

# Current Affairs MONTHLY



**JULY 2022**

**By  
CivilsTap Himachal**



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

**Prelims**

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### 1.1. REVISED GUIDELINES OF MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES-CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

- The central government has given its approval for the revised guidelines of its key scheme named Micro and Small Enterprises-Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP).
- This is to be implemented during the 15th Finance Commission cycle, i.e. FY22 to FY26. Various departments like Special Purpose Vehicle, MSME-Development Institute, and state governments had suggested simplifying the guidelines of the scheme to reduce the approval time and various processes of the projects.
- The aim of the scheme is to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of micro and small enterprises in the nation by undertaking certain interventions.
- The interventions include infrastructure development and the setting up of common facility centres (CFCs).
- The Cluster Development Programme is one of the oldest schemes under the Office of the Development Commissioner that is under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

### 1.2. HAR GHAR DASTAK 2.0 TO BOOST COVID VAX REACH.

- The campaign started last year and is aimed to conduct door-to-door vaccination programmes in order to reach all of the eligible demographic groups for the first, second and precautionary doses. The States have been advised to ensure that there is no wastage of Covid vaccines at any cost.
- The **objective of the “Har Ghar Dastak 2.0”** campaign is to vaccinate and saturate the eligible population groups for first, second and precaution doses through door-to-door campaigns, with focussed campaigns for old age homes, schools and colleges, including the out-of-school children (for focussed coverage of children aged 12-18 years population), prisons, brick kilns, etc.
- **193.57 crore doses** have been given around the country thus far. All adults over the age of 15 have gotten at least one dose of the vaccination.

### 1.3. PRIME MINISTER RELEASED A SPECIAL SERIES OF 1, 2, 5, 10, AND 20 COINS.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a special series of 1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 coins. These special series of coins will have the theme of the logo of the “Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav” (**AKAM**) and will be easily identifiable to visually impaired persons. Inaugurating the “iconic week celebrations” of the Ministry of Finance (June 6- 11).
- PM also launched the National Portal — “Jan Samarth Portal” — a credit linked portal of 13 Government schemes, to ensure ease in credit availability to youth, entrepreneurs, and farmers. The celebrations are part of the AKAM10.
- This portal will improve the lives of students, farmers, businessmen, and MSME entrepreneurs and will help them in realising their dreams.

### 1.4. NATIONAL AIR SPORTS POLICY 2022 LAUNCHED BY CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER.

- **The Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launched the National Air Sport policy 2022 (NASP 2022).**
- The vision of NASP 2022 is to make **India one of the top sports nations by 2023**. The policy ensures to provide safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable, and sustainable air sports in India.

- The **Air sports included various sports events which are going to be in air medium. The various aspects included in the policy are:**
  1. Aerobatics
  2. Aero modeling and model rocketry
  3. Amateur-built and experimental aircraft
  4. Ballooning
  5. Drones
  6. Gliding and powered gliding
  7. Hang gliding and powered hang gliding
  8. Parachuting (including skydiving, BASE jumping, wing suits, etc.)
  9. Paragliding and para motoring (including powered parachute trikes etc.)
  10. Powered aircraft (including ultra-light, a microlight, light sports aircraft, etc.)
  11. Rotorcraft (including autogyro)
- For the Air sports, there are **four government structures formed under the Policy**, which are named as follows.
  1. Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) is the apex governing body.
  2. National associations for individual air sports or a set of air sports, as appropriate.
  3. Regional (e.g. West/ South/ North East etc.) or State and Union Territory level units of the national air sports associations, as appropriate.
  4. District-level air sports associations, as appropriate.

### **1.5. PADDY MSP RAISED BY 100 Rs/QUINTAL FOR 2022-23.**

- The Centre hiked the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by 100 rupees raising it to 2,040 rupees per quintal for 2022-23 crop year in order to encourage farmers to bring more area under the crop and boost their income.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister approved the increase in MSPs for all 14 kharif (summer) crops for 2022-23 crop year.
- “The Government has increased the MSP of kharif crops for 2022-23 to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce and to encourage crop diversification.
- The Government has taken several steps from beej se bazaar tak (seed to market) that has helped increase income of farmers.
- As per the CCEA decision, the MSP of 14 kharif crops has been increased in the range of 92-523 rupees per quintal.
- The maximum hike has been given in sesamum of Rs 523 per quintal, while the lowest Rs 92 per quintal is in case of maize.
- The MSP of all the 14 crops for 2022-23 is higher by 46-131 per cent when compared to 2014-15. For example, the MSP of paddy (common variety) has been increased by 50 per cent to Rs 2,040 per quintal as against Rs 1,360 per quintal in 2014-15.

### **1.6. AGNIPATH UNVEILED: GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES RADICAL CHANGES IN ARMED FORCES RECRUITMENT POLICY.**

- Angipath scheme, It will entail induction of troops into the Army, the Air Force and the Navy for a duration of four years as jawans, airmen and sailors, respectively.
- In the first phase, some 46,000 youth in the age group of 17.5 years to 21 years will be recruited for a period of four years in the three services.
- The Agniveers is the name for those recruited under the scheme.



- Those exiting after four years will have a job opportunity in several ministries, public sector undertakings and in some State Governments.
- After completion of four years of services only 25 per cent of those recruited can opt for full tenure. The retaining will be done through a scientific model and centrally-maintained data and will then go on to serve with all benefits that apply to existing troops.
- It will also be open to women.
- The risk and hardship allowance will be separate at par with regular soldiers based on where they are posted.
- The recruit will have a contributory severance package called the one time 'Seva Nidhi' package and after four years each de-mobilised trooper would receive around Rs 11.76 lakh with interest.
- All the earnings would be exempt from income tax. There shall be no entitlement to gratuity and pensionary benefits.
- Recruits would also be provided with death and disability benefits under the scheme and this includes an insurance cover of Rs 1 crore to family in case of death.

### 1.7. 'RASHTRIYA PURUSKAR PORTAL' LAUNCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

- To encourage openness and public partnership, the Union Government has developed the **Rashtriya Puruskar Portal**, which invites nominations for numerous awards given by various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.
- The Portal intends to make it easier for public to propose people and organisations for various prizes given out by the Indian government.

#### KEY POINTS:

- This common **Rashtriya Puruskar Portal** has been developed by the government to invite nominations for various awards.
- These awards include various awards like Padma Awards, Sardar Patel National Unity Award, Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award, Jeevan Raksha Padak series of Awards, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Skill Excellence Award, etc.
- This will bring together all of the awards of the various Ministries/Departments/Agencies of the Government of India under one digital platform, ensuring transparency and public partnership.
- This portal attempts to make it easier for public to nominate people and organisations for various awards given by the Indian government.

### 1.8. INDIA'S 1ST PRIVATE TRAIN SERVICE FLAGGED OFF UNDER 'BHARAT GAURAV SCHEME'.

#### About the Bharat Gaurav Trains:

- Indian Railways had launched the operation of theme-based Bharat Gaurav train in the month of November 2021.
- The objective of this theme is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world, through Bharat Gaurav Trains.
- This scheme also aims to leverage the core strengths of the professionals of the tourism sector to run theme-based trains to tap the vast tourist potential of India.

#### KEY POINTS:

- The first train to be operated between **Coimbatore and Shirdi** by a private operator, under the '**Bharat Gaurav**' scheme of the **Indian Railways**
- The train will cover several historical destinations on the route while giving the passengers an insight into the cultural heritage of the country.

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**Other features of the train service are:**

- There will be a Doctor on board to attend any emergency.
- There are Private securities engaged along with the Railway Police Force to protect the train from any kind of harm.
- There will be on board electricians and AC Mechanic and Fire and Safety Officers
- The train is maintained by branded housekeeping service providers who will clean the utility areas on frequent intervals and the caterers are experienced and rich in holding the traditional vegetarian menus.
- The coaches are fitted with high bass-sounding speakers and an on-rail Radio Jockey to keep the passengers entertained during the journey. There will be devotional songs, spiritual stories and live interviews to keep the journey pleasant.
- Completely Toxic-free and Smoke-free.

**1.9. THE RS 920 CRORE PRAGATI MAIDAN INTEGRATED TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT IN DELHI INAUGURATED BY PM.****KEY POINTS:**

- PM inaugurated the Rs 920 crore Pragati Maidan integrated transit corridor project, which includes a 1.4 km tunnel and five underpasses on Mathura Road.
- The new corridor will provide hassle-free and smooth access to the new world-class exhibition and convention centre being developed at Pragati Maidan, thereby facilitating easy participation of exhibitors and visitors in the programmes being held at Pragati Maidan.
- The tunnel will provide relief to thousands of people coming from east Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad (and commuting to central Delhi).
- This integrated corridor will help people save time and it will also save fuel. In the presentation it was said that **55 lakh litres of fuel will be saved.**

**1.10. ELECTION COMMISSION DELISTED 111 REGISTERED UNRECOGNISED POLITICAL PARTIES (RUPP) FOR FLOUTING RULES.****KEY POINTS:**

- After taking actions against 2,100 registered unrecognised political parties (RUPP), the Election Commission (EC) delisted 111 RUPP for flouting rules and found them to be "non-existent" during a verification exercise aimed at cleaning up the system.
- According to the EC, its action came after chief electoral officers (CEOs) of states had reported that these "registered unrecognised political parties" either have been found to be "non-existent" on verification or the letters issued by authorities to verify their addresses and communication details had been returned as undelivered by the postal department.
- Subsequently, the EC decided to withdraw various benefits accorded to these parties under the **Symbols Order (1968)**, including allocation of common election symbol.
- These details of various parties that have flouted laws and rules on disclosure of funds and donations are in public domain and are available on the websites of state chief electoral officers.
- According to EC, a reference has also been sent to the Department of Revenue for necessary legal and criminal actions against three such parties involved in serious financial impropriety.

- A list of RUPPs that have not submitted their contribution reports in FY 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been shared with the Revenue Department for taking all consequential action as per Representation of the People Act read with the relevant provisions of the **IT Act 1961**.
- Another list of 66 RUPPs which have claimed income tax exemption without submitting contribution reports as mandated under law has also been shared with the Revenue Department.
- There are **nearly 2,800 registered unrecognised political parties** in India.
- The poll panel had been pushing the government to allow it to de-register political parties.
- On multiple occasions, it has written to the Law Ministry to amend the election law to give it the power to de-register so that it can deter the parties that indulge in financial and other irregularities.

### 1.11. 'SINGLE-USE PLASTIC' USE TO BANNED BY UNION GOVT. FROM 1ST JULY, 2022.

- **'Single-Use Plastic' use to be outflow from July 1st, 2022 by the Union government.** Single-use plastics, particularly those made of polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, will be illegal to produce, import, stock, distribute, sell, and use starting on **July 1, 2022, nationwide**.
- A national task group has also been established by the Environment Ministry to make coordinated efforts in this area.

#### Key Points:

- According to a response submitted by **Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Choubey** in Parliament, fourteen states and UTs have joined the special task force by **July 23**.
- The Delhi Environment Department will also launch a campaign on July 1 to guarantee compliance with the ban on 19 single-use plastics in the national capital, and any producers, suppliers, stockists, dealers, or sellers found in violation of the restrictions would be shut down.
- According to the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, the manufacturing, importation, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of certain single-use plastic (SUP) goods, such as candy sticks, plates, cups, and cutlery, have been outlawed as of July 1, 2022.

### 1.12. DELHI AIRPORT BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST TO RUN ENTIRELY ON HYDRO AND SOLAR ENERGY.

- **Delhi Airport or Indira Gandhi International Airport** has become the **first airport in the country** to run entirely on **hydro and solar power** from this month in a major step toward achieving the ambitious goal of becoming a **Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030**.
- **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)**, a GMR Infrastructure Limited-led consortium, which manages and operates the Delhi Airport, has signed a long-term **power purchase agreement (PPA)** with a **Himachal Pradesh-based hydropower** producing company for the supply of hydroelectricity for the airport until 2036.

#### Key points:

- Approximately 6 percent of the airport's electricity requirement is met from the onsite solar power plants while as much as 94 percent of the total demand is now being met through renewable energy use from the hydropower plant.
- DIAL has been working relentlessly towards environmental sustainability and has set its target to make Delhi Airport a Net Zero Carbon Emission airport by 2030, way ahead of the global target of 2050.
- To achieve this, DIAL has adopted a Green Transportation program recently and now achieved another milestone of the Green Energy Program.
- In 2015, the Cochin International Airport in Kerala became the first airport in the world to run solely using solar energy.

### 1.13. FIRST INDIA-NEPAL BHARAT GAURAV TOURIST TRAIN FLAGGED OFF.



- **First Bharat Gaurav tourist train** connecting places associated with the **Ramayana Circuit** in **India and Nepal** was flagged off from the **Safdarjung Railway Station in New Delhi**.
- The Bharat Gaurav train carrying 500 tourists from India will arrive at the Janakpur Dham railway station in Nepal.
- **The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation's (IRCTC) 18-day** Shri Ramayana Yatra special tourist train will take pilgrims to sacred places associated with the life of Lord Ram.

**Speciality of Bharat Gaurav tourist train:**

- The train with 11 third AC class coaches has an accommodation capacity of around 600 passengers. The **total cost** for the first trip on Ramayana Circuit, is around Rs **62,370 per person** for 18 days and is all inclusive.
- Every coach of the train has been designed as a kaleidoscope of '**Pride of India**' highlighting the various facets of India such as monuments, cuisines, attires, festivals, flora and fauna, folk art etc.
- The Ramayana Circuit is one of the 15 thematic circuits identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan scheme of the Ministry of Tourism of India.
- The train has 14 coaches and the exteriors of some of the coaches also promote various classical and folk-dance forms, attires, popular festivals, delicacies of the country.



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## INTERNATIONAL

### 1.14. 118TH INDIA-PAKISTAN BILATERAL MEETING ON THE INDUS WATER TREATY TO BE HELD.

- The Permanent Indus Commission conference, which is held yearly under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) 1960, began with India and Pakistan.

#### KEY POINTS:

- The most recent summit, held in **New Delhi** on March 23-24, 2021, focused on the exchange of hydrological and flood data.
- In March, **India** and **Pakistan** reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the Indus Waters Treaty in its entirety, and expressed the hope that the Permanent Indus Commission's next meeting will be conducted in India soon.
- A five-member Pakistani team has arrived in the United States for the two-day discussions.
- The Indus talks are not seen as a forerunner to a more substantial engagement between the two countries.
- The two countries previously met for diplomatic discussions in December 2015, and while they were able to announce a resumption of talks at that time, the process was never able to get off the ground due to the Pathankot assault.

### 1.15. ISRAEL AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES SIGNED THE FIRST ARAB FREE TRADE DEAL.

- The agreement was signed in Dubai by Orna Barbivay and Abdalla Bin Touq Al Marri.

#### KEY POINTS:

- Regulatory and standardisation concerns, customs, collaboration, government procurement, e-commerce, and intellectual property rights are all covered under the agreement.
- This is a crucial visit for the State of Israel's commercial relations with the **United Arab Emirates**, the first free trade zone deal with an Arab country.
- The free trade zone agreement they signed this morning is expected to improve bilateral commerce, remove barriers, and create new economic possibilities and collaborations, all of which will serve as a foundation for our common road forward.
- The commercial pact with **Israel** will usher in a new era in the **Middle East**. This agreement will boost economic growth and reinforce the notion that working together is the only way to build long-term, sustainable economies in a complicated environment.

