State, improving Centre-State linkages and partnerships, addressing issues of delayed payments and greening of MSMEs.
- Monitoring and policy overview of RAMP would be done by an apex **National MSME Council**, headed by Minister for MSME, including representation from various Ministries and supported by a secretariat.

Significance of RAMP scheme

- Complement Atmanirbhar Bharat mission by fostering innovation and enhancement in industry standards, promoting domestic manufacturing etc.
- Act as Policy Provider to enable delivery of more effective and cost-efficient MSME interventions to improve competitiveness and business sustainability.
- Provide necessary technological inputs to MSMEs to make them competitive and self-reliant.
- Scale up implementation capacity and MSME coverage in states as well.
- Act as job-enabler, market promoter, finance facilitator, and will support vulnerable sections and greening initiatives.

Objective of the scheme is to

- Strengthen institutions and governance of MSME programme
- To support to market access, firm capabilities and access to finance.

1.99. CABINET APPROVES PRADHAN MANTRI VIRASAT KA SAMVARDHAN (PM VIKAS) SCHEME.

Why in news?

- PM VIKAS, under **Ministry of Minority Affairs**, focuses on socio-economic-educational empowerment of minorities with special emphasis on artisan communities, women, and youth.
- At least 33% of the total targets in the scheme are reserved for women and provide entrepreneurship and leadership support exclusively to women.
- 10% of these women trained as entrepreneurs shall also be selected to become Business Mentors, based on their leadership qualities.

Other Skill development and employment-oriented programmes for minorities

- Nai Manzil provides a combination of formal education (Class VII or X) and skills, to enable beneficiaries to seek better employment and livelihood.
- Nai Roshni scheme empower and enhance confidence in Minority women by providing knowledge, tool and techniques for Leadership Development of Women.
- Upgrading the Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (**USTTAD**) scheme
- Garib Nawaz Self-Employment Scheme provides for short term job-oriented skill development courses to minorities' youth in order to enable them for ski-based employment.
- Backup to Brilliance policy.
- Extending PM Jan Vikas Karykram across the country.
- Hunar Haat.
- Seekho aur Kamao (learn and earn).

1.100. STAND-UP INDIA SCHEME.

Why in news?

- Stand-Up India Scheme has recently completed 6 years.

About the Scheme

- It was launched in 2016, as part of efforts to support entrepreneurship among women and SC & ST communities.
- Its objective is to provide a bank loan **between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore** to at least one SC or ST borrower and one-woman borrower per bank branch (without collateral) for setting up a Greenfield enterprise.
- The **government does not allocate funds for loans** under the Stand Up India Scheme rather loans are extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks as per commercial parameters.

1.101. AAI LAUNCHES 'AVSAR' SCHEME TO PROVIDE PLATFORM TO SHGs**Why in news?**

- The **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** has launched an initiative **"AVSAR"** to encourage the talent of women, artisans and craftsmen and provide them with the right opportunities. AVSAR stands for **'Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans Of The Region'**.
- Under **"AVSAR"** (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of the Region), which is an initiative of AAI, an opportunity to help the indigent to mobilize their households into functionally effective self-earned groups for self-reliance and self-dependence, has been provided.

Under this scheme:

- An area of 100-200 square feet has been earmarked at each AAI operated airport. The space is being allotted to the self-help groups, turn on a turn basis, for a duration of 15 days.
- Few outlets have already been commissioned at Chennai, Agartala, Dehradun, Kushinagar, Udaipur & Amritsar Airport wherein SHGs operated by local women, are showcasing and marketing their homemade local products like Puffed Rice, Packaged Papad, Pickles, Bamboo based Ladies Bag/Bottle/Lamp Sets, local artefacts, traditional craft, natural dyes, embroidery and indigenous weaves with contemporary design to the air travellers.
- The initiative to strengthen SHGs by allotting space at AAI Airports will provide huge visibility to these small groups and prepare them to promote/market their products to the wider spectrum, reaching out to the larger population.

1.102. PRADHAN MANTRI DAKSHTA AUR KUSHAHA SAMPANN HITGRAHI (PM-DAKSH).**Why in news?**

- Government has announced that nearly 2,71,000 persons will be trained over five years under the scheme.
- PM-DAKSH yojana is a skill development scheme from **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- Started from 2020-21, it aims to provide free training to persons from SCs/OBCs, Safai Karamcharis etc. through Up-skilling/Reskilling, Short Term Training Programme (focus on self-employment), Long Term Training Programme and Entrepreneurship Development Program.
- Implementation is through 3 Corporations:
 - **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation**
 - **National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation**
 - **National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation**

1.103. SVANIDHI SE SAMRIDDI PROGRAMME EXPANDED TO COVER 126 MORE CITIES.**Why in news?**

- SVANidhi se Samriddi program was started to provide social security benefits to street vendors for their holistic development and socio-economic upliftment.

- SVANidhi se Samridhhi, additional program of **PM SVANidhi** (Prime Minister Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi), launched in January 2021 in 125 cities in Phase 1, covering approximately 35 Lakh Street vendors and their families.
- Later, post success of phase 1, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the program expansion with an aim to cover 28 Lakh Street vendors and their families, with a total target of 20 Lakh scheme sanctions for FY 2022-23.
- **Quality Council of India (QCI)** is the **implementing partner** for the programme.
- **Benefits of the scheme**
 - Vendors can avail working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.
 - Interest subsidy @ 7% per annum on regular repayment of loan.
 - No penalty on early repayment of loan.
 - Promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.
 - Vendors can avail the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan.
- **PM SVANidhi, a Central Sector Scheme**, was launched in June 2020, aims to provide an affordable working capital loan to Street Vendors.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** is the implementing agency.

1.104. EXPORT PROMOTION CAPITAL GOODS (EPCG) SCHEME

Why in news?

- Ministry of Commerce has relaxed various procedures under EPCG scheme to reduce compliance requirements and facilitate ease of doing business.
- EPCG, **zero duty scheme, enables import of capital goods that are used in pre-production, production, and post-production without payment of customs duty.**
- Exporter **has to export** finished goods **worth six times of actual duty saved** in value terms **in six years.**
- EPCG authorization holder can export either directly or through third party.

1.105. SMART CITIES, SMART URBANIZATION CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (MOHUA).

Why in news?

Key launches during the conference:

- A 'virtual hub for collaborations on urban transformation' in partnership between Smart Cities Mission and world Economic Forum to leverage emerging technologies and innovations.
- Urban Outcomes Framework 2022, Artificial Intelligence Playback for Cities & AMPLIFI (Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future-ready urban India) portal.
- Also MoHUA stated that all smart cities will get Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC) by August 15, 2022.
 - ICCC provide services to dtizens in areas of traffic management, health, water etc.
 - 80 smart cities already have ICCC.

About Smart Cities Mission (SCM)

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme (launched in 2015) to drive economic growth and improve quality of life of people by enabling local area development and harnessing technology.
- **100 cities** have been selected through a two-stage National competition.
- Central Government to provide financial support to the extent of 48000 crores over 5 years i.e. on an average 100 crores per city per year.
- An equal amount is to be provided by State/Urban Local Bodies. Emphasis has been given on public private partnerships.
- **Implementation:** By a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created for the purpose.
- Period of implementation of SCM has been extended up to June 2023.

1.106. UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN COMPLETES 4 YEARS.

Why in news?

- UBA 2.0 has completed four years.
- UBA is a flagship programme of **Ministry of Education** which aims to involve Higher Education Institutions (HEI) of the country in indigenous development of self-sufficient and sustainable village clusters.
- Major areas of intervention are Human development and Material (economic) development.
- UBA 1.0 was the Invitation Mode in which Participating Institutions were invited to be a part of UBA. Whereas UBA 2.0 is the Challenge Mode where all HEI are required to willingly adopt at least 5 villages.
- IIT Delhi is the National Coordinating Institute for UBA.

1.107. REVAMPED ZERO DEFECT ZERO EFFECT CERTIFICATION SCHEME LAUNCHED.

Why in news?

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** launched a revamped ZED Certification Scheme (originally launched in 2016), with an aim to make Indian companies globally competitive and help them get easier access to capital.
- MSMEs will get subsidy as per the following structure, on the cost of ZED certification:
 - Micro Enterprises: 80%
 - Small Enterprises: 60%
 - Medium Enterprises: 50%
- There is also provision for additional subsidy for Women/SC/ST Entrepreneurs or MSMEs in NER/Himalayan/LWE/Island territories/aspirational districts.
- It will cover both manufacturing (first phase) and services sector (2nd phase).

1.108. AZADI SE ANTODAYA TAK CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED.

Why in news?

- Ministry of Rural Development launched 90 days AKAM campaign.
- The campaign aims to saturate 17 schemes of 9 Ministries in 75 selected districts across the country.
- **Identified districts** are aligned with birth place of 99 Freedom Fighters, who made the ultimate sacrifice for nation during India's struggle for independence.
- Goal of campaign- To reach out to person at bottom of pyramid in rural areas by each of the participating ministries/departments.

PRACTICE MCQS

1. Consider the following statements regarding Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)-

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme supporting various interventions for helping MSMEs.
2. It is assisted by International Monetary Fund.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

2. Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) scheme comes under the ambit of-

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Minority Affairs
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Tourism

ANSWER: B

3. Consider the following statements regarding Stand-Up India Scheme-

1. It was launched in 2016 to support entrepreneurship among women and SC & ST communities.
2. The government specifically allocates funds for loans under the scheme.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

4. AVSAR Scheme to provide platform to SHGs has been launched by-

- A. Khadi and Village Industries Commission
- B. Airport Authority of India
- C. Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

5. PM-DAKSH yojana is a skill development scheme from-

- A. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- B. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- C. Ministry of Minority Affairs
- D. Ministry of Rural development

ANSWER: A

6. Consider the following statements about PM Svanidhi-

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme that aims to provide an affordable working capital loan to Street Vendors.
2. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the implementing agency.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

7. Consider the following statements regarding Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme-

1. It enables import of capital goods used in production without payment of customs duty.
2. It comes under the ambit of Ministry of Commerce.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

8. Consider the following statements Smart Cities Mission(SCM)-

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. Period of implementation of SCM has been extended up to June 2030.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: D

9. Consider the following statements about Unnat Bharat Abhiyan(UBA)-

1. It aims to involve Higher Education Institutions (HEI) of the country in indigenous development of self-sufficient and sustainable village clusters.
2. IIT Bombay is the National Coordinating Institute for UBA.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

10. Zero defect zero effect certification scheme has been launched by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
- B. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

ANSWER: A

11. Azadi se antodaya tak campaign has been launched by-

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Rural Development

ANSWER: D



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ENVIRONMENT

1.109. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST INTRODUCES RELAXED NORMS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS AND ORGANISMS.

Why in news?

- Central government has for the first time Issued **an order exempting** certain types of genome edited crops from the stringent regulations applicable on genetically modified or GM crops thus giving a big boost to their further research and development.
- **Gene editing** is a way of making specific changes to the DNA of a cell or organism while GMOs, are the result of tweaking the DNA of a living organism.
- In the recent past, many countries have either developed or approved for commercial cultivation of vegetables, fruits, oilseeds and cereals developed through genome editing such as Gamma-aminobutyric acid or **GABA tomato, high oleic canola and soybean, non-browning mushroom** etc.
- It allows **SDN1** and **SDN2** genome-edited products to be exempted from being treated as transgenic products (GMOs) and **taking them out of the purview of** Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee or **GEAC**.
- **SDN1** and **SDN2** involve "knocking off" or "overexpressing" certain traits in a genome without any Insertion of gene material from outside.
- **SDN** stands for **Site-directed Nuclease** and refers to the practice of cleaving DNA strands to effect the subsequent genome editing.
- **SDN3** genome-edited products will be treated as genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
- SDN3 involves insertion of foreign genes.

1.110. INDIAN WOLF POPULATION DECLINING.

Why in news?

- The first scientific population estimate of Indian peninsular wolves (*Canis lupus pallipes*) has revealed that only 3,100 members of the species are left in the country.
- Indian wolf is a **subspecies of grey wolf**.
- It is one of the common large carnivores found in scrub, grasslands and agro-pastoral regions of semi-arid India.
- **Highest concentration** is currently in **Madhya Pradesh**, followed by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- Threat- Hunting, encroachment and land conversion, growing man-animal conflict.
- **Conservation status**
- Endangered species in Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Appendix 1 of CITES.
- IUCN- **Least Concern**

1.111. ICE SHELF COLLAPSES IN EASTERN ANTARCTICA AMID SOARING TEMPERATURES.

Why in news?

- For the first time, since wide availability of satellite images, Scientists observed breakup of **Conger Ice Shelf** in eastern Antarctica.
- It is happening due to rising temperatures with both North and South Pole seeing warmer than average temperature despite opposite seasons.
- Also, a new research highlighted that **Antarctica is approaching a climate tipping point by 2060**- when Antarctic ice could begin melting at a runaway rate.
- **Climate tipping points** are points where any small change could push the earth system into abrupt or irreversible change.
- Globally, we have 9 climate tipping points-
- Amazon rainforest-Frequent droughts

- Arctic sea ice-Reduction in area
- Atlantic circulation-in slowdown since 1950s
- Boreal forest Fires and pests
- Coral reefs-Large-scale die-offs
- Greenland ice sheet-Ice loss accelerating
- Permafrost -thawing
- West Antarctic ice sheet-Ice loss accelerating
- Wilkes Basin, East Antarctica-Ice loss accelerating

About Antarctica

- 5th largest continent, Antarctica holds **90% of the Earth's total ice volume** and **70% of its fresh water**.
- Critical to global ecosystem sustainability, it **absorbs as much as 62% of global heat** and **40% of all carbon dioxide produced** by human activities.
- Also, it is a rich source of minerals (oil and gas), marine life (finfish, krill, squid) and genomic resources of indigenous biodiversity.
- Melting of the Antarctic Ice Sheet is enough to increase sea level by more than 60 m.

1.112. ARUNACHAL PRADESH AND WWF-INDIA TO DEVELOP STATE BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN.

Why in news?

- Recently , Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBB) inks a pact with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)- India to develop, the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) in New Delhi during a meeting presided by the State Environment and Forest Minister Mama Natung.
- The action plan involves multi-stakeholder consultations and a participatory approach which develops an inclusive action plan to secure nature's contribution to people.
- The SBSAP will align with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Arunachal Pradesh's recent Pakke Declaration.