### 1.16. FOR THE FIRST TIME, INDIAN DELEGATION MEETS TALIBAN LEADERSHIP.

- In a major development, an Indian delegation for the first time met the senior Taliban leaders in Kabul since it took control of Afghanistan in August last year.
- The Indian team headed by a senior diplomat discussed humanitarian assistance to the people of the strife-torn nation.
- The on-going visit comes against the backdrop of reports indicating that India may reopen its Embassy in Kabul, shut shortly after the Taliban took over the country on August 15 last year.
- More than 15 countries have already reopened their Embassies there.
- The Ministry said the team is on a visit to Kabul to oversee the delivery operations of India's humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.
- In this endeavour, India has already dispatched several shipments of humanitarian assistance consisting of 20,000 MTs of wheat, 13 tonnes of medicines, 500,000 doses of Covid vaccine and winter clothing,"



### 1.17. UN APPROVES TURKEY'S REQUEST TO CHANGE NAME TO TURKIYE.

- **Turkiye Capital: Ankara;**
- **President of Türkiye: Recep Tayyip Erdogan.**
- **Turkiye Currency: Turkish lira.**
- **The United Nations** has changed the **Republic of Turkey's country** name at the organisation from **"Turkey" to "Türkiye"**, following a request from Ankara for the change.
- Turkey began the move to change its internationally recognised official name in English to Türkiye in December after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan released a memorandum and asked the public to use Türkiye to describe the country in every language.
- Türkiye is the best representation and expression of the Turkish people's culture, civilization and values.

### 1.18. VOTERS IN KAZAKHSTAN APPROVE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.

- Voters in the Central Asian nation of Kazakhstan have given overwhelming approval to proposed constitutional changes widely seen as an attempt to repudiate the legacy of former strongman Nursultan Nazarbayev, who led the ex-Soviet republic for three decades.
- According to Kazakhstan's Central Election Commission, 77% of voters supported the constitutional amendments in referendum, according to preliminary results, while just under 19% voted against them and about 2.6% of ballots were found invalid. The turnout was 68%.
- Referendum included specific questions on modifications like prohibiting the death penalty and banning some officials from joining political parties.
- President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev vowed Political reforms, including reducing the power of the presidency and strengthening parliament, reducing government involvement in the economy, and to bridge the gap between rich and poor.

### 1.19. INDIA & CANADA INKED MoU ON CLIMATE ACTION FOR STRONGER COOPERATION.

- **India and Canada** have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen bilateral collaboration on **climate change, environmental preservation, and conservation.**
- On the sidelines of the Stockholm+50 summit, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and his Canadian colleague Steven Guilbeault signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

#### About Stockholm+50 summits:

- The Stockholm+50 Summit, which will take place in Stockholm in June 2022, will bring together leaders of state and government to commemorate the **50th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference.**
- This summit, which is based on the Decade of Action, comes after months of deliberations and talks with governments, organizations, and civil society participants.

#### Key Points:

- The gathering is being hosted to honour the **50th anniversary of the Stockholm Summit**, the world's first environmental conference.
- Under the terms of the agreement, the two countries will work together, share information and expertise, and support each other's goals in a variety of areas, including increasing renewable energy capacity, decarbonizing heavy industries, reducing plastic pollution, promoting chemical safety, and ensuring sustainable consumption.

### 1.20. INDIA, VIETNAM SIGN LOGISTIC SUPPORT PACT.

- India and Vietnam signed a vision document to further broad-base the “scope and scale” of their defence ties by 2030.
- The two nations also firmed up a logistics support pact to allow militaries of the two sides to use each other’s bases for repair and replenishment of supplies.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on mutual logistics support is the **first such major agreement** that Vietnam has signed with any country.
- The two defence ministers signed the ‘Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030’ that provides for expansion of defence and military ties in diverse areas.
- India has oil exploration projects in the Vietnamese waters in the South China Sea.
- India and Vietnam are boosting their maritime security cooperation in the last few years to protect common interests.
- Ties between the two countries were elevated to the level of ‘strategic partnership’ during the visit of Vietnam’s then Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung to India in July 2007.

### 1.21. WORLD’S FIRST ‘RIGHT TO REPAIR’ LAW FOR DIGITAL ELECTRONICS PASSED BY NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

- **New York state legislature** is a world first, to pass the **law for Digital Electronics**. The “right to repair” bill enacted by the requiring digital electronics makers to make parts, tools, information, and software available to customers and independent repair businesses.
- To safeguard customers’ rights to repair and refurbish their purchased products, the “**Fair Repair Act**” was enacted.
- It **does not include** motor vehicles (these are already handled by a national Right to Repair agreement between the automakers and the aftermarket), home appliances, medical devices, public safety communications equipment like police radios, agricultural equipment, and off-road equipment.
- According to New York Assembly member, the Digital Fair Repair Act puts consumers first, levels the playing field for independent repair shops, and **reduces e-waste footprint on the environment,**”

### 1.22. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTES TO BAN SALE OF NEW PETROL AND DIESEL CARS BY 2035.

- Members of the **European Parliament** have voted to ban the sale of **new petrol and diesel cars by 2035**.
- The move aims to step up the fight against climate change through the faster development of electric vehicles.
- The voting was held on an amendment that would have allowed some auto emissions from new vehicles after 2035, which was rejected by Members of Parliament.

#### Key points:

- Lawmakers supported a proposal, made by the European Commission last year, to require a 100% reduction in CO2 emissions from new cars by 2035, which would make it impossible to sell fossil fuel-powered vehicles in the EU from that date.
- Attempts by some lawmakers to weaken the target to a **90% CO2 cut by 2035** were rejected.

### 1.23. ECUADOR, JAPAN, MALTA, MOZAMBIQUE, SWITZERLAND ELECTED TO THE UNSC.

- **Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland** were elected to the United Nations Security Council as non-permanent members for the 2023-2024 term, and took over the horseshoe table from **India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, and Norway** on January 1, 2023.

**KEY POINTS:**

- India's two-year as a non-permanent member of the **United Nations Security Council** will finish in December 2022, when it will simultaneously hold the Presidency of the UN body.
- On the question of "categories of membership," the G4 nations of **Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan** have stated that the Council's decisions can only reflect the interests of the entire membership if permanent seats are enlarged.

**1.24. RUSSIA OVERTAKES SAUDI ARABIA TO BECOME INDIA'S 2ND BIGGEST OIL SUPPLIER.**

- **Russia** has overtaken **Saudi Arabia** to become India's second-biggest supplier of oil behind **Iraq** as refiners snap up **Russian crude available** at a deep discount following the war in Ukraine.
- Indian refiners bought about **25 million barrels of Russian oil in May**, or more than 16 per cent of all their oil imports.
- Russian-origin crude hit 5 per cent of India's total seaborne imports in April for the first time, rising from under 1% throughout 2021 and Q1 2022.

**Key points:**

- After the **U.S. and China**, India is the world's third-largest consumer of oil, over **85 per cent** of which is imported.
- The Oil Ministry had last month stated that "**energy purchases from Russia remain minuscule in comparison to India's total consumption.**"
- **Iraq** remained the top supplier to India in May and Saudi Arabia is now the third biggest supplier.
- India has taken advantage of discounted prices to ramp up oil imports from Russia at a time when global energy prices have been rising.

**1.25. BRICS PARTNIR INNOVATION CENTER HAS SIGNED MOU WITH A BRICS BANK.**

- The name BRICS stands for **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, a group of emerging markets. It is home to more than 40% of the worldwide population and a quarter of the global economy.
- The **BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR)** Innovation Center and the **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance bilateral cooperation and boost BRICS countries' common development.

**KEY POINTS:**

- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed via video link at the port city of **Xiamen, Fujian Province, East China**.
- On behalf of the two parties, **Huang Wenhui**, executive vice chairman of the **BRICS PartNIR** Innovation Center council, and **Marcos Troyjo**, president of the **NDB**, signed the MoU.
- The two sides will prioritise collaboration in areas such as artificial intelligence, the industrial internet, energy conservation, and environmental protection, according to the MoU, through cooperative research, staff training, and information sharing on infrastructure and sustainable programmes.
- In December 2020, the BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center opened in Xiamen. The NDB was founded by the BRICS countries and is headquartered in Shanghai.

**1.26. WTO MEMBERS SECURE UNPRECEDENTED PACKAGE OF TRADE OUTCOMES AT MC12.****KEY POINTS:**

- WTO members concluded the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) in Geneva, securing multilaterally negotiated outcomes on a series of key trade initiatives.



- The “Geneva Package” confirms the historical importance of the multilateral trading system and underlines the important role of the WTO in addressing the world’s most pressing issues, especially at a time when global solutions are critical.

#### The package adopted by members includes:

- A package on WTO response to emergencies, comprising:
  - Ministerial Declaration on the Emergency Response to Food Insecurity.
  - Ministerial Decision on World Food Programme (WFP) Food Purchases Exemptions from Export Prohibitions or Restrictions.
  - Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics.
  - Ministerial Decision on the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.
- A Decision on the E-commerce Moratorium and Work Programme.
- An Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
- In addition, ministers adopted two decisions - on the Work Programme on Small Economies and on the TRIPS non-violation and situation complaints— and a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Declaration for the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference.

### 1.27. PAKISTAN REMAINS IN FATF ‘GREY LIST’ FOR TERROR FINANCING, MONEY LAUNDERING.

- **FATF Headquarters: Paris, France**
- **FATF Founded: 1989**
- **Pakistan** will continue to be on the “**Grey List**” of countries under increased monitoring of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, from the global money-laundering and terror-financing watchdog.
- Pakistan has been on the grey list of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing, and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019.

#### Key points:

- Since then, the country continues to be on that list due to its failure to comply with the FATF mandates. The concluding session of the plenary meeting of the FATF is due and includes Pakistan’s review on the agenda.
- Pakistan is now targeting the full completion of the 2021 action plan on anti-money laundering and combating terror financing by the end of January 2023.
- In October 2021, the FATF acknowledged Pakistan’s progress on a 27-point action plan on completion of 26 items but kept the country on its increased monitoring list to exhibit terror financing investigations against and prosecutions of top cadres of UN-designated terror groups.
- Pakistan had to complete two concurrent action plans with a total of 34 items.

### 1.28. RUSSIA HAS BECOME CHINA'S BIGGEST SUPPLIER OF OIL.

#### KEY POINTS:

- Russia has become China's biggest supplier of oil as the country sold discounted crude to Beijing amid sanctions over the Ukraine war.
- **Imports** of Russian oil **rose by 55 per cent** from a year earlier to a record level in May, displacing Saudi Arabia as China's biggest provider.
- China has ramped up purchases of Russian oil despite demand dampened by Covid curbs and a slowing economy.
- Chinese companies, including state refining giant Sinopec and state-run Zhenhua Oil, have increased their purchases of Russian crude in recent months after being offered heavy discounts.

- The imports into China, which include supplies pumped through the East Siberia Pacific Ocean pipeline and shipments by sea, totalled nearly 8.42m tonnes last month.
- That pushed Saudi Arabia - formerly China's biggest source of crude oil - into second place with 7.82m tonnes.
- Russia earned almost \$100 billion in revenue from fossil fuel exports in the first 100 days of the country's invasion of Ukraine, despite a fall in exports in May.
- The European Union made up 61 per cent of these imports, worth approximately \$59 billion.

### 1.29. GUSTAVO PETRO IS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA.

- Colombia's presidency has been won by **Gustavo Petro**, a former rebel warrior who has pledged significant social and economic transformation.
- **Petro** became Colombia's first left-wing President.

#### About Gustavo Petro:

- Decades earlier, Petro was a part of the urban guerrilla outfit known as M-19. Established in 1970, the M-19 sought to gain power through violence following claims of fraud in that year's elections.
- Petro, who spent time in jail for illegal arms possession, joined the urban military group at the age of 17, and was among the many university students and artists who fought against the government.
- The M-19 was demobilised in 1990 in what is considered a historic success in Colombia's long history of conflict. The group metamorphosed into a political party, and aided in the rewriting of the constitution.
- For almost a half century from 1964, a violent Marxist-Leninist insurgency led by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, or FARC in Spanish — raged in the country.
- Despite his early revolutionary actions, the President elect has spent many years in Colombia's Parliament, having served in the lower house, the Chamber of Representatives, from 1991-94 and then from 1998-2006, before entering the Senate where he served until 2010, and then again from 2018 onward. In between, Petro was Mayor of the capital city of Bogota from 2012 to 2015.

### 1.30. SOUTH KOREA SENT ITS FIRST SATELLITE INTO ORBIT USING A DOMESTIC NURI ROCKET.

- South Korea launched its first satellite successfully using a homegrown rocket, boosting the nation's expanding aerospace ambitions and proving it has the necessary technologies to build larger missiles and launch spy satellites in the midst of tensions with rival North Korea.
- The three-stage Nuri rocket successfully launched a working "performance verification" satellite to a target altitude of 435 miles from South Korea's space launch facility on a southern island.

#### Key Points:

- An unmanned South Korean station in Antarctica received signals from the satellite informing it of its condition.
- It is carrying four smaller satellites that will be launched for Earth observation and other missions in the following days.
- With the launch, South Korea became the **tenth country** in the world to successfully launch a satellite using homegrown technology.
- It was the second Nuri rocket launch by South Korea.
- When the first attempt was made in October of last year, the third stage rocket's engine prematurely burned out, preventing the fake payload from entering orbit after reaching the appropriate height.

### 1.31. TOGO AND GABON BECOME COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.

- The Commonwealth of Nations now has 56 member nations after the admission of Togo and Gabon.
- The two historically French-speaking nations were formally admitted to the union at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which was presided over by Rwandan President Paul Kagame in Kigali, the country's capital.
- According to Patricia Scotland, the organization's secretary-general, admission is determined by evaluations of a number of standards, including the democratic process, effective leadership, and rule of law.

**KEY POINTS:**

- The choice was taken following the heads of state and government's consultation at the meeting.
- Never were the two African nations British colonies.
- According to Togo's Foreign Minister Robert Dussey, the goal of the country's membership in the Commonwealth is to broaden its network of diplomatic, political, and commercial relations.
- According to Michael Moussa Adamo, the foreign minister of Gabon, joining would strengthen economic diversification while retaining ties with France.
- President Ali Bongo of Gabon thinks modernization is a goal of joining the Commonwealth.
- While Togo, a country in West Africa, began the process of legally entering the Commonwealth in 2014, the Central African nation's formal application procedure began five years earlier.



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## DAYS TO REMEMBER

### 1.32. WORLD VAPE DAY 2022 OBSERVED 2022 ON 30TH MAY.

- **World Vape Day** is observed on **30th May** across the globe to create awareness about the alternatives to harmful tobacco products and highlights the relative safety of **e-cigarettes and their potential as harm reduction and smoking cessation tools**.
- World Vape Day (May 30) is observed on the day before World No Tobacco Day (May 31), observed by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- World Vape Day was initiated by the **World Vapers' Alliance (WVA)**. WVA was established by and receives funding from the Consumer Choice Centre.

### 1.33. PM ANNOUNCES 'YOGA FOR HUMANITY' IS THE THEME OF EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA.

- 'Yoga for Humanity' has been chosen as the theme of the eighth International Day of Yoga to be organised in India and across the globe on June 21.
- The main event of International Day of Yoga this year will be held in **Mysuru**, Karnataka. Focusing on the theme of 'yoga for humanity', special programmes have been designed this year for specially-abled people, the transgender population, women and children. Human values that are an integral part of yoga education in schools are also in focus.
- The 8th edition of International Day of Yoga (IDY) will see many firsts, one of them is an innovative programme, named "**Guardian Ring**", under which participation of people performing yoga will take place along with the movement of the sun from different countries, beginning from the east and marching towards west.

### 1.34. 50TH WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 5TH JUNE.

- **World Environment Day** is observed globally on **5th June** every year. This day is observed to raise awareness about protecting the environment and to remind people not to take nature granted. It is the biggest international day for the environment.
- **The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** is the nodal agency that organises and supports events across the world.
- Theme of **World Environment Day 2022**.
- **Sweden** is the host this year and the theme is '**Only One Earth**,' focusing on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature.

### 1.35. WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 7TH JUNE.

- World Health Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Health Organization Founded: 7 April 1948.
- **World Food Safety Day** is celebrated globally on **June 7** every year as per the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- World Food Safety Day aims to transform food systems to deliver better health sustainably and prevent foodborne diseases.
- This day also provides an opportunity to strengthen efforts to ensure that the food we eat is safe and reduce the burden of foodborne illnesses globally.
- The theme of this year is '**Safer food, better health**'.



### 1.36. WORLD OCEANS DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 8TH JUNE.

- The concept of World Oceans Day was first proposed by the UN in **1992** at the Earth Summit in **Rio de Janeiro**.
- **The World Oceans Day** is celebrated on **June 8** every year across the globe.
- The day is commemorated to remind people of the importance of the oceans and the major role they play in everyday life.
- The day is also observed to make raise public awareness of the ocean and its resources in order to promote global ocean and resource sustainability. The day intends to highlight the various resources that mankind derives from the ocean as well as the various threats that the ocean faces.
- The theme for World Oceans Day 2022 is **Revitalization: collective action for the ocean**".

### 1.37. WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR.

- **12 June** marks the **World Day Against Child Labour** .
- On this day, the **ILO**, together with its constituents and partners has called for increased investment in social protection systems and schemes to establish solid social protection floors and protect children from child labour.
- According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), there are about 152 million children globally who are engaged in child labour, 72 million of whom are in hazardous work.
- The theme of Year 2022 is **"Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour"**.

### 1.38. WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY OBSERVED ON 14TH JUNE.

- The day is celebrated to promote awareness about the need for blood donation and thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.
- The day aims to promote regular blood donations to ensure that all individuals have access to affordable and timely supplies of safe blood in times of emergency needs.
- The Host nation for World Blood Donor Day 2022 is **Mexico**.

#### World Blood Donor Day 2022: Theme

- **The Theme for World Blood Donor Day 2022** is **"Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives"**.
- It is focused on drawing attention to the roles that voluntary blood donors play in saving.
- The theme aims to highlight the need for committed donors to regular year- blood donation, to maintain adequate supplies and achieve universal and timely access to safe blood transfusion.

### 1.39. GLOBAL WIND DAY 2022 CELEBRATES GLOBALLY ON 15TH JUNE.

#### Global Wind Day: History

- The First Wind Day was commemorated in **2007** by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA). In **2009** the EWEA collaborated with the **Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)** and made it a global event.
- Wind Europe and GWEC from then celebrate this day together.

#### THEME 2022

- **Celebrate to enjoy the benefits of Wind energy and providing education to the individuals about the power and potential of wind energy to change the world.**

- This day is dedicated to learn about wind energy and its potential to reshape energy systems, decarbonizing economies and boosting employment as well as growth. The purpose of this day is to increase public knowledge of wind energy and its uses.

#### 1.40. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILY REMITTANCES 2022: 16 JUNE

##### About International Day of Family Remittances:

- IDFR is a universally-recognized observance adopted by United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA).
- The custodian of IDFR towards these objectives is the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- IFAD is a specialized United Nations (UN) agency that was one of the major outcomes of the World Food Conference 1974. Later in 1977, it was set up as an international financial institution.

##### KEY POINTS:

- **The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR)** was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and is observed on **16 June**.
- This year, the United Nations is **continuing last year's theme** for International Day of Family Remittances: **recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion**.
- The IDFR recognizes more than 200 million migrant workers, women and men, who send money home to over 800 million family members.
- This day further highlights the great resilience of migrant workers in the face of economic insecurities, natural and climate related disasters and a global pandemic.

#### 1.41. SUSTAINABLE GASTRONOMY DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 18TH JUNE

##### KEY POINTS:

- The day was recognised on **21 December 2016** after the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted the resolution and declared 18 June as Sustainable Gastronomy Day.
- Every year, UNGA, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) work together to ensure that the day is celebrated properly around the world.
- The objective of this day is to recognise the practices associated with sustainable food consumption, especially with the art of collecting and preparing the food we eat.
- Gastronomy is sometimes called the art of food. It can also refer to a style of cooking from a particular region.
- In other words, gastronomy often refers to local food and cuisine. Sustainability is the idea that something (e.g., agriculture, fishing or even preparation of food) is done in a way that is not wasteful of our natural resources and can be continued into the future without being detrimental to our environment or health.
- Sustainable gastronomy, therefore, means cuisine that takes into account where the ingredients are from, how the food is grown and how it gets to our markets and eventually to our plates.

#### 1.42. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA CELEBRATES ON 21ST JUNE.

##### International Yoga Day: History

- The United Nations General Assembly had declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in 2014 at the initiative of India with the support of 177 countries.
- The idea of International Day of Yoga was first proposed by Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** during his speech at United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 27th September 2014.

- **International Day of Yoga** is celebrated worldwide on **21st June** since **2015**. This year, the **8th** edition of the International Day of Yoga will be observed.
- **The theme of International Yoga Day 2022 is 'Yoga for Humanity'** across the world with great enthusiasm.

#### **1.43. AN EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 6.1 HITS AFGHANISTAN.**

- According to the state-run news agency, a powerful earthquake struck a rural, mountainous region of eastern Afghanistan, killing 1,000 people and injuring 1,500 more in one of the deadliest quakes in decades reported.
- According to the Pakistan's Meteorological Department the quake's epicentre was in Afghanistan's Paktika province, some 50 kilometers southwest of the city of Khost.
- According to Experts, the depth was at just 10 km that could have led to severe destruction.
- According to a seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey that death toll depends on type of geography, building quality and population density.
- According to the European seismological agency, EMSC, the earthquake's tremors were felt over 500 kilometres by 119 million people across Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

#### **1.44. INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING 2022: JUNE 26.**

##### **History**

- On **December 7, 1987**, the United Nations General Assembly decided to observe **June 26** as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. It did so to strengthen their efforts in order to achieve the goal of making the society free of drug abuse.

##### **Theme for 2022**

- **"Addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises"**
- The theme has been selected in the wake of widespread humanitarian crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a major global health crisis.

#### **1.45. MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES DAY: 27 JUNE.**

##### **History:**

- The Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day was marked by the United Nations General Assembly in its 74th Plenary on April 6 2017. The move came after the International Council for Small Business (ICSB) 2016 World Conference Declaration on the urgent need to recognise MSME's role in global development.
- Recognising the potential of the MSME and their role in strengthening economies, **June 27** is celebrated as the **Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day**.
- The day is aimed at raising public awareness of the contribution of MSMEs to global economic growth and sustainable development.
- MSME or Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises are crucial for the growth of a country as they form the backbone of the economy.
- They are enterprises that usually employ not more than 250 employees but are responsible for creating more than two-thirds of all jobs globally.

##### **Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day 2022: Significance**

- According to the United Nations, formal and informal MSMEs account for 70 per cent of the total employment and 50 per cent of the GDP. Moreover, the sector makes up for 90 per cent of all firms.
- With such significant contribution to the economy, MSMEs are essential for innovations, job creation, and productivity growth.
- Despite being a key player in generating jobs, MSMEs face challenges in working conditions, informality, and productivity.
- The MSME day is celebrated to unlock the potential of the enterprise and utilise it for bolstering the global economy.

#### **1.46. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE TROPICS OBSERVED ON 29 JUNE.**

##### **International Day of the Tropics: History**

- The inaugural State of the Tropics Report was launched on 29 June 2014, as the culmination of a collaboration between twelve leading tropical research institutions.
- The report offers a unique perspective on this increasingly important region. Marking the anniversary of the report's launch the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/70/267 in 2016, which declared that 29 June of each year is to be observed as the International Day of the Tropics.

##### **KEY POINTS:**

- International Day of the Tropics is observed globally on 29 June. The International Day of the Tropics celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics while highlighting unique challenges and opportunities nations of the Tropics face.
- It provides an opportunity to take stock of progress across the tropics, to share tropical stories and expertise and to acknowledge the diversity and potential of the region.

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## PERSON IN NEWS

### 1.47. SACHIN TENDULKAR TO CONTINUE AS UNICEF'S GOODWILL AMBASSADOR FOR 20TH YEAR.

#### Key points:

- In 2003, he was chosen to take lead in the initiative to create awareness and promote polio prevention in India.
- Later in 2008, he was roped in to create and promote hygiene and sanitation among communities and has been continuing to do so over the years.
- In 2013, he was appointed **UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia** to advocate good hygiene and sanitation across the region.
- In 2019, he went on a three-day trip to Nepal to raise awareness for **UNICEF Nepal's 'Bat for Brain Development' campaign**.

### 1.48. JAVIER OLIVAN TAKING OVER AS THE META NEW CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER.

- Meta CEO: Mark Zuckerberg;
- Meta Founded: February 2004, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States.
- Javier Olivan, the current chief growth officer at **Meta Platforms**, will take over as the company's chief operating officer after Sheryl Sandberg stepped down from the post. Olivan has been with Meta, formerly known as Facebook, for several years, contributing to its explosive expansion.
- He will be responsible for the advertising and business products while continuing to head infrastructure and corporate development.

### 1.49. BLOOMBERG BILLIONAIRES LIST: MUKESH AMBANI RICHEST IN ASIA.

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman and Managing Director, **Mukesh Ambani** has regained the position of India as well as **Asia's richest man**, replacing **Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani**.
- According to the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**, Ambani who has a net worth of **\$99.7 billion** added \$9.69 billion in 2022. Mr Ambani is followed by **Gautam Adani** on the global billionaire list.
- Adani is ranked ninth with Net worth **\$98.7 billion** in the Bloomberg Billionaire index.

#### Bloomberg Billionaires Index: Globally

- Tesla CEO **Elon Musk** remains the world's richest person with a net fortune of \$227 billion.
- Amazon's **Jeff Bezos** is the second richest man with a \$149 billion net worth, as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- LVMH's **Bernard Arnault** with \$138 billion net worth is the third richest person in the world followed by Microsoft co-founder **Bill Gates** with \$124 billion net fortune in the fourth position and **Warren Buffett** in the fifth position with a net worth of \$114 billion.

### 1.50. RAMKRISHNA MUKKAVILLI BECOMES THE FIRST INDIAN TO BE RECOGNIZED BY UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT AS GLOBAL SDG PIONEER.

- **For the first time in the world**, an Indian has been named a **Global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Pioneer for Water Stewardship** by the **United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)**.
- The United Nations Global Compact has named ten new SDG Pioneers, who are corporate leaders who are excelling in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by implementing the UN Global Compact Ten Principles on human rights, environment, labour, and anti-corruption.

- Professionals working at any level in a firm engaging in the **UN Worldwide Compact** were targeted for the global search, with winners picked from every continent.
- Their work covers a wide range of topics, including climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as circular economy and digital transformation.

### 1.51. AR RAHMAN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR OF INDO-UK CULTURE PLATFORM.

- Music Maestro, **AR Rahman** has been appointed as ambassador of **The Season of Culture**, which marks the **75th anniversary of India's independence**.
- It was officially launched, by Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India Jan Thomson and Director (India) of the British Council Barbara Wickham.
- The Season of Culture aims to strengthen India-UK collaboration in the areas of arts, English and education.

### 1.52. MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR PRESENTS HONORARY DOCTORATE TO INDUSTRIALIST RATAN TATA.

- Industrialist and philanthropist, **Ratan Tata** was presented with **Honorary Doctor of Literature** by Maharashtra Governor **Bhagat Singh Koshiyari** at Raj Bhavan Mumbai.
- The Honorary doctorate was presented to Mr. Ratan at the First Special Convocation of the HSNL University.
- The HSNL University is a Cluster university comprising existing colleges from the Mumbai vicinity, namely, H.R. College, Kishinchand Chellaram College (KC College), and Bombay Teachers' Training College (BTTI) as the constituent colleges with HSNL Board as its parent body.

### 1.53. EMINENT URDU CRITIC & LINGUIST PROFESSOR GOPI CHAND NARANG PASSES AWAY.

- Renowned Urdu scholar, linguist, theorist, literary critic, and former Chairperson of Sahitya Akademi Professor, **Gopi Chand Narang** has passed away at 91.
- He was a Professor Emeritus at the **University of Delhi and Jamia Millia Islamia**.
- He has been honoured with the **Padma Bhushan (2004) and Sahitya Akademi Awards (1995)**.
- He incorporated a range of modern theoretical frameworks, including stylistics, structuralism, post-structuralism, and Sanskrit poetics.

### 1.54. RUCHIRA KAMBOJ TO BE INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN.

- Senior diplomat Ruchira Kamboj appointed as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.
- Kamboj, a 1987-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is presently serving as India's envoy to Bhutan.
- She will succeed T S Tirumurti as the Indian ambassador to the UN.

### 1.55. SKALZANG RIGZIN: FIRST INDIAN MOUNTAINEER TO ASCEND MOUNT ANNAPURNA PEAK.

#### About Skalzang Rigzin:

- The 41-year-old **Skalzang Rigzin** has 23 years of experience in leading adventurous visitors in mountaineering in **Ladakh**.
- According to **Skalzang Rigzin**, fellow mountaineer and founder of Boots and Crampons **Bharath Thammineni** backed the Mt. Annapurna expedition, and Nepal's Peak Promotion Company assisted in the ascent of the nearby **Mt. Lhotse**.

#### KEY POINTS:

- **Skalzang Rigzin**, the first mountaineer from India to ascend **Mount Annapurna** 's top without the aid of oxygen was welcomed by **Leh** with open arms.
- With 16 days of gap between climb of **Mt Annapurna** on April 28 and Mt Lhotse on May 14, **Skalzang Rigzin** has set a record to conquer two summits without oxygen supplements.

### 1.56. LISA STHALEKAR BECOMES FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF FICA.

- Former Australian cricketer, **Lisa Sthalekar** has become the **first female president of the Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA)**, the sport's international players association.
- Sthalekar joins a shortlist of former cricketers including **Barry Richards, Jimmy Adams and Vikram Solanki** to have held the post of FICA president.

#### Career of Lisa Sthalekar:

- Sthalekar played 8 Tests, 125 ODIs and 54 T20Is for Australia between 2001 and 2013, finishing her career with a World Cup win.
- Last year, she was inducted into the Australian cricket hall of fame and has been a regular member of the broadcasting media around the world.
- She has also worked with the Australian Cricketers' Association and has experience in player welfare.

### 1.57. SENIOR IPS OFFICER DINKAR GUPTA IS APPOINTED AS A DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA).

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** appointed former Punjab Director General of Police (DGP), **Dinkar Gupta** as the **Director General** of the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**.
- He is the 1987 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Punjab cadre.
- According to the order, Gupta will hold the post of NIA chief till March 31, 2024, that is the date of his retirement or till further orders, whichever comes earlier.
- Gupta has held the post of Director General of Police, Intelligence, Punjab, which involved the direct supervision of Punjab State Intelligence Wing, State Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and Organized Crime Control Unit (OCCU).