About Pakke Declaration:

- The Arunachal Pradesh state cabinet on November 17 2021, adopted the '**Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh**', which aims to promote 'climate-resilient development' in the state.
- The 'Pakke Declaration' focuses on a multi-sectoral approach to low-emission and climate-resilient development based on five broad themes or **Panch Dharas** (environment, forest and climate change; health and wellbeing of all; sustainable and adaptive living; livelihoods and opportunities; and evidence generation and collaborative action).

1.113. INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC) PUBLISHES THIRD PART OF THE SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT.

Why in news?

- Report provides an updated global assessment of climate change mitigation progress and pledges, and examines the sources of global emissions.
- **Assessment Reports** are widely accepted scientific evaluations of the state of the Earth's climate.

About IPCC

- It is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
- Its objective is to provide its governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.
- It was created in 1988 by **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** and **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.

Key Findings

- **Emission Trends**- Amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted by the world needs to peak at most by 2025, followed by a 43% reduction over the next 10 years in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the year 2100. GHG emissions were 54% higher in 2019 than they were in 1990, but growth is slowing.
- **Carbon inequality** remains pervasive as ever with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) emitting only 3.3% of global emissions in 2019.
- **Carbon Capture**-Without the technology to capture and store carbon (CCS), all coal-fired power plants need to be shuttered by 2050 if the world aspired to limit global temperature rise to 1.5c.
- **Paris Agreement** -Pledges to the Paris Agreement are insufficient, emissions must fall 43% by 2030 compared to 2019.
- **Demand-side mitigation**- Right policies, infrastructure, and technology in place to enable changes to our lifestyles and behavior can result in a 40-70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- **Finance** - There is a need for scaled-up public grants, as well as increased levels of public finance and publicly mobilized private finance flows from developed to developing countries in the context of the 5100 billion-a-year goal.

1.114. CONSIDER HAVING NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (NGT) BENCHES IN EVERY STATE: SUPREME COURT (SC) TO CENTRE.

Why in news?

- SC was hearing a petition challenging various provisions of the NGT Act, 2010 including:
 - Power vested in the Centre to establish specific benches of tribunals and
 - SC as the only appellate forum against the order of the NGT
- The SC emphasised that the principle of access to justice coupled with the idea of protecting the environment should guide the Centre in considering more zonal benches.
 - At present the NGT has a presence in five zones- North, Central, East, South and West.
 - The **Principal Bench** is situated in the **North Zone**, headquartered in Delhi.
- **Benefits of zonal benches**
 - It will lighten the burden of the existing benches.
 - More people will be induced to take up the causes of protecting the environment.
 - This will bring environmental justice to the doorstep of the citizens.

About National Green Tribunal

- NGT is a **statutory** and **quasi-judicial body** established under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection.
- It is not bound by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872 but is guided by **principles of natural justice**.
- **Jurisdiction of NGT**: civil cases under the **seven laws** related to the environment
 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
 - The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
 - The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
 - The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
 - The Biological Diversity Act 2002

1.115. DISTRICT GANGA COMMITTEES (DGCs).

Why in news?

- **Minister for Jal Shakti** launched Digital Dashboard for DGCs Performance Monitoring System.
- DGCs were constituted in districts on Ganga River basin to ensure people's participation in management and pollution abatement in Ganga and its tributaries.
- DGCs are mandated to
 - Ensure proper utilization of assets created under Namami Gange,
 - Monitor drains/sewage falling in Ganga and its tributaries,

- Create strong connect of people with Ganga rejuvenation.
- **District Collector** is the Chairperson of DGC.

1.116. IPCC REPORT-GLOBAL EMISSIONS CAN BE REDUCED BY 50% WITH MAJOR ENERGY SECTOR TRANSITIONS.

Why in news?

- In accordance with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group III report released recently, titled '**Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of climate change**', global emissions can be halved by 2030 with major transitions in the energy sector.
- There is a need for immediate mitigation actions to limit global warming to 1.5°C (2.7°F) otherwise it will be beyond reach.
- The report released worldwide was approved by 195 member governments of the IPCC through a virtual approval session that started on March 21. It is the third installment of the IPCC's sixth assessment report (AR6), which will be completed in 2022.

Highlights from Report:

- The report cautioned that limiting warming to around 1.5°C requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest, and be reduced by 43% by 2030. Methane also needs to be reduced by about a third.
- The global temperature will stabilize when carbon dioxide emissions reach net zero.
- For 1.5°C (2.7°F) net zero carbon dioxide emissions to be achieved globally in the early 2050s;
- For 2°C (3.6°F), it is to be achieved in the early 2070s.
- In 2010-2019, the average annual global greenhouse gas emissions were at their highest levels in human history.
- The steps to limit global warming include substantial reduction in fossil fuel use, widespread electrification, improved energy efficiency, and use of alternative fuels (such as hydrogen).
- The implementation of effective policies, regulations, market instruments, infrastructure and technology can reduce 40-70% greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and also improve health and well-being.

About IPCC

- IPCC is the United Nations (UN) body for assessing the science related to climate change.
- It is **headquartered** at Geneva, Switzerland.
- It was established by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988. It has three working groups:
 - **Working Group I**- Deals with the physical science basis of climate change; Working Group II- Deals with impacts, adaptation and vulnerability;
 - **Working Group II**- Deals with the mitigation of climate change.
 - **Working Group III** report provides an updated global assessment of climate change mitigation progress and pledges, and examines the sources of global emissions.
 - AR6 Working Group III includes 278 authors from 65 countries.

1.117. NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NTCA).

Why in news?

- Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change chaired the 20th NTCA in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It released the three reports
 - Tiger Reintroduction and Supplementation in Wild Protocol
 - Forest Fire Audit protocol for tiger reserve
 - Technical manual on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of tiger reserve. MEE exercise in tiger reserves was initiated in 2006 and four cycles have been completed.
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**.
- It was established in **2005** following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.

- It was constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it.
- It approves the Tiger Conservation Plan prepared by the State Governments.

1.118. ODISHA'S BARBARA FOREST SET FOR ECOTOURISM PUSH

Why in news?

- **Barbara forest** is significant as it is known as **Asia's largest Teak and Sal forest**.
- It is **located near Chilika lake** in **coastal Odisha** and is inhabited by **Sabara tribes**.
 - Ecotourism is defined as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education".
- It aims to support Forest & Wildlife conservation by providing alternative livelihood to Forest dependent communities in State.
- In order to promote ecotourism, Ministry of Tourism has also formulated a Draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Sustainable Tourism with focus on ecotourism.

1.119. ECUADOR BECOMES 1ST COUNTRY TO GIVE LEGAL RIGHTS TO WILD ANIMALS.

Why in news?

- **Ecuador**, a South American Country, became the first country in the **world to give legal rights to wild animals**. The highest court in the country has ruled in favour of the case that focused on a woolly monkey named "**Estrellita**" who was taken from her home to a zoo, where she passed just a week later.
- The court decided to rule in favour of Estrellita and said that her rights had been violated by the government. However, they added that the animal's rights were also violated by the owner when she removed her from her natural habitat at a young age. The Court has finally stated that animals are subject to rights protected by the rights of nature.

1.120. UN-FAO: MUMBAI AND HYDERABAD RECOGNISED AS '2021 TREE CITY OF THE WORLD'.

Why in news?

- The **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** and Arbor Day Foundation have jointly recognised **Mumbai and Hyderabad** as the '**2021 Tree City of the World**'.
- The two Indian cities have won the recognition for their "commitment to growing and maintaining urban trees and greenery in building healthy, resilient and happy cities".
- It must be noted that Hyderabad has been recognised for a second consecutive year. In 2021, **Hyderabad** was the only city in India to be recognised as a '**2020 Tree City of the World**'. Apart from Hyderabad and Mumbai 136 other cities from 21 countries have been recognised in the third edition of the Tree City of the World list.

About the programme:

- The United Nations' 'Tree City of the World' programme provides direction, assistance, and worldwide recognition for communities' dedication to its urban forest, and provides a framework for a healthy, sustainable urban forestry.

1.121. VAQUITA PORPOISE

Why in news?

- Global population of **Vaquita porpoise** (porpoise family) declined by 98% in 2 decades.
- World's smallest cetacean and most endangered marine mammal.
 - Known as "**panda of the sea**" for the distinctive black circles around its eyes.
- Scientific Name: *Phocoena sinus*
- Habitat: Found in Gulf of California in Mexico.
- IUCN status: **Critically endangered**.
- Threat: Gillnet fishing for totoaba, endangered fish threatened by illegal fishing for international markets.

1.122. CENTRE WOULD ESTABLISH SEAWEED PARK WITH SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE STATUS IN TAMIL NADU.

Why in news?

- As per Minister of State for Fishing, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, for the first time in country, a seaweed park will be set up in Tamil Nadu to improve the livelihood of fishermen.
- It will be implemented under the **Prime Minister's Matsya Sampada Yojana**.
- **Seaweeds**, the primitive, marine non-flowering marine algae without root, stem and leaves, plays a major role in marine ecosystems.
- Range in colours from red, green, brown and black and also vary in size, from microscopic to large underwater forests.
- Large seaweeds form dense underwater forests known as kelp forests, which act as underwater nurseries for fish, snails and sea urchins.
- Found mostly in intertidal region (Southern Gulf of Mannar), shallow and deep waters of the sea and estuaries and backwaters.

Significance of seaweeds

- Storehouse of nutrients like iron, zinc, magnesium, riboflavin, thiamine, vitamin A, B, C & K etc.
- Act as a bio-indicator and balance out the ecosystem.
- Mitigating climate change.
- Used as fertilizers and to increase fish production.
- Can be buried in beach dunes to combat beach erosion.
- Used as an ingredient in preparing toothpaste, cosmetics and paints.
- Govt also runs a **Seaweed Mission**, launched by **Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)**, for commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing.

1.123. DESERT NATIONAL PARK (DNP).

Why in news?

- A green agriculture project funded **by the FAO's Global Environment Facility (GEF)** will help with the conservation of critical biodiversity in DNP.
 - **GEF** is a partnership of 18 agencies and 183 countries to address the world's most challenging environmental issues related to biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, chemicals, and international waters.
- **DNP** lies in the **Jaisalmer and Barmer districts** of Rajasthan.
- **Landform**: sand dunes, craggy rocks and compact Salt Lake bottoms.
- **Climate**: Extreme hot, arid region of very low rainfall zone.
- **Flora**: Thorn forest, Khejritree etc.
- **Fauna**: Blackbuck, Chinkara, Indian Fox, desert fox, Great Indian Bustard, etc.

1.124. NITROGEN LEVELS ON A DECLINE IN 'NITROGEN-RICH WORLD', PLANTS AND ANIMALS MAY FACE CONSEQUENCES.

Why in news?

- As per a new study, an imbalance in nitrogen availability has been reported across the globe, with some places having an excess and others a shortage.
- Nitrogen (N) is **one of the building blocks of life** and is essential for all plants and animals to survive.
- **Without nitrogen plants grow slowly and produce smaller flowers and fruits.**
- Nitrogen is **also a core component of amino acids** (building blocks of proteins) and of **nucleic acids** (building blocks of genetic material RNA and DNA).

- When **excessive nitrogen** accumulates in the streams, inland lakes and coastal bodies of water, it could **result in eutrophication**, leading to **harmful algal blooms, dead zones and fish kills**.

Nitrogen Cycle

- Movement of nitrogen between the atmosphere, biosphere, and geosphere in different forms is called the nitrogen cycle.
- Bacteria in the soil "fix" atmospheric nitrogen into ammonia, which plants need in order to grow. > Other bacteria convert the ammonia into amino acids and proteins. Then animals eat the plants and consume the protein.
- Nitrogen compounds return to the soil through animal waste. Bacteria convert the waste nitrogen back to nitrogen gas, which returns to the atmosphere.

About Nitrogen

- Earth's atmosphere constitutes **78 percent of Nitrogen gas**. In its gaseous form, nitrogen is colorless, odorless and generally considered as inert at normal temperatures and pressures.
- In liquid form it looks similar to water.

1.125. INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD) PREDICTS NORMAL MONSOON FOR THE COUNTRY THIS YEAR.

Why in news?

- As per IMD, quantitatively, monsoon seasonal rainfall from June to September is likely to be 99 percent of the **Long Period Average (LPA)**.
 - LPA of rainfall is the rainfall recorded over a particular region for a given interval (like month or season) average over a long period like 30 years, 50-years etc.
 - It acts as a **benchmark while forecasting the quantitative rainfall** for that region for a specific month or season.
- Large excess, excess, normal, deficient, large deficient rainfall are **categories** of rainfall used to describe realised rainfall averaged over various temporal scales like daily, weekly, monthly etc for spatial scales like districts, states operationally.
- Major factors governing inter-annual variation of south west monsoon are **El nino Southern oscillation (ENSO)** and **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**.
 - ENSO is a **periodic fluctuation** (i.e., every 2-7 years) in sea surface temperature (El Nino) and air pressure of the overlying atmosphere (Southern Oscillation) across the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
 - IOD** refers to the difference in sea-surface temperatures in opposite parts of the Indian Ocean. During positive IOD, monsoon rainfall is considerably good as compared to the negative IOD period.

Category	Realised Rainfall of LPA
Large excess	≥50%
Excess	20% to 59%
Normal	-19%to +19%
Deficient	-59% to -20%
Large deficient	-99% to -60%

1.126. ACTINIMENES KOYAS: NEW SHRIMP SPECIES DISCOVERED OFF AGATTI ISLANDS, LAKSHADWEEP.

Why in news?

- Scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) have discovered a new species of shrimp which has been named "Actinimenes koyas" to honour **Koyas**, the local community on the Lakshadweep islands, Arabian Sea.
- Discovery:
- The new species was collected at a depth of 1.0-2.0 m from the coral atoll of Agatti Island, a part of the Lakshadweep group of islands by a team of scientists.
- The new species was discovered by the team during their work on documenting the aquatic genetic resources with special attention on fish and shell fish resources.

About Actinimenes koyas

- Actinimenes koyas, the new species is closely related to other shrimp species in morphological traits and it is distinguished from the other species by the structural variation in the fourth sternal plate with a median notch.
- The new species is associated with the sea anemone, Heteractis magnifica and this is the 2nd representative of the genus Actinimenes ourii and Horki described from the Arabian sea.