### 1.58. IRS OFFICER NITIN GUPTA HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE NEW CBDT CHAIRMAN.

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Nitin Gupta, IRS, Member Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) as chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes.
- He is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1986 batch of the Income Tax cadre. He is serving as the Member (investigation) in the Board.
- The post of the CBDT chief was being held in an additional capacity by Board member and 1986- batch IRS officer Sangeeta Singh after J B Mohapatra retired on April 30.
- The CBDT is headed by a chairman and can have six members who are in the rank of special secretary. It is the administrative body for the Income Tax department.

### 1.59. MOHAMMED JALOOD

- The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) chooses **Mohammed Jalood** as President 2022.
- **Mohammed Jalood** has been elected as the organization's president, and 11 additional new members have been added to its Executive Board.

#### About IWF:



- The international governing organisation for Olympic weightlifting is the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), which has its headquarters in Lausanne.
- The 192 Member Federations of the IWF date back to its founding in 1905.
- Between the 1972 and 1976 Summer Olympics, the Fédération Haltérophile International (FHI), now known as the IWF, underwent a name change.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1.60. PARAM ANANTA SUPERCOMPUTER COMMISSIONED AT IIT, GANDHINAGAR.

- Param Ananta, is a state of the art supercomputer at IIT Gandhinagar dedicated to the nation under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- It is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), which was commissioned. This indigenous software stack is developed by C-DAC and is a Make in India initiative.

#### About the Param Ananta:

- The Param Ananta is based on direct contact liquid cooling technology to obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reduce the operational cost.
- The Param Ananta Supercomputing Facility will greatly benefit IIT Gandhinagar's R&D activities in **multidisciplinary domains** of science and technology, including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (**ML**), data science; computational fluid dynamics (CFD); bio-engineering for genome sequencing and DNA studies.
- **Computational biology and bioinformatics** are used in the prediction and detection of gene networks; atomic and molecular sciences that help in understanding how a drug binds to a particular protein; climate change and environment studies for extreme weather predictions and simulation of models which can predict the onset of a cyclone;
- **Energy studies** which will help in carrying out design simulation and optimization of energy conversion devices at various scales; fire dynamics simulation; nanotechnology; robotics; applied mathematics; astronomy and astrophysics; material sciences; quantum mechanics; and studies on civil engineering and structural mechanics to **understand the dynamic behaviour of buildings, bridges, and complex structure.**

### 1.61. ASIA'S LARGEST LIQUID MIRROR TELESCOPE IN UTTARAKHAND TO HELP SURVEY SKY.

- A first-of-its-kind Asia's largest liquid mirror telescope in the country atop Devasthal hill in Uttarakhand's Himalayan range will now help in surveying the sky making it possible to observe several galaxies and other astronomical sources just by staring at the strip of sky that passes overhead.
- The telescope will keep a watch on the overhead sky to identify transient or variable objects such as supernovae, gravitational lenses, space debris, and asteroids.
- It is built by astronomers from India, Belgium and Canada.
- The novel instrument employs a 4-meter-diameter rotating mirror made up of a thin film of liquid mercury to collect and focus light.
- It is located at an altitude of 2450 metres at the Devasthal Observatory campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in Nainital, Uttarakhand.
- "ILMT is the first liquid mirror telescope designed exclusively for astronomical observations installed at the Devasthal Observatory of ARIES,"
- Devasthal Observatory now hosts two four-meter class telescopes – the ILMT and the Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT). Both are the largest aperture telescopes available in the country.

### 1.62. ISRO CHAIRMAN INAUGURATES NEW SPACECRAFT MANUFACTURING FACILITY.

- Dr S Somanath, the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), inaugurated ANANTH Technologies' spacecraft manufacturing unit at Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB).
- The new state-of-the-art spacecraft manufacturing facility can conduct assembly integration and testing of four large spacecraft simultaneously.
- This is a **first of its kind facility** in India. Since its establishment in 1992, Ananth Technologies has contributed to the manufacturing of 89 satellites and 69 launch vehicles built/launched by ISRO.

### 1.63. MARUTI SUZUKI INSTALLED ASIA'S LARGEST 20 MW SOLAR PLANT AT MANESAR, HARYANA.

- **Maruti Suzuki** India has installed a 20 MW solar carport at its **Manesar, Haryana**, site. The project is projected to provide the organisation with 28,000 MW of electricity per year.
- According to the firm, the energy generated by this initiative will be similar to the energy required to create nearly 67,000 cars every year.
- According to the business, this is Asia's largest solar carport.

#### KEY POINTS:

- Using the East-West orientation approach, the solar carport is constructed with the smallest area per unit of electricity generation.
- The East-West approach allows developers to add more rows and panels, increasing generation capacity while using less space.
- Approximately 9,000 finished vehicles can be parked at the site.
- Companies are focused on making the most of available space in order to save money on energy and meet sustainability goals.
- Solar carports are an excellent way to turn an otherwise unused space into a source of renewable energy.
- Carports have the added benefit of providing covered parking spots in addition to generating solar energy.

### 1.64. AIIA AND IIT, DELHI TO DEVELOP DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS FOR AYURVEDA.

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under the Union Ayush Ministry, and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, are jointly working to develop innovative diagnostic tools and equipment for various Ayurvedic procedures.
- According to Dr Tanuja Nesari, Director of the Delhi-based AIIA that at least seven collaborative projects for interdisciplinary research in Ayurveda and applying engineering science principles have been undertaken.
- One is, 'Dhoopanyantra' - a fumigation device for aiding wound healing is being developed to eradicate virus and bacteria from the air.
- Early cancer detection and assessment of breast cancer response to Ayurvedic drugs is being developed.
- Others are Ayurvedic rasas (tastes) on gastrointestinal secretions; herbal formulations that would reduce the harmful effects of reusing cooking oil, developing a biodegradable, herbal wound dressing.
- The effects of the 'Brahmari pranayama' on the nervous system is also being under study.
- The institute is also planning to establish 'Respiratory Rehabilitation Centre' to cater to post-Covid patients, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients, post acute respiratory distress syndrome patients, and interstitial lung disease patients, with ayurveda therapies, yoga, meditation and modern equipment like spirometer, incentive spirometry and bronchodilators medicines.
- A few measures being undertaken where the best of traditional and modern medicine and therapies are being combined in order to provide holistic people-centered health services for all.



- India has committed to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Universal Health Coverage by 2030.

### 1.65. INDIA'S FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE FOR ANIMALS 'ANOCOVAX' LAUNCHED.

- Agriculture Minister, **Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched the country's first homegrown COVID-19 vaccine "**Anocovax**" for animals, developed by Haryana-based **ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (NRC)**.
- Anocovax is an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Delta (COVID-19) vaccine for animals.
- The immunity induced by Anocovax neutralises both Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.

#### Key points:

- The vaccine contains inactivated SARS-CoV-2 (Delta) antigen with Alhydrogel as an adjuvant. It is safe for dogs, lions, leopards, mice and rabbits, it added.
- The COVID-19 vaccine for animals, Anocovax, is effective and capable of neutralising both Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.

### 1.66. FIRST TRAINSET OF DELHI-MEERUT RRTS REACHES DUHAI DEPOT, GHAZIABAD FROM SAVLI, GUJARAT.

- India's very first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train set reached 'Duhai depot' from the manufacturing plant located in Savli, Gujarat.
- According to officials, the trials runs are expected to commence by the end of this year while it will be operational for passengers from 2023.
- The first trial run will be on the 17- km long priority section constructed between Sahibabad to Duhai.
- Under the government's '**Make in India**' initiative, **Alstom** was awarded the contract of manufacturing the RRTS trains, as per which, they would be delivering 40 RRTS trainsets, including 10 three-car trainsets for Meerut Metro, bundled with rolling stock maintenance for 15 years.
- According to National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), the upcoming Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor is likely to reduce CO2 emissions by about 2,50,000 tonnes per year. The Corporation is planning to commence the operation on the priority section by the next year and commission the entire corridor by the year 2025. Once completed, the public will be able to cover the distance from Delhi to the city of Meerut in just 55 minutes.
- National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) – a joint venture company of Govt of India and States of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is mandated for implementing the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project across the National Capital Region, ensuring a balanced and sustainable urban development through better connectivity and access.

### 1.67. MICROSOFT IS RETIRING ITS 27-YEAR-OLD BROWSER INTERNET EXPLORER.

- Microsoft is pulling the plug on its oldest Internet Explorer after 25 years of service. Released in 1995, the search browser came as an add-on for Windows 95.
- The versions that came after this were available for free or as in-service packs.
- Known as the OG search browser, the Internet Explorer saw its major jump in 2003 before falling and becoming the least favourite after new browsers entered the market.
- However, since 2016, the company hasn't released any new major upgrades or fresh versions of Internet Explorer.
- Internet Explorer 11, released in 2013, happens to be the last and final version released by Microsoft.

- As per Microsoft, the company will end mainstream support for the ageing search engine which will be rendered inoperable from June 15, 2022.
- The company announced the Internet Explorer's retirement by saying that the future of the search engine on Windows 10 is in Microsoft Edge.

### 1.68. XPAY.LIFE: FIRST BLOCKCHAIN-ENABLED UPI SERVICE PROVIDER IN INDIA.

- **XPay.Life**, is a Fintech startup, which claims to be India's first blockchain-enabled transaction framework, has launched its **UPI** services aimed at rural India.
- **XPay.Life** claimed it is collaborating closely with regional rural banks and district co-operative banks to assist them bank more efficiently and provide full financial inclusion for the rural population with minimal disturbance.

#### KEY POINTS:

- **XPay.Life's** goal is to make financial services available to people in rural areas who need them the most. There are 4 million Life customers spread throughout 15 states and 1 lakh villages.
- The fintech business stated it works on three models. Those three models are: (1) Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) which comprises their mobile app, (2) Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) which comprises their website, and (3) Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) which corresponds to their mobile vans.
- The company currently has about 100 active mobile vans for digital banking, with plans to expand to 200 in the near future.
- **XPay.Life** seeks to digitise various financial offers and boost the Indian financial sector, particularly in rural India.

### 1.69. IIT MADRAS CREATES ROBOTS TO CLEAN SEPTIC TANKS WITHOUT HUMAN.

- The **septic tank** is a hazardous environment, filled with semi-solid and semi-fluid human faeces, which account for roughly two-thirds of the tank's volume.
- Hundreds of people die each year in India as a result of manual scavenging in septic tanks, despite bans and prohibition orders.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has developed a robot that can clean septic tanks without the need for humans.
- Ten units are expected to be distributed across **Tamil Nadu** under the name "**HomoSEP**," and researchers would be in contact with sanitation workers to determine where they can be placed.

#### KEY POINTS:

- According to **IIT Madras**, Gujarat and Maharashtra are being considered for the deployment of robots that have been designed with the goal of eliminating manual scavenging in the future.
- Through the support of the
- e NGO, **Safai Karamchari Andolan**, the first two HomoSEP units have been delivered to self-help groups led by Nagamma and Ruth Mary, whose husbands tragically perished during sanitation work.
- The **HomoSEP** can homogenise stubborn sludge in septic tanks using a custom-developed rotating blade mechanism and pump the tank slurry using an integrated suction mechanism.

### 1.70. AUCTIONING OF 5G SPECTRUM BANDS IN INDIA.

#### KEY POINTS:

- The Government gave its nod for the auction of spectrum that can be used to offer 5G services.
- A total of **72 Ghz** of spectrum with a validity period of **20 years** will be put on sale during the auction.
- The auction will be held for spectrum in various Low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), Mid (3300 MHz) and High (26 GHz) frequency bands.

- It is expected that the Mid and High band spectrum will be utilised by telecom service providers (TSPs) to roll-out 5G services wherein speeds would be 10 times higher than the current 4G services.
- According to Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the 5G deployment is likely to start from August – September this year, and service should commence in about 20-- 25 cities by the year –end.
- The two issues that the industry has highlighted with regards to the upcoming auctions are high reserve prices for the spectrum and direct allotment of spectrum to enterprises for setting up captive private networks.

### 1.71. GSAT-24: INDIAN COMMUNICATION SATELLITE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED BY ISRO.

- **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** launched **GSAT-24**, following the space reforms leasing the entire satellite's capacity to **Direct-to-Home (DTH)** service provider Tata Play.
- This was the company's first "demand-driven" communication satellite mission. The satellite, developed by the **Indian Space Research Organization for NSIL**, was successfully launched into geostationary orbit from **Kourou in French Guiana** by the Ariane 5 rocket (South America).

#### Key Points:

- **GSAT-24** is a 4180 kg 24-Ku band communication satellite that provides pan-India coverage for DTH application requirements.
- The commercial arm of **ISRO, NSIL** was established in March 2019 and is a **Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the Department of Space (DOS).
- NSIL was required to carry out operational satellite missions on a "demand driven" model as part of the "space reforms" announced by the government in June 2020.
- Under this model, NSIL is responsible for building, launching, owning, and operating satellites as well as providing services to its devoted customer.
- The 15-year mission life of **GSAT-24** is configured on ISRO's tried-and-true I-3k Bus.
- To suit the needs of its devoted customer Tata Play, the DTH division of the Tata Group, the whole satellite capacity on board GSAT-24 will be leased.

### 1.72. UNION MINISTER UNVEILED SEISMOLOGY OBSERVATORY IN UDHAMPUR.

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister for Jammu and Kashmir, officially opened the Seismology Observatory in the Udhampur district.
- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences** spent 20 lakh rupees to establish the third such Center in J&K.

#### KEY POINTS:

- The observatory will compile a comprehensive seismic record of **Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban**, and many more districts.
- According to **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, the central government **plans to open 152 earthquake observatories over the next four months**, including three more in the Kashmir division.
- 100 additional seismological centres of this type will emerge nationwide over the next five years to enhance real-time data collection and monitoring.
- India is getting closer to being a key player in the development and knowledge of seismology.
- The **J&K**, particularly **South and North Kashmir**, are in the seismic zone and have such observatories set up.

### 1.73. C-DOT SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH GALORE NETWORKS FOR COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF END-TO-END 5G RADIO ACCESS NETWORK (RAN) PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS.

## KEY POINTS

- This agreement will be in furtherance of objective of creating a multi-partner indigenous 5G ecosystem through Startups.
- Collaborative framework aims at accelerating indigenous development of 5G in line with the vision of “Atmanirbhar Bharat” and “Start-up India”.

### About (C-DOT) and Galore Networks:

- **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** is the premier R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India. C-DOT has indigenously designed and developed various cutting-edge Telecom technologies spanning Optical, Switching & Routing, Wireless, Security and host of Telecom Software applications. C-DOT has developed its indigenous 4G solution and is keenly working in the area of 5G.
- **Galore Networks**, established in 2013 and headquartered in Bengaluru, is developing carrier grade products and services for global communication service providers, enterprises and critical infrastructure and vertical market segments. Galore Networks offers end-to-end solutions that are centred on complex cutting edge technology platforms like 5G, IoT, Cloud/NFV -SDN and legacy network products ranging from 2G-3G & 4G.

## 1.74. IN-SPACE AUTHORISES INDIA'S FIRST SET OF SPACE START-UPS TO LAUNCH PAYLOADS.

- **The Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)** has started authorising Indian private firms, marking the beginning of private space sector launches in India.
- IN-SPACE has headquarters in Ahmedabad.
- IN-SPACE is an autonomous, single window nodal agency; formed to promote, authorise, monitor and supervise the space activities of **non-governmental private entities (NGPEs) in India**.

### Key Points:

- **Dhruva Space Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad** and **Digantara research & technologies Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru**, were authorised by IN-SPACE to launch their payloads.
- Dhruva Space is a space technology start-up focused on building full-stack space engineering solutions, involved in building application-agnostic satellite platforms.
- Digantara research and technologies is engaged in development of end-to-end solutions focused on safe and sustainable space operations through its Space Situational Awareness sensor network, platform and data products.

## 1.75. ISRO SET TO LAUNCH THREE SATELLITES.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation's second dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Ltd. will launch three satellites.
- The PSLV C53, the 55th flight of ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle, will carry on board three satellites from Singapore.
- The satellites — DSEO, a Singaporean Earth Observation Satellite, NeuSAR, Singapore's first small commercial satellite carrying a SAR payload, and SCOOBI satellite from the Nanyang Technological University — will be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.



## ECONOMY

### 1.76. US OVERTAKES CHINA AS INDIA'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER IN FY22.

- **The United States** overtook **China** to become **India's top trading partner in 2021-22**, reflecting strong economic ties between the two countries.
- According to commerce ministry data, in 2021-22, bilateral trade between the US and India stood at **US\$ 119.42 billion** as against US\$ 80.51 billion in 2020-21.
- Exports to the US increased to US\$ 76.11 billion in 2021-22 from US\$ 51.62 billion in the previous fiscal, while imports rose to US\$ 43.31 billion as compared to around US\$ 29 billion in 2020-21.

#### India's Top Trading Partners 2021-22:

- In 2021-22, the **UAE** is India's third-largest trading partner with USD 72.9 billion. It is followed by **Saudi Arabia** (USD 42.85 billion) as 4th, **Iraq** (USD 34.33 billion) as 5th, & **Singapore** (USD 30 billion) as its 6th largest trading partner.

### 1.77. GST REVENUES UP 44% AT 1.41 LAKH CRORE IN MAY.

- GST was launched in India on 1 July 2017 as a comprehensive indirect tax for the entire country.
- It is a **destination-based** taxation system.
- It has been established by the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act**.
- GST revenues bucked the two-month rising trend in May and stood at nearly 1.41 lakh crore, registering a year on-year increase of 44 per cent.
- Although the May Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues came in lower than the record high collection in April at 1.68 lakh crore and 1.42 lakh crore in March, it is still the fourth highest collection since the rollout of the new tax regime on July 1, 2017.
- The revenues for the month of May 2022 are 44 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year at 97,821 crore.
- This is the fourth time that the monthly GST collection has crossed the 1.40 lakh crore mark since the inception of GST and the third straight month since March 2022.

### 1.78. BANK OF MAHARASHTRA TOPS IN LOAN GROWTH AMONG PSU LENDERS.

- State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during 2021-22.
- The Pune-headquartered lender recorded a 26% increase in gross advances at `1,35,240 crore at the end of March 2022.
- It was followed by State Bank of India and Union Bank of India with 10.27% and 9.66% growth, respectively.
- However, in absolute terms, aggregate loans of SBI were nearly 18 times higher at `24,06,761 crore, while Union Bank of India's five times higher at `6,99,269 crore compared to that of BoM's at the end of Q4FY22.
- With regard to deposit growth, BoM witnessed a 16.26% growth and mobilised `2,02,294 crore at the end of March 2022.
- Union Bank of India was second with an 11.99% growth in deposits (`10,32,102 crore) while Indian Bank recorded a 10% increase at `5,84,661 crore, according to the published data.
- Business growth of BoM was also the highest at 20% at `3,37,534 crore followed by Union Bank of India at 11.04%

### 1.79. DIGITAL PAYMENTS IN INDIA EXPECTED TO INCREASE TRIPLE BY 2026.

- The **Digital payment markets in India are expected to increase triple from the current three trillion dollars to ten trillion dollars in the coming four years, which is by 2026.**
- This was confirmed by the **report titled** ('Digital Payments in India: A \$10 trillion opportunity') issued by **PhonePe** after the collaboration with **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)**.
- The **report highlights the growth of India's digital payments in the last five years.**
- The growth in five years has resulted in aiming those digital payments will aim to constituting two out of three payment transactions by 2026.

#### Key points of the report:

- The **report highlights the in-depth scenario of the growth of digital payments in India and focuses on factors and enablers to understand and unleash the potential of digital payments and its massive growth in the Country.**
- **UPI saw about a nine times transaction volume increase in the past three years**, increasing from five billion transactions in FY19 to about 46 billion transactions in FY22: accounting for more than 60% of non-cash transaction volumes in FY22. This indicates that digital payment has gained acceptance across the country.
- The report says **that multiple platforms offer digital payments now, which has disrupted the digital payments ecosystem.**

### 1.80. INDIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES HAVE SURPASSED USD 600 BILLION.

- According to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data, India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves increased by USD 3.854 billion to USD 601.363 billion, owing to a substantial growth in the country's foreign currency assets.
- After decreasing for ten weeks in a row, the country's currency reserves have climbed for the second week in a row.
- During the week, foreign exchange reserves increased by **USD 4.23 billion.**

#### KEY POINTS:

- According to the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement, all components of the **forex reserves** climbed for the week ending May 27, led by a strong increase in foreign currency assets.
- The effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-dollar currencies held in foreign exchange reserves, such as the Euro, the British Pound Sterling, and the Japanese Yen, is included in the foreign currency assets when expressed in US dollar terms.
- During the week concluded, the value of gold reserves grew by **USD 253 million.**
- The value of **India's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased by USD 132 million to USD 18.438 billion, and India's reserve position in the **IMF** climbed by USD 18 million to USD 5.019 billion.

### 1.81. EMI'S TO RISE UP AS RBI UPS RATE TO CONTROL INFLATION.

- The Reserve Bank of India hiked the interest Rate — this time by 50 basis points.
- This would tame inflation but pave the way for rise in home, auto and other loan EMIs.
- The six-member monetary committee of the central bank unanimously voted to raise the lending rate by 50 basis points to 4.90 per cent.
- The Reserve Bank has the mandate to keep retail inflation at 4 per cent with a bias of 2 per cent on either side.

- However, retail inflation has been above 6 per cent for the last four months in a row, rising to as high as 7.8 per cent in April.
- The RBI has changed the policy stance to drop the phrase “remains accommodative”, and instead opted for “withdrawal of accommodation” for guiding its future moves.
- The rise in interest rate will discourage borrowing that would impact on availability of liquidity.

### 1.82. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWTH RISES TO 8-MONTH HIGH OF 7.1 PC IN APRIL.

- As per government data released, Industrial output growth rose to an eight-month high of 7.1 per cent in April on the back of improved performance by power and mining sectors.
- As per the data on Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), manufacturing sector recorded a growth of 6.3 per cent in the first month of the current financial year.
- The previous high for IIP growth was 13 per cent in August 2021.
- According to the NSO, that growth rates over corresponding period of the previous year are to be interpreted considering the unusual circumstances on account of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020.
- As per the data, power and mining sectors grew by 11.8 per cent and 7.8 per cent, respectively.
- As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment recorded a growth of 14.7 per cent, while the consumer durables sector expanded by 8.5 per cent.
- According to the NSO the primary goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure/ construction goods, and consumer non-durables sectors expanded by 10.1 per cent, 7.6 per cent, 3.8 per cent, and 0.3 per cent, respectively.

### 1.83. IRDAI'S NEW NORMS TO PROMOTE INNOVATIVE POLICIES: EXPERT

#### About IRDAI:

- The Insurance Regulatory Development Authority is a **statutory agency established by the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority Act of 1999.**
- IRDAI was founded as an **independent body** with its headquarters in New Delhi. In 2001, its **headquarters were relocated to Hyderabad**, Telangana. The Chairman and other members of the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority are **appointed by the Indian Government.**
- According to experts, IRDAI's decision to permit 'use and file' facility for most of the insurance products will encourage insurers to come out with innovative covers quickly to the benefit of customers and also deepen the insurance penetration in the country.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) extended the 'use and file' procedure for most of the life insurance products, thereby allowing insurers to launch new products without prior approval of the regulator.
- Earlier, similar relaxations were extended to all the health insurance products and almost all the general insurance products.
- According to experts, the relaxed norms for launching insurance products will also make insurers more responsible as they would be held accountable for the products which are offered in the marketplace without prior approval of IRDAI.
- It will support customer centricity and fuel product innovation, which in turn will **boost insurance penetration in the country.**

### 1.84. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN INAUGURATED NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CUSTOMS AND GST IN GOA.

- Union Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has inaugurated the National Museum of Customs and GST “**Dharohar**” in **Goa** as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic week of the Ministry of Finance, being celebrated from **June 6 to 12**.

#### **About Dharohar:**

- Dharohar is one of its kind museum in the country that showcases not only the artefacts seized by Indian Customs but also depicts various aspects of work performed by the Customs Department while safeguarding the economic frontiers of the country, its heritage, flora & fauna and the society.
- Dharohar has 8 galleries viz: Introductory gallery, History of Taxation Gallery, Guardians of our economic frontiers gallery, Guardians of our Art & Heritage, Guardians of Flora & Fauna, Custodians of our social well-being, Journey of Indirect taxes -Salt Tax to GST and the GST gallery.
- The Museum provides the rare opportunity of having a peep into the working of the Department over the years ushering in change in its methodologies to meet the emanating challenges while at the same time providing yeomen service to the Nation.

#### **1.85. OMNICARD BECOMES 1ST RBI LICENSED PPI TO LAUNCH CASH WITHDRAWAL ACROSS ALL ATMs PAN INDIA.**

- Payment solution provider, **OmniCard** has announced that it became the **1st RBI licensed PPI (prepaid payment instrument)** to launch cash withdrawal using a RuPay-powered card from any ATMs across the country.
- OmniCard users can withdraw cash from any ATM at their convenience with full security from frauds like card theft, card cloning, and PIN skimming as the withdrawal facility comes with high safety & secure features and protects the user from exposing their money and bank account details.
- The company worked with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) team** to enable the facility.

#### **Key features:**

- Run by Noida-based Eroute Technologies, Omnicard is a RuPay powered prepaid card with a mobile app where the users can spend using **swipe, scan, tap and pay online, avail in-app offers from partner brands and get rewarded on every spends.**

#### **1.86. UPEIDA SIGNS MoUs WITH SBI, BOB, PNB, AND SIDBI FOR UP.**

- UPEIDA has inked MoUs with the State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- To encourage investment in the UP Defense Industrial Corridor, the **Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA)** has inked MoUs with the State Bank of India (**SBI**), Bank of Baroda (**BOB**), Punjab National Bank (**PNB**), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**).

#### **KEY POINTS:**

- The bank would provide financial help in the form of ease of doing business to investors in the UP Defense Industrial Corridor, according to the deal.
- UPEIDA has now collaborated with three major nationalised banks in the country, **State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BOB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, as part of its continuous support to investors in the Corridor, according to a release.
- These are intended to assist investors interested in establishing a business in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor in obtaining financial support as part of the Ease of Doing Business initiative.
- Banks will pro



- Vide these investors with tailored financial support on a case-by-case basis to assist them in establishing their businesses.

### **1.87. RBI'S PAYMENT VISION 2025 AIMS TO ESTABLISH INDIA AS POWERHOUSE OF PAYMENTS GLOBALLY.**

#### **KEY POINTS:**

- The RBI came out with its 'Payments Vision 2025' document which talks about ring-fencing of domestic payment systems, including the need to mandate domestic processing of payment transactions, in view of the emerging geopolitical risks.
- The core theme of the vision documents is 'E Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, Everytime' (4Es), with an overall objective to provide every user with safe, secure, fast, convenient, accessible, and affordable e-payment options.
- The Reserve Bank's 'Payments Vision 2025' document, which seeks a threefold jump in the number of digital payments, is progressive and aims to establish India as a powerhouse of payments globally, opined industry players.
- One of the most important forward-looking initiatives is the global outreach of UPI, RTGS, NEFT and RuPay cards with internationalisation, where bilateral treaties with nations especially covering the USD, GBP and Euro will hugely benefit Indian residents and their counterparties overseas with online realisation at lesser costs.

### **1.88. FTAs WITH UAE, AUSTRALIA TO BOOST APPAREL EXPORTS: APEC.**

- According to APEC, Free trade agreements (FTAs) signed by India with the UAE and Australia will boost product and market diversification of the apparel sector's existing basket.
- According to Apparel Export Promotion Council (APEC) Chairman Naren Goenka, the global apparel market, which was just under USD 1.5 trillion in 2013, is expected to generate revenues to the tune of USD 1.8 trillion in 2022 and USD 1.9 trillion in 2025.
- The ongoing 67th India International Garment Fair (IIGF) at Greater Noida would provide a direct marketing platform to MSME exporters from across the country (almost 500 exhibitors and more than 2,000 overseas buyers and buying agents.)
- The council is taking efforts towards promoting Brand India at various global platforms, showcasing its strength on sustainability, circularity, ethical sourcing and manufacturing, labour standards, women employment with no child labour.
- The target for the apparel sector is to double the production and triple the exports and to achieve 15 per cent growth.

### **1.89. FLIPKART INKS MOU WITH TELANGANA'S SERP TO ENABLE MARKET ACCESS FOR FPOs, SHGs.**

- Flipkart, e-commerce marketplace, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Telangana to enable market access for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the state.
- Flipkart aims to empower local farming communities and SHGs of Telangana by providing pan-India market access to more than 400 million customers on its platform.
- As part of this collaboration, Flipkart will directly source premium quality pulses, millets, staples, and spices from the local farmers, contributing to improve income and business growth.
- Flipkart will further engage with these communities through virtual and on-ground training and capacity-building initiatives to provide them with an understanding of quality, pricing, and licenses required to be a part of FPO ecosystem.

- Flipkart is currently working with multiple FPOs, small and marginal farmers across the country to build sustainable and scalable partnerships.
- It has trained over 10,000 farmers across the country, on product quality and food safety to enable market access and empower and prosper the farmer community in India.

### 1.90. NASSCOM: BY 2025, AI CAN BOOST GDP BY \$500 BILLION.

#### About NASSCOM:

- The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) is a non-governmental organisation in India that works to promote the country's technology sector. NASSCOM was founded in 1988 and is a non-profit organisation. NASSCOM launched a programme in 2013 to support 10,000 businesses in India by 2023. NASSCOM supports activities aimed at Indian start-ups.

#### KEY POINTS:

- NASSCOM, an Indian non-governmental trade association and advocacy group, claims that an integrated AI and data use plan could boost India's GDP by \$500 billion by 2025.
- The NASSCOM, in collaboration with EY and with backing from Microsoft, EXL, and Capgemini, has introduced an AI Adoption Index to track sectoral progress on AI adoption in the nation.
- The index was the first comprehensive analysis of AI adoption trends in India, starting with four important industries: banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), consumer packaged goods (CPG), retail, healthcare, and industrials & automotive.
- Together, these industries could account for more than 60% of AI's potential value-add to the nation's GDP by 2025, which is estimated to be between \$450 and \$500 billion.
- According to the top body, investments in AI have increased significantly over the past two years, rising from \$36 billion in 2020 to a high of \$77 billion in 2021.
- Even while India's current pace of AI investments was projected to expand at a CAGR of 30.8 percent and reach \$881 million by 2023, it would still only account for 2.5 percent of the \$340 billion in total worldwide AI expenditures.
- This would present a huge chance for Indian businesses to increase their investments in and adoption of AI in order to promote equal growth across all sectors.