1.127. GREEN HYDROGEN.

Why in news?

- Oil India Limited (OIL) has commissioned India's first 99.999% pure green hydrogen plant in Jorhat, Assam.

About Green Hydrogen:

- Defined as hydrogen produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable energy such as wind or solar power that does not entail greenhouse gas emissions.
- Hydrogen gas can be used as a fuel in transportation, power generation, and industrial activities.

1.128. FIRST CARBON-NEUTRAL PANCHAYAT.

Why in news?

- **Palli** in Jammu becomes India's first carbon-neutral panchayat.
- **Carbon neutrality** means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks.
- Removing carbon oxide from the atmosphere and then storing it is known as carbon sequestration.

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PRACTICE MCQS

1. Consider the following statements gene editing-

1. Gene editing is a way of making specific changes to the DNA of a cell or organism.
2. GABA tomato, high oleic canola and soybean, non-browning mushroom etc are few examples of gene edited products.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

2. Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Wolf-

1. It is a subspecies of grey wolf.
2. It is listed in IUCN Red List as Vulnerable species.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

3. Consider the following statements regarding Antartica-

1. It holds 90% of the Earth's total ice volume and 70% of its fresh water.
2. It is one of the global climate tipping points.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

4. Pakke or Pakhui Tiger reserve is situated in -

- A. Assam
- B. Nagaland
- C. West Bengal
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

ANSWER: D

5. Third part of Sixth Assessment Report was published recently by-

- A. World meteorological organisation
- B. World wildlife fund for nature
- C. Intergovernmental panel on climate change

D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

6. Consider the following statements regarding National Green Tribunal-

1. It is a statutory and quasi-judicial body and guided by principles of natural justice.
2. It jurisdiction spans across seven laws including Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

7. Consider the following statements regarding IPCC's sixth assessment report (AR6)-

1. For 1.5°C (2.7°F) rise, net zero carbon dioxide emissions to be achieved globally in the early 2050s.
2. AR6 Working Group III includes 278 authors from 65 countries.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

8. Consider the following statements about National Tiger Conservation Authority-

1. It was established in 1973 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
2. NTCA approves the Tiger Conservation Plan prepared by the State Governments.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: B

9. Barbara forest, known as Asia's largest Teak and Sal forest is located in-

- A. West Bengal
- B. Odisha
- C. Bihar
- D. Telangana

ANSWER: B

10. Which country has become the first country to give legal rights to wild animals?

- A. Ethiopia

- B. New Zealand
- C. Kenya
- D. Ecuador

ANSWER: D

11. Which of the following Indian city have been recognised as the '2021 Tree City of the World'?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Pune
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Both A and C

ANSWER: D

12. Consider the following statements with respect to Vaquita Porpoise, a species of Cetacians-

- 1. Its IUCN Red list status is critically endangered.
- 2. It is found in Red Sea.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

13. A sea weed park to be established as Special Economic Zone is about to be set up in-

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

ANSWER: D

14. Consider the following statements about Desert National park-

- 1. It spreads across Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- 2. Sand dunes, craggy rocks and compact Salt Lake bottoms are the major landforms found here.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: B

15. Consider the following statements regarding Nitrogen-

- 1. It is a macro nutrient needed in soil for plant growth.
- 2. Nitrogen is a core component of amino acids and nucleic acids.
- 3. In liquid form it looks similar to water.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: D

16. Consider the following statements about monsoon-

1. Rainfall between -19% to +19% of Long period average is considered as Normal Monsoon.
2. A positive Indian Ocean Dipole and El Nino has positive impact on monsoon for India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

17. Actinimenes koyas is a recently discovered species of-

- A. Frogs
- B. Tulips
- C. Shrimps
- D. Gecko lizard

ANSWER: C

18. India's first 99.999% pure green hydrogen plant has been commissioned in-

- A. Gujarat
- B. Assam
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

19. India's first carbon-neutral panchayat of village 'Palli' is located in-

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. West Bengal
- C. Puducherry
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: A

GEOGRAPHY

1.129. ATTAPPADY.

Why in news?

- Prehistoric relics are discovered along the banks of three rivers flowing through **Attappady hills** in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Attappady is a tribal block in Palakkad district of Kerala with **hulas, Mudugas** and **Kurumbas** as main tribes.
- The archaeological finds include- stone tools, inhabited caves, menhirs, cists or burial chambers, stone circles, burial urns, black and red ware pottery, terracotta images, stone carvings, and granite inscriptions.

1.130. KURIL ISLANDS.

Why in news?

- As per Japan, the disputed islands are illegally occupied by Russia.
- Japan has called these islands - the Northern Territories - while Russia calls them the southern Kurils.
- Japan claims the Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan and Habomai islands in Kuril Island chain.
- **Location:** Chain of volcanic island archipelago stretches north across the Pacific Ocean from the Japan's Hokkaido to the southernmost tip of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula.
- It separates the **Sea of Okhotsk** from the **Pacific Ocean**.
- Other features
- Vegetation: Ranges from tundra on the northern islands to dense forest on the larger southern islands
- Kuril Islands form part of the ring of tectonic instability encircling the Pacific Ocean referred to as the **Pacific Ring of Fire**.

1.131. KOREAN PENINSULA.

Why in news?

- Recently, North and South Korea leaders exchanged letters with the hope to make the Korean Peninsula peaceful.
- It is located in East Asia, connected with mainland Asia and contains North Korea and South Korea (with **38th Parallel** as a separation line).
- It lies in the Pacific Ocean and is surrounded by Yellow Sea in West and Sea of Japan in East with Korean Strait joining the two seas.
- From the mainland, the **Amnok River** separates it from China and the **Duman River** from Russia and China.
- Other Geographical Features:
 - Tallest mountain: Mount Paektu.
 - Longest River: Amnok River.

1.132. PRANAHITA RIVER.

Why in news?

- Pranahita Pushkaralu festival organised on banks of Pranahita river concludes.
- Pranahita is **largest tributary** of the **Godavari River**.
- It originates in Madhya Pradesh, merges with Godavari River at Kaleshwaram, Telangana.
- Kaleshwaram is called **Triveni Sangamam** as it's the confluence point for **Godavari, Saraswathi and Pranahita rivers**.
- Godavari river rises from Trimbakeshwar in the Nashik district of Maharashtra and flows for most of its course generally eastward across broad plateau of Deccan (peninsular India).

1.133. INDIA SUPPORTS RESOLUTION OF FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE.

Why in news?

- Argentina acknowledges Indian support for resolving Falklands dispute issue.
- It remains the subject of a sovereignty dispute between Britain and Argentina, who waged a brief but bitter war over the territory in 1982.
- Location: It is located in the South Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Argentina.
- They consist of two main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, together with about large number smaller islands.
- Ranges of hills run east-west across the northern parts of the two main islands, reaching 2,312 feet at **Mount Osborne** in East Falkland.
- The coastal topography features many drowned river valleys that form protected harbours.
- The islands **vegetation is low and dense** in a landscape with **no natural tree growth**.



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PRACTICE MCQS

1. Prehistoric relics were recently discovered from Attappady. It is located in-

- A. Kerala
- B. Telangana
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: A

2. Who is the Chairperson of a District Ganga Committee?

- A. Member of Parliament
- B. District Collector
- C. Member of Legislative Assembly
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

3. Consider the following statements about Kuril Islands-

- 1. It is a chain of volcanic island archipelago that separates Sea of Okhotsk from the Pacific Ocean.
- 2. They form part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

4. North Korea and South Korea are separated by-

- A. 31st Parallel
- B. 38th Parallel
- C. 44th Parallel
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

5. Consider the following statements regarding Pranhita river-

- 1. It originates in Madhya Pradesh.
- 2. It is largest tributary of the Mahanadi River.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

6. Consider the following statements regarding Falkland Islands-

1. It is a subject of a sovereignty dispute between Britain and Chile.
2. It is located in the South Pacific Ocean.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: D



HEALTH

1.134. ONE HEALTH PILOT PROJECT.

Why in news?

- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) has launched a pilot project in **Uttarakhand** to implement the **One Health Framework by the One Health Support Unit**.
 - The **objective** of the One Health Support Unit is **to develop a One Health roadmap based on the experience gained** from the pilot project's implementation.
 - An Inter-ministerial One Health committee has also been established that will help in the One Health Support Unit's implementation.
 - A Project Steering Committee (PSC) has also been constituted. Based on this committee's recommendations, the district and state level one health committees need to be constituted.
- Under this pilot project, **activities like data collection on disease outbreaks, management, prevalence, and development of surveillance plans, laboratories network integration, development and implementation of communication strategies across various sectors and data integration of the National Digital Livestock Mission's digital architecture will be undertaken.**
- The "One Health India" program will be working with various stakeholders from across various sectors to improve human health, livestock health, environmental health, and wildlife health through the usage of finance and technology.

1.135. INDIAN SARS-COV-2 GENOMIC CONSORTIUM (INSACOG).

Why in news?

- After decline in symptomatic Covid-19, INSACOG has started surveillance of sewage water samples across 55 sites to detect Sars-CoV-2 presence.
- INSACOG is a **consortium of 38 laboratories** established in 2020 to assess SARS-CoV-2 genomic variants from Indian patients.
- It was **jointly established** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- It helps to correlate whole genomics sequencing (WGS) data with clinical/epidemiological data for advance preparedness for public health interventions.

1.136. INDIA'S FIRST CASE OF XE VARIANT OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE REPORTED FROM MUMBAI.

Why in news?

- The first case of the XE variety of the coronavirus illness (Covid-19) in India was reported in Mumbai.
- The city civic authority Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) announced the results of its 11th genome sequencing, which identified one sample positive for the XE variant and another for the Kappa variant.
- According to **BMC** officials, the person who tested positive for the XE strain was a fully vaccinated 50-year-old woman who had no co-morbidities and was asymptomatic.
- According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the new **subvariant 'XE'**, which is a hybrid strain of two Omicron subvariants, could be the most transmissible coronavirus strain ever discovered.
- **INSACOG**, which sequenced the case's genome, stated that the sample did not indicate the presence of the variation.
- **XE** is a **hybrid or recombinant of Omicron's two sub-variants (BA.1 and BA.2)**. The BA.2 sub-lineage has been linked to **COVID-19** instances in the **United States, the United Kingdom, and China**.
- Early research suggested the variant had a 10% growth rate advantage over **BA.2**, one of the most contagious types, according to the World health organization.

1.137. KADAM- INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED POLYCENTRIC PROSTHETIC KNEE BY IIT MADRAS.

Why in news?

- India's first indigenously developed polycentric prosthetic knee - Kadam was launched by the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M), the Above Knee Prosthesis was developed in association with Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and Mobility India.
- Kadam will help people with above-knee amputees to walk in comfortable gait.
- Kadam has multiple axes hinge joints for rotation which provide greater control over the prosthesis and gives a maximum knee flexion of 160 degrees to make it easy to sit in cramped spaces like buses and autos.
- The design includes high durable stainless steel and aluminium alloy along with hard chrome plated EN8 pins and high fatigue life polymer bushings, which was developed by a team at TTK Centre for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2) at IIT-M.
- The Kadam prosthetic knee is suitable for both short and long residual limbs after transfemoral (above-knee) amputation and comes with a patented 4-bar geometry that provides stability even on uneven terrain and improved ground clearance.

1.138. COLOUR BLINDNESS.

Why in news?

- Supreme Court directed FTII not to exclude candidates suffering from colour blindness from film making and editing courses.

About Colour blindness:

- **Inability to distinguish between certain colours**- usually greens and reds, and sometimes blues as well.
- **Causes:** Most cases are people born with the condition (congenital colour blindness), but some can develop it later in life.
- Medical conditions like glaucoma, diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's etc may increase the risk.
- The most common kinds of **color blindness are genetic and mostly men are affected by it** (since it is passed down through X chromosome and men have only 1 X chromosome).

1.139. PRIME MINISTER LAYS THE FOUNDATION STONE OF WHO GLOBAL CENTRE FOR TRADITIONAL MEDICINE (GCTM) IN JAMNAGAR.

Why in news?

- The Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organisation (WHO) established the world's **first and only Global Centre- GCTM** to harness the potential of traditional medicine (TM) from across the world through modern science and technology.
 - It helps to implement WHO's Traditional Medicine Strategy (2014-23) to strengthen the role of TM in pursuing the goal of universal health coverage.
 - As per WHO, **Traditional Medicine** refers to sum total of knowledge, skills and practices based on theories, beliefs and experiences indigenously to different cultures that have been used over time to maintain health as well as prevent, diagnose and treat physical and mental illness.
- **Five goals of GCTM**
 - Create a database of traditional knowledge systems using technology.
 - Create international standards for testing and certification of TMs.
 - To evolve as a platform where global experts of TMs come together and share experiences.
 - Mobilize funding for research in the field of TMs.
 - Develop protocols for holistic treatment of specific diseases to benefit patients from both traditional and modern medicine.
- **Significance of GCTM**

- Improve overall health of the communities' world over. It helps to advance the SDG 3 target of ensuring health and promoting wellbeing for all of all ages.
- It will promote cooperation and synergy between traditional medicine and modern allopathic medicine.
- Recognises India's potential to provide leadership in traditional medicine.
- Position AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and experiences indigenous to different cures that have been used Homeopathy) systems across the globe.

1.140. ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS SYNDROME (AES).

Why in news?

- Authorities in Bihar are working **on strategies to prevent AES as rising temperature and humidity** reignite fears of an outbreak.
- AES is **characterized as acute-onset of fever and a change in mental status** and/or new-onset of seizures in a person of any age at any time of the year.
- It most **commonly affects children and young adults** and can lead to considerable morbidity and mortality.
- **Viruses** are the main causative agents in AES cases, although other sources such as **bacteria, fungus, parasites, spirochetes, chemicals, toxins and non-infectious agents** have also been reported.

1.141. CANINE DISTEMPER VIRUS.

Why in news?

- The Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre has developed and completed the first trials of the Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) vaccine for the Asiatic lion.
- Canine distemper is caused by the **paramyxovirus virus** and it spreads through body fluids like infected urine, blood and saliva.
- The virus attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of puppies and dogs and can be transmitted to lions, tigers, leopards and other wild cats as well as seals.
- There is no known cure for CDV.