### 1.91. NITI AAYOG RELEASES A REPORT ON INDIA'S GIG ECONOMY.

- A report titled "**India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy**" was released by **NITI Aayog. Suman Bery, vice chairman of NITI Aayog, CEO, Amitabh Kant**, and Dr K Rajeswara Rao, special secretary, released the report.
- The study, which is a first of its kind, offers in-depth viewpoints and suggestions on the **gig-platform economy** in India.
- **CEO Amitabh Kant** emphasised the industry's potential to generate jobs in light of India's growing urbanisation, and widespread access to the internet, digital technology, and cellphones.

#### Key points:

- The report offers a comprehensive methodical approach to calculating the sector's current size and potential for employment creation.
- It examines the benefits and drawbacks of this developing industry, shows international best practices for social security programmes, and outlines plans for skill development and job creation for various worker categories in the industry.

#### About the Report:

- According to the research, the gig economy employed 77 lakh (7.7 million) employees in 2020–21.
- They made up 1.5 percent of India’s total labour force or 2.6 percent of the non-agricultural workforce.
- By 2029–2030, there will be 2.35 crore (23.5 million) workers in the gig economy. By 2029–2030, it is anticipated that gig workers will account for 6.7 percent of India’s non-agricultural workforce and 4.1 percent of all income.
- Currently, medium-skilled occupations make up approximately 47% of gig labour, high skilled jobs make up about 22%, and low-skilled jobs make up about 31%.
- The trend indicates that the concentration of workers with medium skills is gradually decreasing while it is rising for those with low and high skills.
- The report suggests connecting self-employed people in the business of selling regional and rural cuisine, street food, etc., with platforms in order to enable them to sell their products to larger markets in towns and cities to accelerate access to finance through products specifically designed for platform workers.
- The report recommends platform-led transformational and outcome-based skilling, improving social inclusion through programmes that educate workers and their families about gender issues and accessibility, and extending social security measures in partnership as envisioned by the Code on Social Security 2020.
- Other suggestions include conducting a second census exercise to calculate the size of the gig and platform workforce and gathering data during official censuses (Periodic Labour Force Survey) to identify gig workers.



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## DEFENCE

### 1.92. DEFENCE MINISTRY SIGNS CONTRACT WITH BDL FOR ASTRA MK-I MISSILES.

- Defence Ministry signed a contract worth Rs 2,971 crore with the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for supply of ASTRA MK-I **Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Air to Air Missile (AAM)** and associated equipment for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category.
- The technology to manufacture missiles of this class indigenously was not available. ASTRA MK-I BVR AAM has been **indigenously designed and developed** by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**).
- The development of ASTRA MK-I BVR AAM would be based on the requirements of the IAF catering for Beyond Visual Range as well as Close Combat Engagement
- It will help in **reducing the dependency on foreign sources**.

### 1.93. INDIA, ISRAEL EXPAND DEFENCE, MILITARY TIES.

- India and Israel resolved to further strengthen their defence and strategic ties during the talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his counterpart Benjamin Gantz.
- The two sides also adopted a 'vision statement' to expand their defence and military co-operation.
- Israel has emerged as one of the major defence equipment exporters to India since diplomatic ties were established between the two nations 30 years ago.
- A Letter of Intent on enhancing cooperation in the field of Futuristic Defence Technologies was also exchanged.
- This year marks the 30th anniversary of the formation of the official diplomatic ties between India and Israel.

### 1.94. IAF HERITAGE CENTRE TO COME UP IN CHANDIGARH.

- A heritage centre to showcase the role of the **Indian Air Force** in various wars and its overall functioning will come up at **Chandigarh**.
- The '**IAF Heritage Centre**' will be set up jointly by the force and the **Chandigarh administration**. An MoU between the Union Territory of Chandigarh and the IAF for setting up of the centre was inked.

#### About the Heritage Centre:

- This heritage centre will have artefact, simulators and interactive boards to highlight various facets of IAF.
- It will also showcase the vital role played by the service in various wars and assistance rendered for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- This joint project of Administration of UT Chandigarh and IAF is planned to be completed by October.

### 1.95. INDIA-BANGLADESH JOINT MILITARY SAMPRITI-X EXERCISE BEGINS.

- **India-Bangladesh bilateral defence cooperation**, a joint military training exercise **Ex SAMPRITI-X** is being conducted at Jashore Military Station in Bangladesh from 05 June to 16 June 2022.
- The aim of the exercise is to strengthen interoperability between the two armies and to understand each other's tactical drills and operational techniques.

#### About the Ex SAMPRITI-X:

- The Indian contingent of company strength is being represented by a Battalion of the DOGRA Regiment and the contingent departed by road for the exercise location on 4 Jun 2022.



- During the joint military exercise Ex Sampriti-X, armies of both the Nations will share expertise in multiple simulated scenarios of Counter Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief and UN Peacekeeping Force under UN mandate.
- **Exercise Sampriti** is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour conducted alternately by both countries which aims to strengthen and widen the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between both the armies.

### 1.96. NEW RULES TO PICK CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF, 3-STAR OFFICERS ELIGIBLE.

- The amended rules will allow serving or retired Lt General-rank officers to be eligible for the post, but with the condition that the age at the time of appointment is under 62 years.
- Effectively, the Chiefs of the three armed forces, who retire at 62 years or after putting in 3 years of service (whichever is earlier), will not be eligible unless they get selected before the retirement date or retire before they reach 62.

#### Eligibility age for post capped at 62 years

- Serving or retd Lt General, Air Marshal & Vice Admiral under 62 yrs to be eligible for CDS post.
- These officers can be considered for top post along with serving chiefs of tri-services.
- Post vacant since the death of Gen Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash on December 8 last year.
- Government issued separate notifications as part of Air Force Act, Army Act and Navy Act.

#### Age criteria rules out recently retired Chiefs

- Govt can extend the service of CDS maximum till 65 years of age.
- Tenure of 3 service Chiefs is 3 years of service or till they turn 62, whichever is earlier.
- The 3 Chiefs who retired recently — Gen MM Naravane, Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria — will not be eligible as they are over 62

### 1.97. INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT PARTICIPATES IN THE “KHAAN QUEST 2022” EXERCISE.

- **Indian Army** participates in a multinational exercise “Ex Khaan Quest 2022” where 16 other countries also took part in **Mongolia**.
- President of Mongolia, Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh inaugurated the Exercise as the host. Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the LADAKH SCOUTS.
- The 14-day exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, building military to military relationships, developing peace support operations and military readiness among participating nations.

### 1.98. INDIA, EU HOLD FIRST EVER SECURITY, DEFENCE DIALOGUE.

- The European Union (EU) and India held the first-ever Security and Defence.
- The two sides reviewed their defence relations and evolving security situation in Europe, India’s neighbourhood and the Indo-Pacific.
- The maiden dialogue between India and the EU took place in Brussels pursuant to a decision taken at the India-EU Summit in July 2020.
- The two sides noted a number of positive developments in the area of security and defence cooperation in recent years, including the establishment of a regular maritime security dialogue, which met for the second time in February 2022, the first-ever joint naval exercises held in June 2021, and a number of joint workshops on the subject of fostering maritime security.
- The two sides during the consultations also discussed various means of increasing India-EU cooperation on maritime security, implementation of the European code of conduct on arms export to India’s neighbourhood, cooperation in co-development and co-production of defence equipment, including

India's participation in Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in the area of security and defence policy.

- Both sides agreed to increase India-EU defence and security cooperation as an important pillar of the bilateral strategic relations.
- According to the Embassy of India, Brussels, the next consultations will be held in Delhi at a mutually agreed convenient time.
- The dialogue took place at a time when the Ukraine conflict is raging and many European nations condemning Russia for it.
- India, so far, has abstained from voting against Moscow in the United Nations. However, India has all along called for dialogue to end the conflict at the earliest.

### 1.99. 38TH INDIA-INDONESIA COORDINATED PATROL CONDUCTED IN ANDAMAN SEA.

#### About the CORPAT Exercise:

- The two Navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2002. This has helped build understanding and interoperability between both the Navies and has facilitated measures to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy, etc
- **The 38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** between the **Indian Navy Units of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and Indonesian Navy** is being conducted from June 13 to 24 2022 in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca.
- The 38th CORPAT is the first post pandemic Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the two countries.
- It includes a visit by the Indonesian Navy units to ANC at Port Blair from June 13 to 15, 2022 followed by a Sea Phase in the Andaman Sea and visit by IN Units to Sabang (Indonesia) from June 23 to 24, 2022.
- As part of Government of India's vision of **SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region)**, Naval Component under the aegis of HQ ANC undertakes coordinated patrols with other littoral countries of the Andaman Sea along respective Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) towards enhancing regional maritime security.

### 1.100. INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED PRITHVI-II BALLISTIC MISSILE AT CHANDIPUR, ODISHA.

#### About Prithvi-II:

- Prithvi-II is capable of carrying 500-1,000 kilogram of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines. The state-of-the-art missile uses advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring trajectory to hit its target.
- The missile was **randomly chosen** from the production stock and the entire launch was carried out by the Strategic Force Command (SFC) of the Army and monitored by the scientists of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as part of a training exercise.
- The missile trajectory was tracked by radars, electro- optical tracking systems and telemetry stations by the DRDO along the coast of Odisha.

#### KEY POINTS:

- **India** has test-launched Short-Range Ballistic Missile, **Prithvi-II** from an integrated test range in Chandipur, Odisha.
- This missile system is capable of striking targets with a very high degree of precision.
- It is an indigenously developed, surface-to-surface missile. It is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines. Its range is **350 km** and can carry one-ton payload.

### 1.101. IAF TO CONDUCT ITS FIRST CAPSTONE SEMINAR.

- The Indian Air Force is conducting the first Warfare & Aerospace Strategy Program (WASP) culminating with a Capstone Seminar at Air Force Auditorium, New Delhi.
- Capstone seminars are interactive seminars based on peer-to-peer discussion and presentations.
- The seminar will be conducted under the aegis of College of Air Warfare and Centre for Air Power Studies.
- Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff, shall deliver the keynote address on the occasion which is being attended by senior officers from all three Services, air power scholars, academia from principal think tanks and premier colleges of the country.
- **This Capstone Seminar aims to showcase the learning objectives of WASP and help the IAF leadership to validate the desired outcomes from the program.**
- The participants shall present papers on contemporary topics concerning application of air power in recent conflicts and the changing doctrinal precepts that establish the dominant role of air power in national security.
- The WASP was conceptualised by the IAF with the purpose of creating a pool of mid-career air power practitioners with strategic acumen and a deep understanding of warfare history and theory.
- **It aims to enhance the doctrinal vision of the participants and cultivate their aptitude for effective arguments on strategy.** It will further hone the ability of the participants to link varied thoughts and theories about whole-of-government approach to statecraft.
- The course was organized at College of Air Warfare (CAW) which is IAF's premier institute for Air Power Studies.

### **1.102. IAF TO JOIN EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE IN TACTICAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.**

- The Indian Air Force announced that three Su-30 MKI planes and two C-17 transport aircraft are taking part in a month-long tactical leadership programme in Egypt.
- According to the statement, the exercise offers a singular chance to highlight the IAF's capabilities and reach against the backdrop of the current geopolitical situation.
- In Egypt (Cairo West Airbase), the Indian Air Force would send three Su-30MKI aircraft, two C-17 aircraft, and 57 IAF personnel to the Egyptian Air Force Weapon School to take part in a tactical leadership programme.
- This particular exercise, which simulates numerous conflict situations using air assets in a big force engagement context, is unique.
- The goal of the exercise is to improve defence cooperation between the two nations and exchange best practises.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) stated that the initiative will also give a chance to display the Su-30 MKI made in India as well as the nation's proficiency for further indigenization of spare parts and components.

### **1.103. INDIGENOUS ADVANCED LIGHT HELICOPTER MK III SQUADRON COMMISSIONED INTO INDIAN COAST GUARD IN PORBANDAR, GUJARAT.**

- 835 Squadron (CG), an indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III squadron, was commissioned into Indian Coast Guard at its Air Enclave in Porbandar, Gujarat on June 28, 2022.
- **DG, Coast Guard Shri VS Pathania** presided over the commissioning ceremony which was attended by various military & civil dignitaries based at Porbandar and Gujarat area.
- **Virender Singh Pathania is from Ladori village in Nurpur, Himachal Pradesh.**
- The commissioning of this squadron marks a tremendous leap towards self-reliance in the field of Search and Rescue (SAR) and maritime surveillance, in line with Prime Minister's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

- The ALH MK III helicopters have been indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- They feature state-of-the-art equipment including advanced RADAR as well as Electro optical sensors, Shakti engines, full glass cockpit, high-intensity searchlight, advanced communication systems, automatic identification system as well as SAR homer.
- The features enable them to undertake maritime reconnaissance as well as carry out SAR at extended ranges even while operating from ships during both day and night. The aircraft has the ability to switch roles from an offensive platform with heavy machine gun to that of a benign one carrying a Medical Intensive Care Unit to facilitate transfer of critically ill patients.
- So far, 13 ALH MK-III aircraft have been inducted in the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner and four of these aircraft are positioned at Porbandar. Since the induction, the squadron has flown over 1,200 hours and conducted numerous operational missions, including the maiden night SAR mission off Diu coast.
- The 835 Sqn (CG) is commanded by Commandant Sunil Dutt. The commissioning will give a major fillip to the abilities of the Indian Coast Guard in the Gujarat region and further strengthen the country's maritime security.



CivilsTap Himachal



## POLICY AND PROGRAMME

### 1.104. DRAFT NATIONAL DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK POLICY.

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) recently released the revised Draft National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP) and invited inputs on it before June 11th, 2022. **NDGFP replaces Draft India Data Accessibility and Use Policy, 2022.**
- The Draft National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP) **aims to enhance access, quality, and use of data**, in accordance with the emerging technology needs.
- According to the ministry, this policy ensures the security of data and informational privacy. NDGFP standards and rules will cover all data collected and managed by any government entity.
- An 'India Data Management Office (IDMO)' is proposed which will be responsible for framing, managing and periodically reviewing the Policy and also developing guidelines under this Policy.

### 1.105. PM NARENDRA MODI UNVEILS PM CARES FOR CHILDREN SCHEME.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has released the benefits of the **PM CARES for Children scheme for children** who lost their parents due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**. PM Modi has promised Rs 4,000 a month for basic needs, financial support for schooling, scholarship for higher education, and free treatment up to **Rs 5 lakh**.
- Prime Minister transferred scholarships to school-going children.
- A passbook of PM CARES for Children, and a health card under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana were handed over to the children during the programme.

#### About the PM CARES scheme:

- PM CARES for Children Scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 29 May 2021.
- The aim was to support children who have lost both their parents or legal guardian or adoptive parents or surviving parents to the Covid-19 pandemic, during the period from 11 March 2020 to 28 February 2022.

### 1.106. PM KUSUM YOJANA OR PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN URJA SURAKSHA EVAM UTTHAAN MAHABHIYAN YOJANA.

- It was launched in **March 2019**.

#### PM KUSUM Yojana: Objectives

- The primary objective of **PM KUSUM Yojana** is to make the **latest technology available to every farmer in India**.
- To make the farmers familiar with the **de-dieselized irrigation system** in the agricultural sector.
- The solar pumps will enable the farmers to work more **effectively and use an eco-friendly irrigation system**, as solar pumps will produce safe energy.
- The pump **sets comprise an energy grid that will generate more energy than diesel-driven pumps**.
- The Farmers will be able to **generate extra power and sell it to the Government directly and enhance their income**

### 1.107. ATAL PENSION YOJANA.

- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was **launched on 9TH May 2015** to create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector. APY is administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- APY is open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years and the contributions differ, based on pension amount chosen.

- Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the age of 60 years.
- The monthly pension would be available to the subscriber, and after him to his spouse and after their death, the pension corpus, as accumulated at age 60 of the subscriber, would be returned to the nominee of the subscriber.
- Subscribers can make contributions to APY on monthly/ quarterly / half-yearly basis.
- Subscribers can voluntarily exit from APY subject to certain conditions, on deduction of Government co-contribution and return/interest thereon.

### 1.108. "SHRESHTA" SCHEME.

#### About the SHRESHTA Scheme:

- **Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)** provides for high quality education for meritorious but poor SC students in CBSE-affiliated reputed residential schools across the country.
- Approximately 3,000 seats are provided each year for admission in class 9th and 11th and the entire cost of the school fee and residential charges are borne by the Department.
- The students, belonging to Scheduled Castes, studying in class 8th and 10th in the current academic year are eligible for availing the benefits of scheme are selected through a transparent mechanism through a **National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)**, which is conducted by the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** for admission in class 9th and 11th.
- Students belonging to marginalized income group within the SC community, whose parental annual income is upto **Rs.2.5 Lakh are eligible**. Successful candidates, after following the e-counselling process, are given admission in the school of their choice anywhere in the Country for their academic persuasion.
- The Department shall bear the total cost of the school fee and hostel charges till completion of their academic up to class 12th. There after the students of the scheme may avail benefits of other schemes of the Department for their higher education.

### 1.109. GLOBAL INITIATIVE OF ACADEMIC NETWORKS (GIAN).

- Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in Higher Education aimed at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs, internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of Higher Education in India so as to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reform, and elevate India's scientific and technological capacity to global excellence.
- In order to garner the best international experience into our systems of education, enable interaction of students and faculty with the best academic and industry experts from all over the world and also share their experiences and expertise to motivate people to work on Indian problems,
- A system of Guest Lectures by internationally and nationally renowned experts would be evolved along with a comprehensive Faculty Development Programme not only for new IITs, IIMs, IISERs but also for other institutions in the country.

### 1.110. J&K RANKS FIRST AMONG UT'S IN NATIONAL E-GOVERNANCE SERVICE DELIVERY ASSESSMENT.

- Jammu and Kashmir, assessed for the first time, ranked the highest among Union Territories with an overall compliance of nearly 90 per cent for national e-governance service delivery assessment (NeSDA).
- The Report provides suggestions for governments to further enhance their e-governance service delivery systems.
- In the Union territories category, Jammu and Kashmir was assessed for the first time in NeSDA 2021 and scored the highest amongst all UTs for six sectors.

- Meghalaya and Nagaland are leading State Portals with an overall compliance of more than 90 per cent across all assessment parameters among northeast and hill states.
- Among Union territories, Jammu and Kashmir ranked highest with an overall compliance of nearly 90 per cent.
- Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh had a compliance of more than 85 per cent among the Remaining States category.
- Kerala had the highest overall compliance score amongst all the States and UTs.
- Among the Services Portals for North-East and Hill States, the highest-ranking states of Meghalaya and Tripura showed improvement across all six sectors compared to NeSDA 2019.
- Among the Remaining States, the overall score of Tamil Nadu increased the most in 2021 compared to 2019.
- Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Goa, and Odisha also improved the compliance of their Services Portals by 100 per cent.
- Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan are the leading states with compliance of more than 75 per cent across all parameters for their Services Portals.
- The second edition of the NeSDA has been prepared covering the assessment of states, Union Territories.
- It focuses on Central Ministries on their effectiveness in delivering online services to citizens.

### **1.111. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAM JYOTI YOJNA (DDUGJY)**

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojna (DDUGJY) was **launched in December 2014** to create basic electricity infrastructure in villages by strengthening and augmentation of the existing infrastructure and metering of existing feeders/distribution transformers.
- It is one of the key initiatives of Government of India and a flagship programme of the Ministry of Power.
- The DDUGJY scheme has benefitted rural households significantly as electricity is vital for growth and development of the country.
- Under the scheme, 60% of the project cost (85% for Special States) is provided as grant by Government of India and additional grant upto 15% (5% for Special Category States) is provided on achievement of prescribed milestones.
- All erstwhile Rural Electrification (RE) schemes (including Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana) have been subsumed into DDUGJY. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) Limited has been designated as the Nodal Agency for operationalization of DDUGJY.

#### **The major components of the scheme are:**

- Separation of agriculture and non-agriculture feeders facilitating judicious restoring of supply to agricultural & non-agriculture consumers in the rural areas.
- Strengthening and augmentation of sub-transmission & distribution infrastructure in rural areas, including metering of distribution transformers/feeders/consumers.
- Completion of micro grid and off grid distribution network & Rural electrification already sanctioned projects under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (**RGVY**)

### **1.112. PM TO CHAIR FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHIEF SECRETARIES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.**

- Prime Minister will chair the first national conference of chief secretaries in Himachal Pradesh from June 15-17.
- More than 200 people representing the central government, all states and union territories, and domain experts will participate in the conference.
- The conference will focus on the rapid and sustained economic growth in partnership with the states.



- The conference will lay the ground for **collaborative action** for higher growth with sustainability, creation of jobs, education, ease of living and 'atmanirbharta' in agriculture.
- **Three themes** have been identified for detailed deliberations in conference - implementation of National Education Policy, urban governance, and crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and other agri-commodities.
- There will also be a special session on 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Roadmap to 2047' and **four additional thematic sessions** on reducing compliance burden and decriminalisation of minor offences for ease of doing business. Centre state coordination for achieving saturation coverage of schemes and ensuring last mile delivery; transforming India's infrastructure through PM Gati Shakti; and capacity building: implementation of iGOT - Mission Karmayogi.

### 1.113. UDAN CELEBRATING ITS 5TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE YEAR 2022.

- The Government of India's **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)** initiative is a regional airport development programme that is part of the **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** for upgrading under-served air routes.
- Its purpose is to make air travel more inexpensive and ubiquitous, as well as to promote inclusive national economic development, employment creation, and the development of air transportation infrastructure in all of India's regions and states.
- At the start of the project, 406 out of 486 airports were participating under-served airports, 27 out of 97 **non-RCS** airports were well-served airports, and 12 out of 18 participating under-served regional operational airports with regular fixed-wing scheduled flights were operational airports.
- According to analysts, **UDAN** is a gamechanger in the aviation business since it allows the average person to commute between smaller cities in minutes rather than hours and at a reasonable cost.
- Over 415 **UDAN** routes connect 66 underserved/unserved airports, including heliports and water aerodromes, benefiting over 92 lakh people.

### 1.114. APEDA ORGANIZED MANGO FESTIVAL IN BAHRAIN TO BOOST EXPORT OF MANGOES.

**APEDA Formation: 1986.**

**APEDA Headquarters: New Delhi.**

- **The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has organized an eight-day long **mango festival in Bahrain** to boost the export of Mangoes.
- 34 varieties of mangoes from eastern states of **West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha**, are being displayed at eight different locations of **Bahrain's Al Jazira** group supermarket.
- All the varieties of mangoes have been directly procured from farmers and two Farmer Producer Organizations.
- The mango show in Bahrain is part of **APEDA's new initiatives to explore international markets** for Indian mangoes under the 'Mango Festival 2022'.

### 1.115. ESIC TO COVER ENTIRE INDIA UNDER ESI SCHEME BY THE END OF YEAR 2022.

**KEY POINTS:**

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) decided its health insurance scheme ESI will be implemented throughout the country by the end of 2022.
- Presently, the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme is fully implemented in 443 districts and partially implemented in 153 districts.
- A total of 148 districts are not covered under the ESI Scheme.
- The ESIC, under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav, has taken significant decisions to augment the medical care and service delivery mechanism across the country.
- It has been decided that the ESI Scheme will be implemented in the entire country by the end of 2022.



### **1.116. BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARD (BIS), NATIONAL STANDARD BODY OF INDIA, HAS PUBLISHED STANDARDS FOR TEST SPECIFICATIONS FOR LITHIUM-ION TRACTION BATTERY PACKS AND SYSTEMS (PERFORMANCE TESTING) FOR ELECTRICALLY PROPELLED ROAD VEHICLES.**

- Electric vehicles are vehicles that operate on electric motor and rechargeable batteries.
- Safety and performance are two critical aspects of electronic devices.
- Most of the EVs use Lithium-ion batteries because of its high power to weight ratio.

#### **KEY POINTS:**

- This standard is formulated considering real life scenarios for an electric vehicle such as vehicle is in parking (battery is not used for extended period of time), battery system is being shipped (stored), operating battery at low and high temperature etc., accordingly various tests are incorporated in this standard.
- Further, keeping view on safety aspect of batteries for EV, Bureau of Indian Standard is in the process of publishing 2 more standard related to batteries for various passenger and goods carrying vehicles.

### **1.117. 7TH ANNIVERSARY TO COMMEMORATE LAUNCH OF PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA- URBAN CELEBRATED BY MOHUA.**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organised a virtual event to celebrate 7 years of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), which was launched by Prime Minister on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
- The seventh anniversary celebrations highlighted the important initiatives implemented under PMAY-U Mission, which is one of the largest urban housing programmes in the world.
- An e-Book encapsulating achievements of the Mission was then released by Secretary, MoHUA. The book takes the readers through the initiatives and reforms that have been undertaken by the Mission to transform the urban landscape of India and more importantly, the impact it has had on the lakhs of beneficiaries of PMAY-U, who are proud owners of a pucca house with all basic amenities.
- At the event, winners of Khushiyon Ka Aashiyana Short Film Contest were also declared. The contest was launched by MoHUA as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- PMAY-U field inspection module in dashboard was also launched on the occasion. The purpose is to assist visitors to inspect PMAY-U project sites/houses construction by beneficiaries with the help of just a mobile phone.
- With a total investment of ₹ 8.31 Lakh Crore PMAY-U has so far sanctioned 122.69 lakh, out of which more than 1 crore houses have been grounded and over 61 lakh houses have been completed and delivered to the beneficiaries.

### **1.118. NEW NORMS TO REVISE ELECTORAL ROLLS IN J&K, GUJARAT, HIMACHAL.**

- The Election Commission (EC) kicked off a drive to update the electoral rolls in Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, where elections are expected later this year, for the first time allowing those turning 18 as of October 1 instead of January 1 to enrol, and for the collection of Aadhaar numbers of the applicants.
- The EC wrote to the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh CEOs, giving the programme for the revision of rolls to be followed.
- The EC informed the CEOs to carry out the special revision in accordance with the rules framed under the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, which increased the qualifying dates from January 1 every year to January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1, and allowed for Aadhaar linking with voter ID.

- The two State Assembly elections would also be the first ones where new electors would have Aadhaar linked voter IDs, but it would not be mandatory.
- According to EC, the applicant had to furnish Aadhaar Number in Form6 and Form8, if he/she is having Aadhaar number, however, no application for inclusion of name in electoral roll shall be denied and no entries in electoral roll shall be deleted for inability of an individual to furnish or intimate Aadhaar Number.



## ENVIRONMENT

### 1.119. NTPC RELEASES BIODIVERSITY POLICY FOR ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION .

- NTPC was the first PSU to issue Biodiversity Policy in 2018.
- NTPC Ltd has issued renewed Biodiversity Policy 2022 to establish a comprehensive vision and guiding principle for conservation, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity. This Biodiversity Policy is an integral part of NTPC's Environmental Policy.
- Its objectives are aligned with environmental and sustainability policies. Moreover, the policy is also designed to support all the professionals of the NTPC Group to help them contribute toward the achievement of the targets set in this field.
- In a major initiative undertaken by NTPC, it has signed a five-year agreement with Andhra Pradesh Forest Department for conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles in the coastline of Andhra Pradesh. With the Financial Contribution of Rs. 4.6 Crores and increased participation of community, the no. of hatchings released in sea water as increased about 2.25 times since intervention by NTPC.

### 1.120. WORLD'S BIGGEST PLANT DISCOVERED OFF AUSTRALIAN COAST.

- A seagrass roughly three times the size of Manhattan - has been discovered off the coast of Australia.
- Using genetic testing, scientists have determined a large underwater meadow in Western Australia is in fact one plant.
- It is believed to have spread from a single seed over at least 4,500 years.
- The seagrass covers about 200 square km.
- Scientists to understand the genetic diversity of the species - also known as ribbon weed - which is commonly found along parts of Australia's coast.

### 1.121. WORLD'S FIRST FISHING CAT CENSUS DONE IN CHILIKA.

- According to a census done by the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) in collaboration with the Fishing Cat Project (TFCP), the Chilika Lake (Asia's largest brackish water lagoon) has 176 fishing cats,
- This is the world's first population estimation of the fishing cat done outside the protected area network.
- According to the CDA, phase 1 of the estimation was conducted in 2021 in the 115 sq.km marshland in the north and northeastern section of Chilika and its surrounding areas.
- Phase 2 was conducted in 2022 in the Parikud side along the coastal islands of Chilika. A total of 150 camera traps were deployed in two phases with each fixed in the field for 30 days.
- According to the CDA, spatially explicit capture recapture method was used to analyse the data.

### 1.122. PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHES LIFESTYLE FOR ENVIRONMENT MOVEMENT.

- Prime Minister has launched the 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement', a global initiative, and asserted that its vision is to live a lifestyle that is in tune with our planet and does not harm it.
- The launch initiated 'LiFE Global Call for Papers' inviting ideas and suggestions from academics, universities and research institutions etc to influence and persuade individuals, communities and organisations across the world to adopt an environment-conscious lifestyle.

#### Key points:

- The idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties COP-26 in Glasgow last year.
- The idea promotes an environment conscious lifestyle that focuses on mindful and deliberate utilisation instead of mindless and destructive consumption.

- Mission LiFE borrows from the past, operates in the present and focuses on the future

### **1.123. INDIA LOWEST IN ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX.**

- The EPI has been prepared by researchers of the Yale Centre for Environmental Law & Policy and the Centre for International Earth Science Information Network Earth Institute, Columbia University.
- The ranking is based on an assessment of 40 performance indicators, including climate change, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, and environmental public health and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- India, for the first time, comes in at the very bottom of the 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranking of 180 countries.
- The US, the largest historical polluter, is ranked 43rd, while the current biggest emitter China has been ranked at the 160th position.
- Denmark, the UK, Finland, Malta and Sweden occupy the top five slots, while countries from south and southeast Asia are placed at the bottom five.
- India's lowest rank is attributed to its air pollution and rapidly rising GHG emissions.

### **1.124. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEED MUCH LONGER BEYOND 2050 TO REACH NET-ZERO: JOINT STATEMENT BY INDIA, CHINA AND OTHER NATIONS.**

- India, in a strong cross-regional joint statement on behalf of 10 nations, including China, asserted that developing countries need to be given an additional time frame beyond 2050 to reach net-zero emissions due to their goals of poverty eradication and development.
- And for this Developed Nations should do a net-negative by middle of the century and vacate the carbon space for Developing countries.
- India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti delivered a cross-regional joint statement on behalf of India and Bolivia, China, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Panama and Syria on "Global Net Zero" in the context of combatting climate change.
- Prime Minister had told the COP26 global climate summit in Glasgow, that India will meet a target of net zero emissions by 2070.