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PRACTICE MCQS

1. Recently a pilot project on One Health Framework has been launched in-

- A. Bihar
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: D

2. Consider the following statements with respect Indian Sars-CoV-2 Genomic Consortium (INSACOG)-

- 1. It is a consortium of 38 laboratories established in 2020 to assess SARS-CoV-2 genomic variants from Indian patients.
- 2. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organisation.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

3. India's first case of XE variant of coronavirus disease has been reported from-

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Delhi
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: A

4. Kadam , India's first indigenously developed polycentric prosthetic knee was recently launched by-

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIT Kharagpur
- D. IIT Madras

ANSWER: D

5. Consider the following statements about colour blindness-

- 1. It entails inability to distinguish between certain colours usually greens, reds and sometimes blues.
- 2. Most common kinds of color blindness are genetic and mostly men are affected by it.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

6. Consider the following statements regarding Traditional medicine-

1. It includes knowledge, skills and practices based on theories, beliefs of different cultures.
2. WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar is only one in the world.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

7. Consider the following statements about Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)-

1. It is characterized as acute-onset of fever and a change in mental status.
2. It most commonly affects older population.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

8. Consider the following statements about Canine Distemper Virus-

1. Canine distemper is caused by the paramyxovirus virus and it spreads through body fluids like infected urine, blood and saliva.
2. There is no known cure for Canine Distemper Virus.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

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ART AND CULTURE

1.142. ACHARYA CHARAK.

Why in news?

- National Medical Commission has recommended a modified Maharishi Charak Shapath for candidates on introduction to medical education.
- **Acharya Charak**, also known as **Pranacharya Charak**, was born in Kashmir and remembered as **Father of Indian Medicine**.
- He was an Ayurvedic practitioner and **considered to be a court physician of King Kanishka**.
- He wrote **Charaka Samhita**, a Sanskrit text on Ayurveda dealing with subjects such as basic physiological and anatomical details of humans, Tridosha (vata, pitta and kapha), etc.
 - **Charaka Samhita** is dedicated to **Maharshi Bharadwaja**, as it traces its root to Atharva Veda with verses from Maharshi Bharadwaja to treat various ailments.
 - **Agnivesha Samhita** (by Rishi Agnivesha) on Ayurveda is also mentioned in Charaka Samhita.

1.143. VIKRAM SAMVAT.

Why in news?

- Recently, the PM greeted people at the start of New Samvatsar (New Year), i.e. the start of Vikram Samvat 2079.
- Vikram Samvat is a lunar calendar started by **King Vikramaditya** of Ujjain in 57 BC (zero year) to mark his victory over Sakas.

1.144. MINISTRY OF CULTURE LAUNCHES 'TEMPLE 360' WEBSITE.

Why in news?

- The Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, **Meenakshi Lekhi** has launched a website '**Temple 360**' during an event organized by the Ministry of Culture at IGNCA Amphitheatre, Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts, New Delhi under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

About the Temple 360:

- Temple 360 is a digital platform where anyone can visit or do darshan of **12 Jyotirlinga** and **Char Dham** from any location, making everyone's life convenient while also keeping people connected.
- The website also allows a devotee to perform **e-Darshan, e-Prashad, e-Aarti** and several other services. Temple 360 is a website where one can visit a temple of their choice, anytime and from anywhere from India.
- With the help of this website, one can digitally witness the magnificence of some of the most pious Hindu pilgrimages that exist. The website also allows a devotee to perform e-aarti and several other services.

1.145. NATIONAL CALENDAR.

Why in news?

- 65th anniversary of the adoption of the National Calendar of India is being celebrated.

About National Calendar

- It is based on the Saka era, adopted on 22 March 1957 by the government along with the Gregorian calendar.
- It is based on the ascension of King Shalivaahan to the throne in 78 AD.
- One year consists of 365 days, with Chaitra being the first month of the year.
- New year starts on 22 March in a normal year, and on 21 March in a leap year.
- It was adopted on the recommendation of Calendar Reform Committee (Chaired by **Meghnad Saha**)

- It is used in the Gazette of India, News broadcast by All India Radio, Government communications addressed to the public and Calendars issued by the Government.

1.146. SARHUL FESTIVAL 2022 CELEBRATED IN JHARKHAND.

Why in news?

- **Sarhul is the festival** of the New Year celebrated in the state of **Jharkhand** by the tribal communities as part of the local **Sarna religion**. It is celebrated in the Hindu month of Chaitra, three days after the appearance of the new moon.
- It is also a celebration of the beginning of spring. The word "Sarhul" is connected with tree worship. It is a festival where nature is venerated. In the year 2022, it falls on **04 April, Monday**.

About the festival:

- Sarhul is celebrated by many tribes in Jharkhand, but most notably the Munda, Ho, and Oraon tribes. While nature veneration is an important aspect of the festival, there are also many cultural programmes that are enjoyed along with it.
- Among these many cultural events is "Baa Porob", the festival of flowers and the worship of the Sal Tree as well as a special Sarhul dance.
- The festivities around Sarhul are made even more special with the many festive delicacies that are cooked and enjoyed, such as the rice dish called "handia", a baked or dried fish dish called "fish sukha".

1.147. CENTRE OPPOSES ODISHA'S ORDINANCE FOR LANDMARK LINGARAJ TEMPLE.

Why in news?

- The **Lingaraj Temple Ordinance** of 2020 was introduced by the **Odisha government to manage the rituals and other activities of the temple** and eight other associated temples.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs contended that since the ordinance covers 12 centrally protected monuments including the Lingaraj temple and three tanks, it was outside the legislative competence of the state legislature as it violates the provisions of **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958**.
 - The AMASR Act provides for preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
- The ordinance also provides for repair and construction of new buildings while the centre contended that constructions can only be allowed by the National Monuments Authority.
- **Lingaraj Temple**, dedicated to **Lord Shiva** is one of oldest in Bhubaneswar, **was constructed by King Jajati Keshari in 10th Century** and **completed by King Lalatendu Keshari** in 11th Century.
- **Built in red stone** and is a classic example of **Kalinga style of architecture**.
- It is divided into four sections - **Garbha Griha** (sanctum sanctorum), **Yajna Shala** (hall for prayers), **Bhoga Mandap** (hall of offering) and **Natya Shala** (hall of dance).

1.148. PRESIDENT INAUGURATES MADHAVPUR MELA.

Why in news?

- Recently, President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated the annual Madhavpur Mela. It is a five-day cultural fair that is held in Madhavpur, the coastal village, located 60 kilometers south of Porbandar.
- This festival celebrates the marriage of Lord Krishna with Rukmini.
- This marriage is said to have taken place in Madhavpur.
- It is said that Rukmini was from the present-day Arunachal Pradesh.
- On Ram Navami, Madhavpur Mela begins.
- Ram Navami is the day that marks the birth of Lord Rama.
- A Madhavrai temple of the 15th-century marks the site of this fair.
- Every year during this event a cultural fair is also held.

- A chariot is decorated colourfully and it carries the idol of Lord Krishna around the village.
- The festivities are usually held for a period of five days.

1.149. MIRAT-UL-AKHBAR.

Why in news?

- Recently, Mirat-ul-Akhbar completed 200 years.
- First published on 12 April 1822, Mirat-ul-Akhbar was **India's first Persian Journal** started by **Raja Ram Mohan Roy**.
- It was **published on a weekly basis** on Fridays.
- In 1823, it was stopped from publication under the Licensing Regulations for Press.
- Other Contributions of Raja Ram Mohan Roy: Set up Hindu College (1817), Brahma Samaj (1828), fought against Sati tradition, child marriage etc.

1.150. 103 YEARS OF JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE.

Why in news?

- 103 years ago, on 13th April 1919, the horrific Jallianwala Bagh Massacre took place. To date, it is one of the country's darkest days in history. On this day, General Reginald Dyer of the British Empire ordered his troops to fire upon the people who were protesting peacefully at Jallianwala Bagh.
- The firing by the troops killed around 379 people and the entire nation was shocked due to this incident.

Background

- Thousands of people had gathered at Jallianwala Bagh to celebrate Baisakhi and to protest peacefully against the arrest of two leaders, Saifuddin Kitchlew, and Satyapal. But at that time processions and public meetings were banned in India and the villagers were unaware of it.
- Dyer entered the venue with his troops and blocked the only entrance. Then he passed the order of shooting at the unarmed civilians. After the incident, Dyer stated that his act was not to disperse the meeting but to punish the Indians who were present at the venue for disobedience. According to the official figures provided by the British government, 379 people were killed with thousands severely injured. But, as per the Congress, more than 1,000 Indians lost their lives that day.

The aftermath of the incident

- **Mahatma Gandhi** and **Rabindranath Tagore** condemned this unjust attack on the peaceful protestors and renounced their **Kaiser-i-Hind medal** and **British Knighthood** respectively.
- There were protests across the country against the incident. The actions of Dyer were criticized by many including former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. After this incident, the Hunter commission was set up to investigate the incident, and Dyer was removed from duty after the commission submitted its report. Dyer passed away on 23rd July 1927 due to a cerebral haemorrhage.

1.151. DEOGHAR TEMPLE JHARKHAND.

Why in news?

- Tragedy struck recently at Tirkut Hills close to Baidyanath Temple in Jharkhand's Deogarh after some cable cars in a ropeway collided with each other.
- Also known as Baidyanath Jyotirlinga temple, Deogarh temple is one of the twelve Jyotirlinga in India.
- A **Jyotirlinga** is a shrine where Lord Shiva is worshipped in the form of a fiery column of light.
- The other 11 Jyotirlingas are
 - Somnath in Gujarat,
 - Mallikarjuna at Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh,
 - Mahakaleswar at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh,
 - Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh,

- Kedarnath in Uttrakhand,
- Bhimashankar at Pune in Maharashtra,
- Viswanath at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh,
- Tryambakeshwar at Nashik in Maharashtra,
- Aundha Nagnath at Aundha in Hingoli District in Maharashtra,
- Rameshwar at Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu and
- Grushneshwar at Ellora near Aurangabad, in Maharashtra.

1.152. INDIA'S 1ST COMMUNITY MUSEUM INAUGURATED IN GYA-SASOMA VILLAGES, LEH, LADAKH.

Why in news?

- Tashi Gyaltsen, Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, LAHDC, Leh inaugurated the Community Museum in Gya - Sasoma villages of Leh district in Ladakh. This is a first of its kind museum in India.
- The Community Museum is a joint collaboration between National Museum Institute(NMI), New Delhi, Delhi and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council(LAHDC), Leh, Ladakh.
- The Museum aims to preserve and take forward the rich cultural heritage of the region.
- Gya-Sasoma villagers in Leh have contributed to a variety of articles and collections to establish the Community Museum in traditional Ladakhi house.
- Along with the villagers, women associations of the villages, Department of Museology NMI and LAHDC, Leh has participated in the establishment of the community Museum.
 - Gya, situated on the Leh-Manali National Highway, is the first village and oldest inhabitation in Upper Ladakh.

Features of the Museum

- The traditional house, where the Museum is established has several architectural spaces and features.
- The museum features several traditional utility items, textiles, dresses and the antiquities of the day-to-day life of Gya-Sasoma.

1.153. KHALSA PANTH.

Why in news?

- Prime Minister greeted the Sikhs on the special occasion of Khalsa Saajna Diwas which marks the anniversary of the beginning of Khalsa Panth.

About Khalsa panth

- The term 'Khalsa' means sovereign or free.
- On this day in 1699, tenth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh Ji established the Khalsa Panth.
- It was established in order to teach the followers that no ritual or superstition is above Almighty and one should not fall for any superstition.

1.154. CHENNAKESHAHA TEMPLE.

Why in news?

- The rathotsava at the 900-year-old Chennakeshava temple of **Belur in Karnataka** began with the syncretic tradition after the moulvi recited the Koran. The origin of this tradition is not known.
- The temple was built in the early 12th century by the **Hoysala ruler, Vishnuvardhana**.
- Built with soapstone, the temple features a **very detailed finish**.
- Enclosed by a **Prakara with a Gopura built in the Vijayanagar style**, the temple stands on a platform or Jagati and looks like a huge casket.

1.155. CYCLOPEAN WALL.

Why in news?

- Bihar sends fresh proposal seeking UNESCO's heritage tag for 2,500-yr-old 'Cyclopean wall'.
- It is **40 km long wall of stone which encircled the ancient city of Rajgir** to protect it from external enemies and invaders, built before 3rd century BC.
- The ancient city of **Rajgir** was the capital city of King Bimbisara and his son Ajatshatru who were contemporaries of the Buddha.
- It is called as the Cyclopean wall for its similarities with ancient Greek walls.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Bihar- **Nalanda University** and **Mahabodhi temple of Bodhygaya**.

1.156. BAOLIS/STEPWELL.

Why in news?

- Ministry of Culture inaugurated Photo exhibition on Baolis of Delhi on occasion of World Heritage Day.
- **Baoli** is a reservoir, man-made water tanks in which water can be stored.
- Baoli is commonly used in **Gujarat, Rajasthan** and parts of **North India**.
- A typical baoli usually consists of three elements, the well in which the water is collected, the flight of steps to reach the ground water through several stories and interconnected pavilions.
- Generally, Baolis are U - shaped but L - shaped rectangular or octagonal stepwells are also not uncommon.
- Stepwells located in the edge of the habitation like towns or satellite villages are mostly secular structures.

1.157. GURU TEGH BAHADUR.

Why in news?

- This year, April 21 will mark the 400th birth anniversary of the Sikh Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.
- He was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind Sahib, the sixth Sikh guru. He was 9th of 10 Sikh Gurus.
- Also known as "**Hind ki Chaddar**" (Protector of Hindu Religion) because he sacrificed his life to save Kashmiri pandits and Hindu religion.
- For this, he was executed in 1675 in Delhi on the orders of Aurangzeb.
- His 115 hymns are included in Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

1.158. ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU.

Why in news?

- Recently a movie "RRR" was released with lead character of Alluri Sitarama Raju .
- Alluri Sitarama Raju, also known as Manyam Veerudu (Hero of the Jungles), was an Indian Revolutionary who fought for Indian Independence.
- He was born in Pandrangi Village in Bheemunipatnam, near the Coastal city of Visakhapatnam and led the **Rampa Rebellion (1922-24)** in Godavari Agency of **Madras Presidency**, British India.
- It was based on guerilla warfare and he mobilised tribals and forest dwellers against the British due to their oppressive Madras Forest Act, 1882.

1.159. CARBON DATING FINDS ASURGARH IS ODISHA'S OLDEST FORTIFIED SETTLEMENT.

Why in news?

- **Asurgarh** fortified settlement (ninth century BC) in Odisha's Kalahandi district, has been ascertained to be the oldest among the major fortified settlements in the State.

- Archaeologists deployed **Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) radiocarbon technique**, a technology that allows to distinguish different types of atoms on the basis of differences in atomic weights (mass).
- **Major Findings:**
 - Cultural sequence of the site could be divided into three phases:
 - **Iron Age** (ninth century BC to fourth century BC),
 - **Early Historic or Rampart phase** (second century BC to first century AD), and
 - Late Period/Dedine of the settlement (second century AD to third-fourth century AD).
 - **Antiquities** found include Beads of coral, lapis lazuli, carnelian, glass, jasper, garnet, shell, agate, milky quartz, terracotta, kaolin, and soft stone, and circular discs made out of potsherds and stone.
 - **Only site in Odisha which shows highly skilled engineering of water management** in comparison to contemporary sites.
- Other early historic sites in Odisha include **Sisupalgarh** (near Bhubaneswar); **Jaugarh**, a fortified settlement on the **Rushikulya valley** (Ganjam); Khalkattapatna (Puri); the port site of Manikpatna (Puri) etc.

1.160. HATTI COMMUNITY DEMANDS INCLUSION AS SCHEDULED TRIBE.

Why in news?

- Hatti community of Sirmaur district in Himachal Pradesh have been demanding for inclusion under the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list since 1967 when Hatti from Jaunsar Bawar of Uttarakhand were included in ST list.
- The community in both the states are divided by Giri and Tons rivers but have similar traditions, and inter-marriages are commonplace.
- The Hattis are a close-knit community who got their name from their tradition of selling home grown vegetables, crops, meat and wool etc. at small markets called 'haat' in towns.

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PRACTICE MCQS

1. Consider the following statements regarding Acharya Charak-

1. He was born in Kashmir and remembered as Father of Indian Medicine.
2. He is considered to be a court physician of King Kanishka.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

2. Vikram Samvat is a _____ calender and started in _____.

- A. Solar, 57 BC
- B. Lunar, 78 AD
- C. Solar, 78 AD
- D. Lunar, 57 BC

ANSWER: D

3. A website 'Temple 360' for online darshan of temples was recently launched by-

- A. Ministry of Tourism
- B. Ministry of Culture
- C. Ministry of Science and Technology
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

4. Consider the following statements regarding National Calendar of India-

1. It is based on the Saka era.
2. It was adopted on 15 July 1946.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: A

5. Sarhul is the festival of the New Year celebrated in the state of-

- A. Telangana
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Goa
- D. Jharkhand

ANSWER: D

6. The Lingaraj temple, for which ordinance was passed recently, is located in-

- A. West Bengal
- B. Telangana
- C. Odisha
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: C

7. Madhavpur Mela is annually celebrated in-

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar

ANSWER: B

8. Consider the following statements regarding Mirat-ul-Akhbar-

- 1. It was India's first Persian Journal started by Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
- 2. It was published on a weekly basis.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

9. Consider the following statements regarding Jallianwala Bagh-

- 1. Hunter commission was set up to investigate the incident.
- 2. Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore renounced their Kaiser-i-Hind medal and British Knighthood respectively.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

10. Deogarh temple, also called Baidyanath Temple is situated in-

- A. Chhatisgarh
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. none of the above

ANSWER: B

11. India's 1st Community Museum has been inaugurated in-

- A. Gujarat

- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Bihar
- D. Ladakh

ANSWER: D

12. The tenth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh Ji established the Khalsa Panth in-

- A. 1599
- B. 1699
- C. 1799
- D. 1465

ANSWER: B

13. Chennakeshava temple, where 'Rathotsava' starts with recitation from the Koran, is located in-

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

ANSWER: B

14. A 40 km long wall of stone called "Cyclopean Wall", seen recently in news is located in-

- A. Bihar
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: A

15. Consider the following statements regarding Baolis-

1. Baoli is a natural reservoir or water tanks in which water can be stored.
2. Baoli is commonly used in Gujarat, Rajasthan and parts of North India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: B

16. Which of the following Sikh gurus is known as "Hind ki Chaddar"?

- A. Guru Nanak Dev ji
- B. Guru Teg Bahadur ji
- C. Guru Harkrishan ji
- D. Guru Gobind Singh ji

ANSWER: B

17. With which of the following revolts, is Alluri Sitarama Raju associated?

- A. Ahoms rebellion
- B. Santhal Revolt
- C. Kol uprising
- D. Rampa Revolt

ANSWER: D

18. Sisupalgarh, Jaugarh, Khalkattapatna and Asurgarh are historic sites in the state of-

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Karnataka
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: D

19. Hatti community, seen recently in news is found in-

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Telangana
- C. Karnataka
- D. Himachal Pradesh

ANSWER: D



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INDEX AND REPORTS

1.161. HURUN RICHEST SELF-MADE WOMEN IN THE WORLD 2022: FALGUNI NAYAR OF NYKAA AMONG TOP 10.

Why in news?

- According to the list of Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022 released by the Hurun Research Institute. **Falguni Nayar**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Nykaa, is ranked 10th with a wealth of USD 7.6 billion. She is the only Indian among the top 10.
- Radha Vembu, co-founder & product manager of Zoho is the second-richest self-made woman billionaire in India with US\$3.9bn & ranked 25th in the global list.
- Radha Vembu is top in India, and second across the world, in the list of **Biggest Risers**.
- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, executive chairperson and founder of Biocon Limited and Biocon Biologics, is 26th on the list, down two places from last year. She has a wealth of US\$3.8 bn.

Top 3 on the list:

- **Wu Yajun** co-founder of Longfor(China) has topped the list followed by **Fan Hongwei**, Chairman/President, Hengli Petrochemical Co Ltd(China) and **Wang Laichun** of Luxshare Precision Industry(China).
- According to the list, there are 124 Self-Made Women Billionaires in World and China contributes to two-thirds of the world's self-made women billionaires with 78 followed by the United States with 25 and the United Kingdom with 5.

1.162. QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT 2022- IIT BOMBAY AND IIT DELHI AMONG TOP 100 UNDER ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY LIST.

Why in news?

- Recently, QS Quacquarelli Symonds released the 12th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022
- **Indian Institute of Technology(IIT)-Bombay ranked 65th** and **Indian Institute of Technology(IIT)- Delhi ranked 72nd**, are the only Indian institutes to be featured among the top 100 ranks under the Engineering and Technology category.
- IIT Bombay has scored 79.9 and IIT Delhi has scored 78.9.
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology has topped the list** with a score of 96.5 followed by the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford.
- Top 3 QS World University Rankings 2022:
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT),
 - University of Oxford,
 - Stanford University & University of Cambridge.

About QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022:

- The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022 cover a total of 51 disciplines, grouped into five broad subject areas.
 - Arts & Humanities • Engineering and Technology • Life Sciences & Medicine • Natural Sciences • Social Sciences & Management
- The QS World University Rankings by Subject are compiled annually to help prospective students identify the leading universities in a particular subject.
- Methodology: The rankings are based on research quality and accomplishments, academic reputation, and graduate employment.

Top institutes under each category:

Category	Top Institute (Rank 1)
Arts and Humanities	University of Oxford(United Kingdom - UK)
Engineering and Technology	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) USA
Life Sciences & Medicine	Harvard University(USA)
Natural Sciences	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MM)(USA)

Social Sciences & Management	Harvard University(USA)
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1.163. GLOBAL WIND ENERGY COUNCIL'S GLOBAL WIND REPORT 2022.

Why in news?

- Report examines the full challenges of scaling up wind energy in an increasingly interconnected world, like supply chain geopolitics, social impacts, disinformation, cybersecurity and cryptocurrencies.
 - Global Wind Energy Council is the international trade association for the wind power industry.

Key highlights of the Report

- In 2021, Global wind industry added 94 GW of capacity globally, trailing behind the 2020's record growth by only 1.8%.
- The onshore wind market added 72.5 GW worldwide. That is 18% lower than the previous year due to a slowdown in China and the US, the world's two largest wind markets.
- Need to scale up annual wind energy installations by four times by 2030 to get on-track for a 1.5°C world.

About India's Wind Energy Sector

- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has estimated 140 GW wind energy capacity (30 GW offshore wind target) is needed by 2030.
- Globally, **India ranks 4th in installed wind capacity** with 40.1 GW as of January 2022. Wind currently accounts for 10.2% of renewable generation capacity.
- World Bank has mapped 174 GW of fixed and floating offshore wind potential off India's coastline; the strongest resource is found off Tamil Nadu, while good resource is also available off Gujarat.
- Innovative financing mechanisms such as blended finance and Green/ Masala Bonds are likely to boost availability of finance for renewable energy projects.

1.164. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) FOOD PRICE INDEX (FFPI)

Why in news?

- The FFPI measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.
- It consists of the **average of five commodity group price indices** (cereal, sugar, meat, vegetable oil, and dairy) weighted by the average export shares of each of the groups in 2014-2016 (base year).
- FAO is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- It is headquartered in **Rome**, Italy.

1.165. NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES THE STATE ENERGY & CLIMATE INDEX (SECI)-ROUND 1.

Why in news?

- SECI's objective is to develop healthy competition among the states to perform better and provide quality energy services to users in their states.
 - The index is based on 2019-20 data.
 - The states have been categorized based on size and geographical differences as larger states, smaller states, and UTs.
- Index ranks the states' performance on **6 parameters-**
 - Discom performance
 - Access, accessibility and reliability of energy
 - Clean energy initiatives
 - Energy efficiency
 - Environmental sustainability
 - New initiatives

Key findings

- **Gujarat, Kerala** (access, affordability and reliability category), and **Punjab** (discom performance) have been ranked as top performers in larger states category.

- In smaller states category, **Goa, Tripura and Manipur** emerged as top-performing states.
- Among UTs top performers are Chandigarh, Delhi, and Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

Significance of the index

- Can be used by the states and UTs to benchmark their performance against their peers,
- Analyse the potential challenges to develop better policy mechanisms, and
- Efficiently manage their energy resources.

Recommendations made

- **Best practices** for all indicators in better-performing states can be adopted by other states to **improve their performance**.
- **Data updation and validation** need to be a priority of state governments going forward to help them **design better policies**.

1.166. COMMODITIES MARKET OUTLOOK.

Why in news?

- It is a report released by the **World Bank**.

Key findings are

- Increase in energy prices over the past two years has been the largest since the 1973 oil crisis.
- Price increases for food commodities and fertilizers, which rely on natural gas as a production input, have been the largest since 2008.
- Global food and fuel price shocks linked to the war are set to last until at least the end of 2024 and raise the risk of stagflation.

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PRACTICE MCQS

1. Which Indian women has ranked 10th in the recently released Hurun Richest Self-Made Women 2022 list?

- A. Falguni Nayar
- B. Radha Vembu
- C. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
- D. Richa Ambani

ANSWER: A

2. In the QS World University rankings by subject 2022, which institute ranked first in the Engineering and Technology category?

- A. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- B. Harvard University
- C. Stanford University
- D. University of Oxford

ANSWER: A

3. As per recent estimates, India ranks _____ in installed wind capacity globally.

- A. 3rd
- B. 4th
- C. 5th
- D. 6th

ANSWER: B

4. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Price Index does not include average prices of which of the following commodities?

- A. Cereal
- B. Dairy
- C. Meat
- D. Cooking fuel

ANSWER: D

5. The State Energy & Climate Index is released in India by-

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. The Energy and Resources Institute
- C. Greenpeace
- D. NITI Aayog

ANSWER: D

6. Commodities Market Outlook report is released by-

- A. International Monetary Fund
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- D. World Bank

ANSWER: D

SPORTS

1.167. MIRABAI CHANU BAGGED 'BBC INDIAN SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR' AWARD 2021.

Why in news?

- Olympic silver medallist weightlifter, **Mirabai Chanu** won the 3rd edition of the **BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year award 2021**. Chanu created history last year when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics.
- Chanu won the gold medal in the 48kg division at the 2017 World Championships in Anaheim and followed up with Commonwealth Games gold in 2018.

Other awardees:

- The **BBC Emerging Player award** was presented to 18-year-old cricketer **Shafali Verma**, who has recently been playing at the Women's World Cup in New Zealand. In 2021, Verma became the youngest Indian cricketer, male or female, to play in all three formats for the national team.
- The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics in 2000, former weightlifter **Karnam Malleswari** was presented the '**BBC Lifetime Achievement**' award. Olympians and the Paralympians from the Tokyo Games were also honoured in this edition of BBC ISWOTY.

1.168. IGA NATALIA SWIATEK WINS MIAMI OPEN 2022.

Why in news?

- Iga Natalia Swiatek of Poland wins Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Masters 1000 - Miami Open 2022, held in Miami Gardens, Florida, United States, from Mar 21 to Apr 3, 2022. Swiatek defeated Naomi Osaka of Japan in the Finals and also claimed WTA Women's World Number 1 ranking. She also received the prize money of 646,110 United States Dollar (USD).
- The Miami Open 2022 is played in Hard courts Stadium and it was presented by ITAU, one of the largest banks in the world.
- Swiatek also continues her 17 consecutive winning streak dating back to her championship win at the Qatar Total Energies Open in February 2022, where she defeated Anett Kontaveit of Estonia.
- She also became the first woman to win the opening three WTA 1000 tournaments in a season such as BNP Paribas Open - 2022, Qatar Total Energies Open - 2022 and Miami Open 2022.

Men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Masters 1000 - Miami Open 2022:

- Carlos Alcaraz Garfia of Spain wins ATP Masters 1000 - Miami Open 2022 by defeating World No. 8 Casper Ruud in the men's singles final by the sets (7-5, 6-4).
- The 18-year-old Carlos Alcaraz replaced Novak Djokovic as the youngest champion at the Masters 1000 tournament after the victory.
- He also became the first man from Spain to win the Masters 1000 tournament. He also became the first man from Spain to win the Miami Open title.

1.169. ODISHA CM NAVEEN PATNAIK REVEALED LOGO OF MEN'S 2023 HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Why in news?

- The Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik revealed the logo of 15th edition of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Senior Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 at Kalinga Stadium.
- Odisha will organise the tournament both in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. The CM has unveiled the logo of the world cup for the second consecutive time.
- Odisha becomes the first State to host back-to-back hockey men's world cups. The tournament is scheduled from 13 January 2023 to 29 January 2023.
- The cup will be unveiled in India's biggest hockey arena, the New Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, in Rourkela, Odisha.

1.170. HARYANA WINS 12TH SENIOR MEN'S NATIONAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP.

Why in news?

- **Haryana** has emerged as the champions of the **12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship** by defeating **Tamil Nadu** 3-1 in the shootout after the final ended 1-1 in the regulation time.
- The tournament was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from April 6 to 17, 2022. Haryana has won the trophy for the first time since 2011.
- **Karnataka** prevailed over **Maharashtra** 4-3 in the third/fourth place classification match.

1.171. LA'EEB UNVEILED AS OFFICIAL MASCOT FOR FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022.

Why in news?

- Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has unveiled La'eeb as the official mascot for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 during the draw for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which took place in Doha, the capital of Qatar.
- La'eeb - a super skilled player (in Arabic), is playful, adventurous and curious.
- According to FIFA and the Tournament organising body, The Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC), the **mascot represents donning the flowing Qatari National dress** and trying to stop the football in air.
- According to the Supreme Committee (SC), La'eeb comes from a parallel world where tournament mascots live.
- It is a world where ideas and creativity form the basis of characters that live in the minds of everyone.
- Also La'eeb encourages everyone to believe in themselves as 'Now is All'.

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PRACTICE MCQS

1. Who has bagged 'BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year' award 2021?

- A. Karnam Malleswari
- B. Shafali Verma
- C. Mary Kom
- D. Mirabai Chanu

ANSWER: D

2. Iga Natalia Swiatek recently won Miami Open 2022. She belongs to-

- A. Slovakia
- B. Serbia
- C. Poland
- D. Hungary

ANSWER: C

3. The Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 will be hosted by which state in India?

- A. Kerala
- B. Punjab
- C. Odisha
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: C

4. Which state has won the 12th Men's National Hockey Championship?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Haryana
- C. Punjab
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: B

5. What is the name of official mascot for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022?

- A. Kafala
- B. Al Rihla
- C. La'eeb
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

AWARDS

1.172. SARASWATI SAMMAN AWARD.

Why in news?

- The 2021 **Saraswati Samman** is given to Professor Ramdarsh Mishra for his Hindi Poetry collection 'Mein to Yahan Hun:
- Instituted in 1991 by KK Birla Foundation, Saraswati Samman is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the country.
- The eligible languages of work for the award are 22 Scheduled Languages of India.
- It carries a citation, a plaque, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh.

1.173. 'TOMB OF SAND' BECOMES FIRST HINDI NOVEL TO GET SHORTLISTED FOR INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE.

Why in news?

- In the history of the **International Booker Prize**, the novel '**Tomb of Sand**', authored by **Geetanjali Shree**, has become the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the prestigious literary prize.
- The novel has been translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.
- The book Tomb of Sand will compete with five other novels from around the world.
- The literary prize comes with a cash award of **50,000 pounds**, which is split equally between the author and translator.

1.174. SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH GETS COVETED UNEP CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH AWARD 2021.

Why in news?

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has named Sir David Attenborough, English natural history broadcaster and naturalist, as the recipient of the Champions of the Earth Award 2021 under the Lifetime Achievement category, for his dedication to research, documentation, and advocacy for the protection of nature and its restoration.

About Sir David Attenborough

- Sir David Attenborough is well known for his innovative educational television programs, especially the nine-part Life series forming the Life collection.
- His well-known documentaries include The Green Planet and A Plastic Ocean.
- His noted works include the Life series: Life on Earth (1979), The Living Planet (1984), The Trials of Life (1990) and others.
- The year 2022 marks the 50 years since the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, which was one of the first international meetings on the environment.

UNEP's Champions of the Earth Awards

- The UNEP's Champions of the Earth Awards honours individuals, groups, and organizations whose actions have a transformative impact on the environment.
- This is the United Nations(UN)'s highest environmental honour.
- Since its foundation in 2005, the Champions of the Earth award has honoured 101 laureates, including 25 world leaders, 62 individuals and 14 organizations.

1.175. LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS.

Why in news?

- Max Verstappen (Formula One) and Elaine Thompson-Herah (Athletics) have been named Laureus World Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year (2021) respectively.
- First held in 2000, annual event honours greatest and most inspirational sporting triumphs of the year and showcases work of Laureus Sport for Good.
- Shortlists for **six categories** (Sportswoman, Sportsman, Team, Breakthrough, Comeback and Action) are created.
- American golfer Tiger Woods was the first winner in 2000.
- Winner list is dominated by Tennis players (11 times), athletes (5) and Formula One drivers (5).
- **Roger Federer** received this award maximum number of times (5).



PRACTICE MCQS

1. The 2021 Saraswati Samman has been awarded to-

- A. Satish Adiga
- B. Ramdarsh Mishra
- C. Aarefa Johari
- D. Kishore Kumar Yedam

ANSWER: B

2. The first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for International Booker Prize, 'Tomb of Sand', has been written by-

- A. Geetanjali Shree
- B. Ravi Mittal
- C. Satish Adiga
- D. Falguni Shah

ANSWER: A

3. Who has been awarded UNEP's Champions of the Earth Awards in Lifetime achievement category?

- A. Sir David Attenborough
- B. Julia Butterfly Hill
- C. Sumaira Abdulali
- D. Aldo Leopold

ANSWER: A

4. Consider the following statements about Laureus Sports awards-

- 1. American golfer Tiger Woods was the first winner in 2000.
- 2. Roger Federer received this award maximum number of times.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

ANSWER: C

STATE CURRENT AFFAIRS

1.176. MAHARASHTRA LAUNCHES SCHEME TO OFFER PERSONAL LOANS FOR PRISONERS.

Why in news?

- The Maharashtra government has introduced a scheme that allows prisoners to obtain personal loans from banks of up to Rs. 50,000 to help their families improve their living conditions and meet expenses related to their legal matters. It will be a first of its kind initiative in our country.
- The Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank would provide loans up to 50,000 under the scheme at a 7% interest rate. The scheme would be implemented in Yerawada Central Jail in Pune, Maharashtra, on a pilot basis.
- The decision was taken in a meeting presided over by Dilip Walse Patil, Home Minister of Maharashtra and a Government Resolution (GR) was also issued.

About the scheme

- It is the **first innovative scheme in India** that offers prisoners a loan based on the income earned while working in a prison. It needs no guarantor and will be disbursed on a personal bond.
- This type of loan is called a "**khavti**" loan, and benefits approximately 1,055 prisoners.
- The loan facility will be determined by the bank based on the prisoner's loan limit, duration of punishment, the possibility of relief, the prisoner's age, the estimated annual working day, and the minimum daily income.
- The lending bank will be fully responsible for ensuring that the loan amount is used to serve the needs of the family concerned or to pay the fees of their lawyers or for other legal matters.
- In addition, 1% of the amount collected by the bank from loan repayment will be donated to the Prisoners' Welfare Fund on an annual basis.

1.177. HARYANA LAUNCHES CROP INSURANCE PORTAL UNDER 'MUKHYA MANTRI BAGWANI BIMA YOJANA'.

Why in news?

- On 31 March 2022, The Haryana Agriculture Minister J P Dalal launched the portal of 'Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Bima Yojana' with an initial corpus of Rs 10 crore for the scheme. Under which the farmers will be compensated for the damage caused to their crops due to adverse weather and natural calamities.
- The scheme compensates a sum of Rs 30,000 per acre for vegetable and Spices and Rs 40,000 per acre for fruits, which will be compensated to the farmers upon claim via four categories such as 25 percent, 50 percent, 75 percent and 100 percent based on the survey.
- The farmers contribution will be only 2.5 percent of the insured amount i.e. Rs 750 per acre for vegetable and Spices and Rs 1000 per acre for fruits.
- The Scheme covers 21 crops - 14 vegetables (tomato, onion, potato, cauliflower, peas, carrot, okra, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, brinjal, green chilli, capsicum, cabbage, radish), 2 spices (turmeric, garlic) and 5 fruits (mango, kinnow, berry, guava, lychee).
- The scheme will be optional for all those farmers who will get registered under 'Merl Fasal Mem Byora' (a web portal through which the problems of the farmers of the state will be resolved).
- Monitoring of the scheme, review and resolution of disputes will be done through the state-level and district-level committees constituted under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

1.178. UP GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES SCHOOL CHALO ABHIYAN.

Why in news?

- Recently Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the "**School Chalo Abhiyan**" with a view to ensure 100 percent enrolment in Primary and Upper Primary schools from Jaichandpur Katghara upper primary school in Shravasti district of Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- The 'School Chalo Abhiyan' is being started in the Shravasti district because of its lowest literacy rate with an average of 46.74 percent.
- Other Districts with low literacy rates in UP are Bahraich , Balrampur , Badaun and Rampur .

About School Chalo Abhiyan

- The scheme aims at transforming primary education and holistic development of primary schools.
- A target has been set to connect two crore children with the drive.
- Under the scheme all Teachers, Principals, Officials and also People's representatives should themselves take every child who is deprived of school education to school, register them, and provide them with facilities like free uniform, books, bag, shoes, sweaters etc.,
- Also the Government schools must achieve all the goals of 'Operation Kayakalp' which aims at giving schools a facelift.

About Operation Kayakalp

- Operation Kayakalp aims to improve the basic education of the state run schools under various initiatives.
- All Governmental buildings like primary schools/Junior High schools, Anganwadi centre, Auxiliary nurse midwife Centre etc. should be properly maintained and used after repair.
- Under the scheme Village secretariat/Pachayat Bhawans etc may be used as Library/Service Centers/Knowledge Centers/Kaushal Vikas Kendras.

1.179. TAMIL NADU LAUNCHES KAAVAL UTHAVI FOR PUBLIC DURING EMERGENCY.

Why in news?

- The Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu (TN), M K Stalin launched 'Kaaval Uthavi app having 60 features that will provide police assistance to the people particularly women during any emergency situation.

About 'Kaaval Uthavi app

- The app features a facility to dial 112/100/101 to make direct calls with the police control room. The Dial 100 facility has been integrated with the app.
- It will allow people to virtually reach the city police control room in a few seconds by clicking an 'emergency button' of the app.
- The user's live location will be shared with the control room by pressing the emergency red button.
- The user details will also be identified and the nearest police station/patrol vehicle will be alerted to provide the required assistance to the user.
- The mobile compliant feature can be used to register real-time mobile based complaints with the control room along with a short video or image by selecting the required complaint type.
- Other features- police station locator with direction and dial feature and control room directory, lost document report, vehicle verification, FIR and CSR status etc. will be provided.

1.180. KARNATAKA ESTABLISHES COOPERATIVE BANK FOR MILK PRODUCERS.

Why in news?

- Karnataka Chief Minister, **Basavaraj Bommai** Establishing the '**Nandini Ksheera Samridhi Cooperative Bank**' is a revolutionary initiative, which will provide greater financial strength for the milk producers.
- **Karnataka** is the only state in the country to set up an exclusive bank for milk producers.

About the 'Nandini Ksheera Samridhi Cooperative Bank':

- The Milk Producers cooperatives have a turnover of about Rs 20,000 crore in various banks every day.
- It will bring a second wave of White Revolution in the dairy sector.
- The state government has provided Rs 100 crore as its share capital and the Milk Federation and Cooperatives would contribute Rs 260 crore as their share of capital for the proposed cooperative bank which would stimulate huge economic activity in rural hinterland.
- The state government has decided to computerise all the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).

1.181. MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED MUKHYAMANTRI UDYAM KRANTI YOJANA.

Why in news?

- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has launched the **Udyam Kranti Yojana**.
- According to officials, the **MP Mukhyamantri Udyam Kranti** plan was announced for the first time in November 2021, as per the **MSME department's gazette** announcement, but it was never executed.
- Loans ranging from **Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh** would be offered to youth under this scheme for self-employment.
- The scheme's unique feature is that the state government would provide a 3% interest subsidy as well as a bank guarantee.
- Young people will be able to apply for loans ranging from **Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh** under this plan. The proposal is unique in that the state government will provide a 3% interest subsidy in addition to a bank guarantee.
- The announcement of the launch of this scheme has been made at the inauguration ceremony of **Nagrodaya Mission**.
- The guarantee of the loan provided under this scheme will be provided by the government to the bank.

1.182. UTTARAKHAND TO IMPLEMENT "HIM PRAHARI" SCHEME FOR EX-SERVICEMEN & YOUNGSTERS.

Why in news?

- The Government of Uttarakhand is set to implement the 'Him Prahari' Scheme which is meant for ex-servicemen and youngsters.
- The scheme is aimed at stopping the migration of people from Uttarakhand and will focus on areas where migration occurs at a rapid phase so that people stay put, and not move out.
- The Uttarakhand Govt is seeking the cooperation of the Union Government to implement the scheme in areas bordering the Uttarakhand.
- The scheme will also prioritise settling ex-servicemen in areas bordering the state.
- The estimated expenditure of the scheme is around Rs 5.45 crore.
- The Him Prahari Scheme was announced by the Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP) Uttarakhand unit in its 2022 Election Manifesto.

1.183. HIMACHAL PRADESH STATEHOOD DAY 2022: 15TH APRIL.

Why in news?

- **Himachal Day** is observed on the **15th of April in Himachal Pradesh**. The state became a full-fledged state on this day.
- Four districts of Mandi, Chamba, Mahasu and Sirmour were integrated with over two dozen princely states, leading to the formation of Himachal Pradesh as a **Union Territory in 1948**. Decades later, in 1971, Himachal Pradesh became the **18th state** in India with Shimla as its capital.
- It was on this day in 1948 that Himachal Pradesh was created as a province of India. The day is marked with a grand parade in the capital city of Shimla. Local events are also organised in the cities, towns, and villages to mark the day.

1.184. JAMMU KASHMIR LAUNCHES 'JAN NIGRANI' APP.

Why in news?

- The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati raj, Jammu and Kashmir (MK), under the e-governance initiative has launched an app 'Jan Nigrani', intended to help people lodge their complaints related to various schemes online.

- The Jan Nigrani app is a 24x7 Internet based platform aimed at reporting and resolving the grievances of the residents of J&K, against various government schemes launched by the department.
- The app would act as a single link between the residents and the officials by mapping concerned authorities related to the complaint for faster grievance redressal.
- The app ensures minimal rejections of accounts due to incomplete information, by facilitating accurate reporting of the grievances using customised scheme specific input forms.
- In order to provide faster Grievance redressal the app has been set at the block level with a seven-day time slot to redress any particular grievance, also the app checks for the bogus and false complaints raised by the customers.

1.185. MAHARASHTRA-FIRST STATE IN INDIA TO LAUNCH A BUS SERVICE WITH A TOTALLY DIGITAL TICKETING SYSTEM.

Why in news?

- **Maharashtra State Environment Minister** inaugurated the **tap-in tap-out** service on the **Gateway of India** to **Churchgate** route in an effort to make commuting across **Mumbai** easier.
- **Minister** stated during the event that **Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST)** is India's first fully **digital bus service**.
- According to **Lokesh Chandra, BEST's General Manager (GM)**, this is the country's first-ever 100 percent digital bus service, with the goal of increasing the digitalisation of the bus ticketing system.
- It provides travellers with comfort and convenience because they can tap-in using their smart card or the '**Chalo**' app on their cellphones.
- If the tourist taps out using the app, they will receive a receipt on their **phone**, and if they used the smart card, they will be able to **collect their ticket**.

1.186. KERALA GOVERNMENT AND NETHERLANDS COLLABORATE ON COSMOS MALABARI PROJECT.

Why in news?

- The Kerala government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Netherlands for the 'Cosmos Malabaricus Project', which aims to illustrate the historical significance of Kerala using the 18th century documents. In addition, the agreement aims to establish painting academics in Kerala's Kollam and Malappuram.
- The Cosmos Malabaricus project is being jointly implemented by the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR), the National Archives of the Netherlands, and the Leiden University in the Netherlands. The project is expected to be completed in six years.

About the Cosmos Malabaricus Project:

- The project focuses on the Dutch documents on Malabar from the 18th century, which are often regarded as the most comprehensive source of information on the period in Kerala between 1643 and 1852.
- It contributes to a better knowledge of Kerala's political, social, economic, and cultural histories.
- It intends to make digitised Dutch archival material available to a wide range of audiences, international and Indian scholars and the people of Kerala.
- It will be accomplished through the translation and publication of English summaries.
- The material is written in classical Dutch language and is available in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Netherlands.

1.187. PUNJAB 1ST STATE TO PROVIDE "DIGITIZED FORM J1".

Why in news?

- Punjab will be the first state in the country to provide "digitized form J1" in real-time to farmers from this Rabi procurement season.
- 'J form' is the sale receipt of a farmer's agricultural produce in mandis (grain market) which acts as an income proof for a farmer who sells his crop.
- These forms were earlier issued manually by arthiyas (commission agents).
- It can be used for raising finance, IT waivers, subsidy claims, farmers' insurance etc.
- It will act as a record of land under cultivation for both the wheat and paddy crops in state.
- J Forms can also be stored in DigiLocker.

1.188. AGRA TO GET COUNTRY'S FIRST VACUUM BASED SEWER SYSTEM.

Why in news?

- The city of Agra in Uttar Pradesh has become the first in India to adopt vacuum-based sewer. These vacuum sewers will be placed in public areas. The maintenance and complete care of the sewers for up to five years will be done by the Netherlands company.
- The vacuum sewer is expected to be deployed in Kochi Municipal Corporation in Kerala after a successful trial in Agra.
- This technology is presently being employed in low-lying areas. Agra Smart City Ltd. has connected roughly 240 houses in the low-lying area near the Taj Mahal to a vacuum-based sewer system for Rs. 5 crores, where traditional sewer systems cannot be utilised.
- In this area, 112 chambers have been built with Geographic Information System (GIS)- based sensors to help locate the chamber's position and the problem.
- The sewer connection project is estimated to cost Rs. 100 crores. iv.A 53-km sewer pipe has been installed, connecting 60,000 houses.

Civiltap Hlmachal

PRACTICE MCQS

1. Which state has recently started scheme to offer personal loans for prisoners?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Kerala
- D. Punjab

ANSWER: B

2. Which state has launched crop insurance portal under 'Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Bima Yojana'?

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

ANSWER: A

3. "School Chalo Abhiyan" to ensure 100 percent enrolment in Primary and Upper Primary schools has been launched recently by-

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

ANSWER: B

4. Which state has launched Kaaval Uthavi for public during emergency?

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

ANSWER: C

5. Which state has set up cooperative bank exclusively for milk producers?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Telangana
- C. Odisha
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: D

6. Which state government has launched Mukhyamantri Udyam Kranti Yojana to offer loans to youth for self-employment?

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

ANSWER: B

7. "Him Prahari" Scheme for Ex-Servicemen & Youngsters has been implemented by-

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

8. Himachal Pradesh statehood Day or Himachal Day is celebrated on-

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

ANSWER: D

9. Which state/UT has launched Jan Nigrani app for grievance redressal?

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

ANSWER: D

10. Which state in India is first to launch a bus service with a totally digital ticketing system?

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

ANSWER: C

11. Kerala has partnered with which country for project 'Cosmos Malabari'?

- A. Britain
- B. Netherlands
- C. Canada
- D. Denmark

ANSWER: B

12. Which state has become first state in the country to provide digitized J form?

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

ANSWER: A

13. Which of the following has become the first city to adopt vacuum-based sewer system?

- A. Agra
- B. Bareilly
- C. Chennai
- D. Dehradun

ANSWER: A



HIMACHAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

1.189. HIMACHAL PRADESH INTRODUCES BHAGAVAD GITA IN SCHOOL SYLLABUS FROM CLASS 9-12.

Why in news?

- According to the Himachal Pradesh education minister, school students in classes 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be taught the Bhagavad Gita from this academic session.
- “Gita will be taught in schools in Sanskrit and Hindi languages. Besides, Sanskrit will be introduced for students of Class III onwards,” Minister Govind Singh Thakur said.
- Thakur’s statement comes two weeks after the Gujarat government announced that the Bhagavad Gita will be a part of the school syllabus for classes 6 to 12 across the state from the academic year 2022-23.
- The Karnataka government is also considering introducing the Gita as part of ‘moral education’ in state schools.

1.190. SUJANPUR HOLI FESTIVAL

Why in news?

- The historical town of Sujampur is famous for the Holi fair. “The fair not only represents rich cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh .
- The Sujampur Mela was a centre of business activities. Merchants from across the region, skilled craftsmen in handicrafts participate here and handlooms products were always a centre of attraction at the fair.

1.191. HIMCARE HEALTH CARD NOW TO BE MADE FOR 3 YEARS.

Why in news?

- Himcare health cards will now be made for three years at a cost of Rs 1,000 and Rs 365 in different categories specified by the government.
- The card holders will get a health insurance of Rs 5 lakh every year for medical treatment.
- Common people can avail of the health facility free of cost in government as well as private hospitals specified by the government

1.192. EUROPEAN GI TAG FOR KANGRA TEA LIKELY.

Why in news?

- Kangra tea is likely to be awarded the Geographical Indication Tag (GI tag) for the European Union.
- Tea Cultivation and Development was transferred from the Industries Department to the Agriculture Department in April, 1999. Since then, various steps have been taken to improve tea cultivation in the state, particularly in Kangra.
- Kangra Tea was accorded the GI tag in India in 2005.
- The development and cultivation of Kangra Tea is being promoted and looked after by four departments, namely Tea Board of India Regional office Palampur, cooperative & agriculture departments of the state, CSIR, IHBT Palampur and Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Agriculture University, Palampur.

1.193. HAMIRPUR BAGS TOP SPOT FOR ADARSH GRAM YOJANA EXECUTION.

Why in news?

- Hamirpur district has bagged the first spot in the country for the successful implementation of welfare and infrastructure development schemes under the Adarsh Gram Yojana.
- Significantly, 17 villages of the district were identified to be covered under the scheme and the district administration executed the task in collaboration with representatives of gram panchayats.

- It scored 38 points out of 40 to grab the top rank.
- These villages were provided road connectivity and pavers were fixed in streets. The component also included the installation of streetlights.



PRACTICE MCQS

1. Which of the following states Introduced Bhagavad Gita in School Syllabus?

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Gujarat
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

2. Which of the following City of Himachal Pradesh famous for Holi celebrations ?

- A. Sujampur
- B. Solan
- C. Rampur
- D. Shimla

ANSWER: A

3. Under the Him care health card scheme, how much health Insurance will be given to the people of Himachal Pradesh?

- A. 5 lakhs
- B. 1 lakhs
- C. 10 lakhs
- D. 15lakhs

ANSWER: A

4. Kangra Tea was accorded the GI tag in India in Which of the following year ?

- A. 2005
- B. 2009
- C. 2008
- D. 2006

ANSWER: A

5. Which of the following district of Himachal Pradesh bags top spot for Adarsh Gram Yojana execution?

- A. Hamirpur
- B. Unna
- C. Mandi
- D. Kangra

ANSWER: A

OTHER IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

1. Odisha is celebrating its Foundation Day on 1st April
2. Nehru Memorial in Delhi to become 'PM Museum'
3. The incumbent president of Badminton Association of India (BAI), Himanta Biswa Sarma has been re-elected unopposed for a second four years term, from 2022 to 2026.
4. Uttar Pradesh awarded first prize in 3rd National Water Awards followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
5. Dr Renu Singh has been appointed by MoEF as the next director of Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun.
6. Thailand took over as chair nation of BIMSTEC. The year 2022 marks the 25th year of the establishment of BIMSTEC.
7. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved a hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners by 3 per cent to 34%, over the existing rate of 31% of the Basic Pay/Pension.
8. Vishwas Patel has been re-elected as the Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI) for the second time in 2022,.
9. GoI keeps interest rates on Small Savings Schemes unchanged for Q1 (April-June 2022).
10. Microsoft launched a new digital and inclusive platform for startup founders in India. The platform called as 'Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub' in India, will support startup founders in India at every stage of their startup journey.
11. Al Rihla – the Official Match Ball for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has been revealed by Adidas. It is Adidas' 14th World Cup ball, and it is designed to accommodate the fastest game speeds possible, since it flies quicker in flight than any other World Cup ball.
12. Next pandemic could be caused by insect-borne viruses like Zika, dengue: WHO.
13. Lt Gen Manoj Pande set to become Indian Army chief.
14. Imran Khan is no longer PM of Pakistan; Government de-notifies him as PM after dissolution of National Assembly.
15. ICC Women's World Cup: Australia lift title for seventh time after beating England by 71 runs

- Australia has lifted the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup defeating England in the final by 71 runs at Hagley Oval in Christchurch. Chasing the target of 357, England Women were all out for 285 in 43.4 overs. Earlier, Put into bat first by England, Australia posted 356 for 5 in 50 overs. This is the record for the seventh time Australia women have won the world cup.
 - Alyssa Healy was declared Player of the Match and also the Player of the tournament.
16. I&B Minister Anurag Singh Thakur to launch Broadcast Seva Portal today in New Delhi.
 17. Bangladesh signs deal with Adani group for Indian Economic Zone.
 18. Google Pay, Pine Labs tieup to offer 'Tap to Pay' for UPI users.
 19. Vinay Mohan Kwatra, India's ambassador to Nepal, to take over from Shringla as Foreign Secretary.
 20. Indian men trap bronze in ISSF World Cup Shotgun 2022 held in Lima, Peru.
 21. Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and Karnataka Governor TC Gehlot launches logo, mascot jersey & anthem of Khelo India University Games 2021 in Bengaluru.
 22. Central govt's order to reduce AFSPA in Assam, Manipur & Nagaland bold. Kashmir should be next.
 23. The United Nations' International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is celebrated every year on the 4th of April.
 24. Grammy Awards 2022.
 25. Taliban announce ban on poppy production in Afghanistan.
 26. Viktor Orbán wins fourth consecutive term as Hungary's prime minister.
 27. Gangaur is a festival celebrated in the Indian state of Rajasthan and some parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal. Festivity consummates on 3rd day of Shukla paksha of Chaitra Month.
 28. RPF arrests touts for illegal ticketing under Operation Upalabdh.
 29. Andhra Pradesh's First 'She Auto' Stands Set Up.
 30. Arunabha Ghosh appointed by UN Chief to high-level expert group on net-zero emissions commitments.
 31. IAF celebrates 60 years of Glorious Service by Chetak Helicopters.
 32. A new book "Crunch Time: Narendra Modi's National Security Crises" by Sreeram Chaulia.

33. PM Modi addresses BJP workers on party's foundation day (formed on 6th April 1980).
34. India is now at number three in world in terms of unicorns; 99 unicorns registered so far in the country.
35. India's agriculture exports touch a high of \$50 billion .Country has captured nearly 50 per cent of the world market for rice, says Commerce and Industry Ministry.
36. 'Agnipath' to be new entry path for youth to join Indian defence forces as Agniveers.
37. INDIA – KYRGYZSTAN JOINT SPECIAL FORCES EXERCISE CONCLUDES AT BAKLOH (HP).
38. Jaipur hospital to have country's tallest in-patient dept. tower.
39. Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, the mascotto 'Prakriti' was launched to raise public awareness about small changes that can be made to our lifestyle for a better environment.
40. A journalist from Mumbai, Aarefa Johari was awarded the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Media person 2021. It was announced by the Media Foundation.
41. Savitri Jindal, the chairperson of the Jindal Group, is the richest woman in India, according to the Forbes' Billionaires List 2022.
42. Bettencourt Meyers is the richest woman on the planet for the second year running. She's the granddaughter of the founder of beauty giant L'Oréal.
43. RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 4 percent and reverse repo rate at 3.35 percent.
44. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to face no-trust motion tomorrow.
45. FM Nirmala Sitharaman says, over 51 percent of total loan sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana to SC, ST, and OBC.
46. Indian-American singer Falguni Shah won a Grammy Award for A Colorful World in the Best Children's Album category.
47. President Kovind inaugurates National Conference on Mediation and Information Technology at Kevadia, Gujarat
48. First batch of aircrew of Indian Navy completes training for induction of MH-60R helicopters
49. NITI Aayog CEO releases State Energy and Climate Index, SECI- Round one in New Delhi.

50. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jayanti; Vice President, PM Modi pay tributes to Champion Of Social Justice and Reformer.
51. Australia: Prime Minister Scott Morrison calls for federal elections on May 21.
52. World Doubles Squash Championships: India win maiden Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles in Glasgow.
53. Actor Will Smith barred from attending Oscars for ten years.
54. National Safe Motherhood Day.
 - National Safe Motherhood Day is being observed today. The objective of the day is to create awareness of proper health care and maternity facilities for pregnant and lactating women.
 - According to Registrar General of India, Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India has declined by ten points.
 - The ratio has declined from 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19. Union Health Ministry has said that India is on verge of achieving Sustainable Development Goal target of Maternal Mortality Ratio of 70 per lakh live births by 2030.
55. Green sea turtle found on shores of Tarkarli in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra.
56. Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami launched '1064 Anti-Corruption Mobile App'.
57. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), MeitY has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO, Hyderabad for technical collaboration.
58. The Union Minister of AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated a two-day scientific convention on the theme 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness' in New Delhi.
59. Veteran Bengali author Amar Mitra was awarded this year's O.Henry prize for a short story he wrote 45 years back. He bagged the award for his short story titled 'Gaonburo'- a Bengali short fiction, which was translated into English (The Old Man Of Kusumpur) earlier.
60. Shehbaz Sharif has become the 23rd prime minister the country after taking oath last night. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief got 174 votes in the 342-member National Assembly.
61. International Day of Human Space Flight is being observed on 12th april. The day celebrates each year at the international level the beginning of the space era for mankind, reaffirming the important contribution of space science and technology

62. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya.
63. 103 years of the horrific Jallianwala Bagh Massacre; Vice Prez, PM pay tribute to brave martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh.
64. Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launches 'SVANidhi se Samriddhi.
65. First Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery tournament to be held in Jamshedpur.
66. PM Modi to receive inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award.
67. Former CAG Vinod Rai Authored A Book Titled Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings with BCCI.
68. PM Modi virtually addressed 14th Foundation Day of Umiya Mata Temple.
69. Sri Lanka announces default on all of its \$51 billion external debt.
70. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned the latest Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-Dhruv) MK-III squadron in Bhubaneswar in Odisha.
71. Nation pays homage to Dr B R Ambedkar on his 131st birth anniversary.
72. Govt exempts import of cotton from customs duties from today till Sep 30, 2022.
73. Festivals of Baisakhi, Vishu, Rongali Bihu, Naba Barsha, Vaisakhadi and Puthandu-Pirappu being celebrated.
74. Australia's Victoria state to host 2026 Commonwealth Games, Shooting, Archery and Wrestling Not Part of 2026 Commonwealth Games.
75. Kangra Tea is on the path of continuous improvement and soon the Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag) for the European Union.
76. International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021 to Dr. Bhushan Kumar from Chandigarh and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas in New Delhi. The annual award was instituted by Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation.
77. 'Statue of Knowledge' dedicated to Dr Ambedkar unveiled in Latur (MAHARASHTRA).
78. UGC allows students to pursue two full-time academic programmes simultaneously.
79. 38th Siachen Day celebrates on 13 April 2022.
80. Keralites celebrate Vishu festival.

81. Pohela Boishakh Celebrated in West bengal . It is the first day of the Bengali calendar and is widely celebrated by the Bengali community. Poila means 'first,' and, Boishakh is the Bengali calendar's first month.
82. Haryana government to open training institute for drone pilots.
83. India to host Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023.
84. Rohit Sharma becomes 2nd Indian after Virat Kohli to score 10,000 runs in T20.
85. The central government has re-appointed retired Punjab-cadre IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura as the chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities.
86. Falguni Nayar has been named as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021, at the 23rd edition of the EY Entrepreneur of The Year India awards. She is the founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of beauty supply company Nykaa (FSN E-commerce).
87. The Netherlands has lifted their fourth title of FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 after beating Germany at Potchefstroom, South Africa.
88. 16-year-old chess sensation R Praggnanandhaa has won the prestigious Reykjavik Open chess tournament in Reykjavik, Iceland.
89. Save the Elephant Day is celebrated on April 16 every year to raise awareness about the dangers elephants face and various difficulties they have to overcome to live.
90. World Voice Day (WVD) is celebrated globally on April 16 every year to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people.
91. Tamil Nadu defeated defending champion Punjab 87-69 in the final to win the men's title in the 71st Senior National Basketball Championship.
92. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has unveiled the logo of the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga stadium in the capital Bhubaneswar.
93. Well-known Indian economist and political commentator, Prabhat Patnaik has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2022.
94. 18-year-old National Table Tennis player Deenadayalan Vishwa dies in accident
95. Puducherry LG inaugurated Beach Festival I Sea PONDY-2022.
96. Civil Aviation Ministry Flagship Regional Connectivity Scheme 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' (UDAN) has been selected for Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020 under the category "Innovation (General) – Central".

97. India Becomes World's 28th Country To Be Included In Sakura Map. Scientists from Manipur have discovered a new "Cherry Blossom" species, which they called "Prunus dinabandhuana" as a token of respect for scientist Dr. Dinabandhu Sahoo's outstanding contributions.
98. PM Narendra Modi to address nation on 400th Parkash Purab of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji at Red Fort in New Delhi.
99. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first ever Semicon India-2022 Conference on 29th of this month in Bengaluru.
100. World Heritage Day is observed every year on April 18 to preserve the human heritage and recognize the efforts of the organizations working for it. Monuments and ancient buildings are an asset to the world.
101. India's first Skill India International Centre will be set up in Bhubaneswar for training youths with an aim to enhance overseas opportunities for the skilled workforce.
102. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar in Gujarat.
103. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
104. The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a 108 ft statue of Lord Hanuman ji in Morbi, Gujarat, at the Ashram of Bapu Keshvanand ji.
105. Veteran Hindi television presenter and actor Manju Singh has passed away due to cardiac arrest.
106. India has been elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) four major bodies, including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.
107. Top Indian swimmer Sajan Prakash won the men's 200m butterfly gold at the Danish Open swimming meet in Copenhagen, Denmark.
108. NITI Aayog plans to launch the National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP), which would give government data in a user-friendly manner and encourage data-driven decision-making and research.

- 109.** Manipur chief minister, N Biren Singh announced that a 165-foot-high Indian national flag, the tallest in the Northeast, would be hoisted at the Indian National Army (INA) headquarters complex in Moirang in Manipur's Bishnupur district.
- 110.** Russian warship: Moskva sinks in Black Sea.
- 111.** Karnataka named Robin Uthappa as brand ambassador for Brain Health Initiative.
- 112.** India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the apex body for India's pulses trade and industry, has appointed Bimal Kothari as the new Chairman
- 113.** Exercise KRIPAN SHAKTI, an Integrated Fire Power exercise was recently conducted by The Indian Army's Trishakti Corps at the Teesta Field Firing Ranges (TFFR), near Siliguri, West Bengal.
- 114.** On the occasion of Dr BR Ambedkar's 131st birth anniversary, a new book titled "The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution: A play for Children on Human Rights" authored by Rajesh Talwar.
- 115.** Leh has taken the first step in building an IT sector. SS Khandare, the Additional Director General of Police for Ladakh, has opened Ethosh Digital's first IT Training and Services centre in Leh.
- 116.** The National Civil Service Day is observed on 21 April every year in India and is dedicated to the nation's civil servants.
- 117.** Two-day National Level Pollution Response Exercise of Indian Coast Guard off Mormugao harbour, Goa.
- 118.** Rajasthan becomes first state to install L-Route server. This server, installed at Bhamashah State Data Center, has been installed by the the government in association with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).
- 119.** Panchayat Palli in Jammu has been selected for the Panchayati Raj Diwas function this year and an exhibition showcasing latest innovations will be put up enabling farmers, sarpanchs and village heads to improve their income and their produce.
- 120.** INS Vagsheer, the last of six indigenously made Scorpene class submarines, launched by Indian Navy at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.

- 121.** Indian-American Navy veteran Shanti Sethi appointed Kamala Harris's defence advisor. Shanti Sethi, the first Indian-American commander of a major US Navy combat ship, recently joined Vice President Harris' office.
- 122.** Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates All India Police Science Congress in Bhopal.
- 123.** NITI Aayog, UNICEF India sign Statement of Intent on SDGs with focus on children.
- 124.** Manipur to celebrate Khongjom Day on 23rd April at Khongjom War Memorial Complex.
- 125.** PM Modi to visit village Palli (Samba district) in Jammu on April 24 for Panchayati Raj Diwas.
- 126.** Ukrainian Prez Zelenskyy gets John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for protecting democracy.
- 127.** The first Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centre was inaugurated 14th April 2018, at Jangla, a serene village in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh.
- 128.** Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh has clinched the 48th La Roda International Open chess tournament title in Castile-La Mancha, Spain.
- 129.** PATRICK ACHI RE-APPOINTED AS PRIME MINISTER OF IVORY COAST.
- 130.** 2nd edition of Khelo India University Games begins in Bengaluru.
- 131.** Ministry of Civil Aviation is organizing a mega Yoga event- 'Yog Prabha' at Safdarjung Airport in New Delhi.
- 132.** Karnataka Government launched the 'Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully' (SAANS). SAANS is a campaign that has been launched to ensure early detection and greater awareness of pneumonia in children under the age of five.
- 133.** Mumbai first in the country to get 100% digital buses.
- 134.** Babita Singh, a serial entrepreneur, was named a Global Peace Ambassador for her work in promoting peace through education, sports, art, culture, and diplomacy at the India International Conclave 2022, which was held in collaboration with the Asia Africa Consortium (AAC) in New Delhi.
- 135.** PM Modi to inaugurate 7th edition of Raisina Dialogue. President of the European Commission Ursula Von Der Leyen will be the chief guest at the Dialogue. The three-day Dialogue is based on the theme - Terranova, impassioned, impatient, imperilled.

- 136.** First edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2022 underway in New Delhi
- 137.** Emmanuel Macron beats Marine Le Pen to secure second consecutive term as French President
- 138.** Union Agriculture Ministry to launch 'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari' campaign
- 139.** Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, UBA 2.0 has completed on 25th April. On this day in 2018, the UBA 2.0 was launched with the vision of transformational change in rural development processes.
- 140.** HM Amit Shah addresses gathering on occasion of inaugural function of 150th Birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo in Puducherry.
- 141.** Government has set a target to increase the number of Janaushadhi Kendra's to 10,000 by March 2024 with a budget of Rs 15000 crore set aside for this. It is implemented by Pharma and medical bureau of India (society).
- 142.** Asia's biggest international food and hospitality fair - AAHAR 2022 begins today in New Delhi.
- 143.** World's richest man Elon Musk acquires Twitter in 44 billion dollar deal
- 144.** 24th Summer Deaflympics to be held in Brazil's Caxias Du Sul from 1st May-15th May.
- 145.** PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a community radio station (CRS) named Dudh Vani that is dedicated to animal husbandry.
- 146.** Defence Minister inaugurates DefConnect 2.0 to bolster cutting-edge defence technologies.
- 147.** Eminent writer of Odisha and Padma shri awardee (2020) Binapani Mohanty has passed away.
- 148.** Former president of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki passed away at 90. He led the country from 2002 to 2013.
- 149.** India has been designated as the Guest of Honour Country at the Paris Book Festival 2022.
- 150.** PM Modi expresses happiness over 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India, Japan.
- 151.** LIC IPO to open on May 2 for anchor investors, for General public the offering opens from May 4.

- 152.** Robert Golob elected as prime minister of Slovenia.
- 153.** India will host the 21st world congress of accountants.
- 154.** TCS' KRISHNAN RAMANUJAM APPOINTED AS NASSCOM CHAIRPERSON FOR 2022-23.
- 155.** FORMER INDIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM CAPTAIN ELVERA BRITTO PASSES AWAY.
- 156.** CABINET APPROVES SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND CHILE FOR COOPERATION IN DISABILITY SECTOR.
- 157.** World Immunisation Week is observed in the last week of April, every year, with an aim to highlight the collective action required to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against diseases.
- 158.** Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference.
- 159.** Senior Asian Wrestling Championship begins in Mongolia.
- 160.** Tamil Nadu govt to observe Minorities Rights Day every year on 18 December.
- 161.** The founder of educational charity 'Bidyanando' Kishore Kumar Das from Bangladesh has been chosen for the Commonwealth Points of Light Award for his exceptional work in improving access to education for children from marginalised backgrounds.
- 162.** PM Modi inaugurates Semicon India Conference-2022 in Bengaluru; says it is our collective aim to establish India as one of the key partners in global semi-conductor supply chains.
- 163.** Samba becomes first district in India to cover 100% households under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - SEHAT scheme in J&K.
- 164.** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to inaugurate Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
- 165.** Bangladesh wants to work as knowledge partner with Tripura: IT Minister Zunaid Palak.
- 166.** Mission SAGAR IX: INS Gharial reaches Colombo, delivers critical medical aid to Sri Lanka.
- 167.** Vijay Sampla has been reappointed as chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).
- 168.** The Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) established April 29 as International Dance Day in 1982 to highlight the amazing diversity and talent of dancers

all over the globe. This date was chosen because it marks the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), the creator of modern ballet.

- 169.** Indigo becomes first airline to land aircraft using indigenous navigation system GAGAN.
- 170.** 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.
- 171.** Lt Gen BS Raju to take over as Vice Chief of Indian Army on May 1. Lt Gen Raju will succeed incumbent Lt Gen Manoj Pande who will take the reins of the 1.3 million-strong Army after Army Chief Gen MM Naravane completes his term.
- 172.** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offered her country's main seaport - Chittagong Port - to India's northeastern states like Assam and Tripura to enhance connectivity between the two neighbours.
- 173.** As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' – to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, a public infrastructure finance company under the Ministry of Power organized a 'Bijli Utsav' in the states of Manipur, Odisha and Chattisgarh.
- 174.** Chiefs and deputies of several international spy organisations, including those of the UK, Germany, the US ASEAN and several central Asian countries, were in India to attend a first-of-its kind conclave organised in Delhi.

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