### **1.125. INDIA'S NEWEST RECORDED SNAIL NAMED AFTER WESTERN GHATS.**

- The new snail has been described in latest issue of Molluscan Research, an international journal, by Amrut Bhosale, Tejas Thackeray of the Mumbai-based Thackeray Wildlife Foundation and Omkar Yadav of the Medha-based Amdar Shashikant Shinde Mahavidyalay.
- This species is endemic to Vishalgad Conservation Reserve in Shahuwadi tehsil of Maharashtra's Kolhapur.
- It is named after the type locality of the species in the northern part of the Western Ghats, which is Sahyadri in Sanskrit.
- According to the study, the 'Sahyadri snail' is distinguished from other Indian and Southeast Asia's Haploptychius in having a sub-oblique helical shell, low spire and presence of a strong parietal lamella.
- The species was placed in the genus Haploptychius based on the shell morphology and genital characters.

### **1.126. NEPAL TO MOVE EVEREST BASE CAMP FROM MELTING GLACIER.**

- **Nepal is preparing to move its Everest base camp because global warming and human activity are making it unsafe.**
- The camp, used by up to 1,500 people in the spring climbing season, is situated on the rapidly thinning **Khumbu glacier.**
- The camp currently sits at an **altitude of 5,364m.** The new one will be 200m to 400m lower



- Researchers say melt-water destabilises the glacier, and climbers say crevasses are increasingly appearing at base camp while they sleep.

### 1.127. CHERRAPUNJI GETS THIRD HIGHEST RAINFALL IN 122 YEARS IN 24 HOURS.

- According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Strong and consistent inflow of **moist southwesterly/ southerly winds from the Bay of Bengal** are reaching straight over to the northeast India, resulting in such a deluge.
- Such winds along with **local orographic and weather factors** contributed to such **high rainfall over northeast India**.
- Such extreme rain comes after last month's surplus rain over the northeast India region. Between March and May this year, **Meghalaya received 93 per cent surplus rain** and had ended as one of the wettest northeastern states.
- The rainfall received at Cherrapunji was more than what Mumbai would record during an entire monsoon season between June to September.

### 1.128. RARE DRAGONFLY SPOTTED IN KERALA FOR FIRST TIME.

#### KEY POINTS:

- The Spiny Horntail was spotted, during a recent expedition to the Kottiyoor forests of Kannur.
- The species that is known to be endemic to the Western Ghats was discovered in Maharashtra earlier this year.
- The discovery that was recorded from Kottiyoor was confirmed by an odonate expert who represents the TNHS Odonata Research Group (TORG) of the Travancore Nature History Society (TNHS).
- Researchers had spotted the species from Chaukul in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.
- Prior to their finding, the dragonfly genus Burmagomphus was represented by three species – B. cauvericus, B. pyramidalis and B. laidlawi. While B. laidlawi is found throughout the Western Ghats, B. cauvericus is more restricted in its distribution. B. pyramidalis is found in the Western Ghats as well as in Peninsular India. All other species of the genus are found in the Western and Eastern Himalayas.
- The new species can be separated from its congeners by the markings on the lateral thorax and peculiar shape of anal appendages.
- According to a paper published by TORG, 181 odonata species have been recorded in Kerala. The addition of B. chaukulensis will take the count to 182.

### 1.129. CLIMATE SMART AWARD 2022.

- Australian Museum has won the Climate Smart Award 2022.
- SUNxMalta has partnered with Leading Cultural Destinations (LCD) since 2017 to present the **Climate Smart Award** as a distinct category in this ceremony.
- The **award aims** to publicly highlight and recognize the central role **Museums and Public Art Projects play in Climate education** and to focus attention on establishments that have risen to the challenge of advocating sustainable change, teaching and explaining **existential Climate change**.
- The last Climate Smart Award winner in 2020 was the KlimaHaus Bremerhaven 8° Ost in Germany.

### 1.130. GIANT STINGRAY CAUGHT IN CAMBODIA IS WORLD'S LARGEST FRESHWATER FISH.

- The largest freshwater fish ever recorded was captured in **Cambodia's stretch** of the Mekong River.
- A giant freshwater **stingray** measuring 4 meters (13 feet) from snout to tail and weighing 300 kilograms (661 pounds).
- The discovery occurred in a stretch of the Mekong known for its diversity of freshwater habitats that support crucial fish-spawning grounds and migration corridors and provide refuges for other mega fish species and threatened species, such as Irrawaddy dolphins and giant softshell turtles.

- It is categorized as **endangered** on the **IUCN Red List**.

### **1.131. KERALA TO HAVE ITS OWN REGIONAL RED LIST OF BIRDS.**

- Kerala will soon have its own red list of birds. The Kerala Bird Monitoring Collective led by Kerala Agricultural University and the Bird Count India will conduct the regional red list assessment.
- Kerala will become the first State to have a region-specific red list of birds. Assessment will be done on the basis of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines.
- But there are limitations for the global assessment as it is a process prepared in a global context. A species seen common at the global level may be a threatened species at the regional level.
- The IUCN guidelines for preparing the red list have **five main criteria**. The population size reduction measured over 10 years or three generations is one of the major guidelines. Geographic range on the basis of extent of occurrence or area of occupancy is another. Small population size and decline, very small or restricted population, and quantitative analysis indicating the probability of extinction in the wild are the other criteria.
- According to the global IUCN red list, Kerala has 35 threatened species of birds. In that, Red-headed vulture and White-rumped vulture are critically endangered. Steppe Eagle, Banasura Chilappan and Nilgiri Chilappan are endangered and 11 species are vulnerable.
- The Kerala Bird Atlas accounts for nearly three lakh records of 361 species, including 94 very rare species, 103 rare species, 110 common species, 44 very common species, and 10 most abundant species.
- According to the atlas, most of the endemics are concentrated in the Western Ghats while the threatened species are cited mostly.

### **1.132. LARGEST BACTERIA IN THE WORLD DISCOVERED IN CARIBBEAN MANGROVE SWAMP.**

- In a Caribbean mangrove swamp, researchers found the largest bacterium known to science. While the majority of bacteria are tiny, this one is so large that it can be seen with the unaided eye.
- According to Jean-Marie Volland, a marine biologist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and a co-author of a paper reporting the finding in the journal Science, it is by far the largest bacterium known to date. The thin white thread is about the size of a human eyelash.
- The cell has a shape that is unusual for bacteria, according to the researchers, but they have not yet been able to develop it in lab culture.
- One significant distinction is that it includes a sizable central compartment, or vacuole, which enables some cell functions to take place there rather than all across the cell.
- The reason the bacteria is so enormous is unknown to the researchers, although co-author Volland proposed that it might be an adaptation to assist it avoid being eaten by smaller creatures.

### **1.133. INDIA NEEDS 115 GW RE POWER TO MEET 5 MN TONNES GREEN HYDROGEN TARGET BY 2030.**

- As per the EY India-SED Fund report, India will need 115 GW of renewable power generation capacity and 50 billion litres of demineralised water supply to achieve the goal of five million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
- In this decade, industrial feedstock-based applications will drive the demand for green hydrogen.
- According to the EY-SED Fund report titled 'Accelerating Green Hydrogen Economy', released at the CII's conference on 'Green New Energy for a Net Zero India' in Bengaluru, the Price parity between green and grey hydrogen production will determine the speed and scale of transition.
- The report highlights that India's ambition to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030 will need 115 GW of renewable power generation capacity and 50 billion litres of demineralised water supply.
- To get a sense of this scale, the current all-India installed capacity of renewable power generation is 113 GW as of May 2022.

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing global conflict are stark reminders of how India's dependence on energy imports and other commodities linked to global supply chains can threaten its strategic interests.
- The emergence of green hydrogen as a promising low carbon feedstock and energy carrier for industrial applications is a boon for India's long-term energy security, sustainability and self-reliance.
- The levelized cost of green hydrogen production and storage (LCOH) is currently Rs 400/kg.
- Around 40-50 per cent of this cost can be attributed to the renewable energy power plant, 30-40 per cent for electrolyser stack and balance of system, including demineralised water supply and 20-30 per cent for compressed storage.

#### **1.134. CLIMATE TECH FIRM TO LAUNCH SCALED-UP PLANT SUCKING CO<sub>2</sub> FROM AIR IN ICELAND.**

- One of the world's biggest plant to capture carbon dioxide from the air and deposit it underground, would be set up in Iceland.
- According to Swiss start-up Climeworks AG, its second large-scale direct air capture (DAC) plant will be built in Iceland in 18-24 months, and have capacity to suck 36,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year from the air.
- The new "Mammoth" plant will contain around 80 large blocks of fans and filters that suck in air and extract its CO<sub>2</sub>, which Icelandic carbon storage firm Carbfix then mixes with water and injects underground where a chemical reaction turns it to rock. The process will be powered by a nearby geothermal energy plant.
- According to Co-CEO Christoph Gebald once this plant launches, Climeworks intends to build a far bigger facility capturing roughly half a million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year — and then replicate multiple plants of that size, backed by project financing, towards the end of the decade.
- Mammoth was part-financed by a 600 million Swiss Franc (\$627 million) financing round Climeworks announced in April. The firm also sells among the world's most expensive carbon removal credit — costing up to 1,000 euros per tonne — to buyers including Microsoft, Audi and Boston Consulting Group.

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## ART & CULTURE

### 1.135. GOA CELEBRATES 'SAO JOAO' FESTIVAL 2022.

- The people of Goa have celebrated the Sao Joao festival, the feast of St John the Baptist with traditional enthusiasm after a two-year coronavirus-induced gap.
- The festival is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, who baptised Lord Jesus on the river of Jordan and is celebrated at the onset of monsoon.
- Siolim, a village in North Goa, hosts a traditional canoe parade on the occasion of Sao Joao.

#### About the Festival:

- A large number of people participated in the boat parade in Siolim village of Goa's Bardez taluka, marking the beginning of revelry in the 'Sao Joao' festival.
- Traditionally, people jump into the well but since the wells are fast disappearing, people prefer to celebrate it in swimming pools.
- The festival is marked to herald the monsoon season in the state every year in June. People are often seen having a great time by enjoying and dancing in the artificial rain which adds charm to the celebrations.

### 1.136. FOUR-DAY AMBUBACHI MELA AT THE KAMAKHYA TEMPLE IN GUWAHATI, ASSAM.

#### About Ambubachi Mela:

- An annual Hindu festival known as the Ambubachi Mela takes place at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam.
- This annual festival is held in the middle of June, when the Brahmaputra River is at its highest flow, during the monsoon season, which also happens to fall within the Assamese month of Ahaar.

#### KEY POINTS:

- Devotees were finally permitted to take part in the annual Ambubachi Mela at Assam's renowned Kamakhya Temple after a two-year absence.
- The head priest of Maa Kamakhya Devalaya, or "Bor Doloi," Kabinath Sarma, explained that the "Pravritti" was used to symbolically close the temple doors for four days as part of the rites. The door will be unlocked or Nivriti in the morning of the first day.
- This year, the holiday is being observed in a more subdued manner due to the state's terrible floods.

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## GEOGRAPHY

### 1.137. ONGC VIDESH ANNOUNCES NEW DISCOVERY IN COLOMBIA.

- ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary and overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), has made an oil discovery in Llanos Basin, Colombia.
- ONGC Videsh has earlier discovered commercial oil in the Lower Sand pay in Mariposa and Indico fields in the block in 2017 and 2018 respectively, which are currently commercially producing @20,000 bbl oil per day.
- ONGC Videsh holds 70% participating interest (PI) in the block along with operatorship, remaining 30% is held by partner Geopark.
- ONGC Videsh has a significant presence in oil & gas sector in Colombia, with three other exploratory blocks in the country and joint ownership of the oil producing company Mansarovar Energy Colombia Ltd (MECL).



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## HEALTH

### 1.138. PRESIDENT INAUGURATES THE AKHIL BHARTIYA AYURVED MAHASAMMELAN'S 59TH MAHA ADHIVESHAN.

- **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, India's President, today inaugurated the 59th Maha Adhiveshan of the **Akhil Bhartiya Ayurved Mahasammelan** in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. Ayurveda means **Science of Life** in Sanskrit.
- It refers to the method of treating an illness once it has manifested. However, in Ayurveda, disease prevention is prioritised alongside healing.

#### KEY POINTS:

- The Indian government has taken many measures to protect and promote Indian medical systems from time to time.
- This initiative, however, has received even more impetus after the formation of a separate **Ministry of AYUSH** in 2014. Various Research Councils affiliated with the Government of India have accomplished remarkable things in the field of Ayurveda.
- Our health is influenced by our nutrition, lifestyle, and even our everyday routine. Ayurveda explains what our daily routine should be, what our seasonal routine should be, and what our diet should be before taking medicine.
- **Mahaadhiveshan**, the topic of "Ayurveda Diet – The Foundation of a Healthy India" will be covered.

### 1.139. CORBEVAX GETS NOD AS COVID19 BOOSTER DOSE.

- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved Hyderabadbased Biological E. Limited (BE)'s COVID19 vaccine Corbevax as a COVID19 booster dose.
- The vaccine be administered to adults six months after the administration of second dose of Covaxin or Covishield for restricted use in emergency situations.
- According to the company, Corbevax is **India's first approved heterologous COVID booster** (when the third dose is different from earlier doses). Be hasn't received who's emergency use listing for the job.
- WHO's EUL procedure assesses the quality, safety and efficacy of COVID19 vaccines and is a prerequisite for COVAX vaccine supply.

### 1.140. WHO AWARD FOR PGI CHANDIGARH CENTRE FOR TOBACCO CONTROL.

- **The World Health Organisation** has awarded the **Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (e-RCTC)** of the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health at the **Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh** with the Regional Director Special Recognition Award.
- The Resource Centre for Tobacco Control provides information related to tobacco control in India, including circulars and orders, policies and legislations, multidisciplinary publications

#### Key points:

- Besides being a resource hub, the centre has achieved heights in capacity building by organising more than 50 workshops and webinars for around 3,500 program managers and academicians.
- The Resource Center for Tobacco Control, a joint initiative of the PGIMER and the UNION-SEA, was set up in 2018 by 25 organisations working over tobacco control in India with an aim to showcase tobacco control initiatives.
- e-RCTC portal has attracted 4.2 lakh visitors from 100 countries in three years.

### 1.141. ITBP PRESENTS PAPER ON USE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS ON CANINES.

- In its bid to reduce the pain of animals like dogs and horses, a top veterinarian of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has presented the country's first clinical paper on the use of medical cannabis on canines to record the efficacy of the organic drug in alleviating the suffering from inflammation.
- It was a clinical use of medical cannabis on dogs belonging to private parents. This clinical paper, first time in India, is purely a social service initiative without any monetary angle.
- The production of the full spectrum cannabis extract is being done in India under the approval of Ayush and is being successfully used in humans but the clinical trial of the medical cannabis is a first for animals.
- Medical cannabis acts as a painkiller to alleviate various kinds of pain due to inflammatory conditions without many side effects, as against the inorganic drugs that will have deleterious effects on vital organs due to long-term use.
- Full-spectrum cannabis extract was obtained under veterinary prescription from a **Noida-based firm Noigra**.
- According to Study, this is an effective long-term strategy to maintain the canines painfree, reduce inflammation with overall improved quality of life.

### **1.142. NO WILD POLIO STRAIN FOUND: HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIAL**

- According to a senior Health Ministry official, No wild poliovirus but vaccine derived poliovirus (VDPV) was detected in the environmental surveillance of sewage samples from Kolkata.
- The genetic sequencing is done at the **ICMR National Institute of Virology, Mumbai**, and this was discussed with the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The Ministry said that the last time such a VDPV was detected was in New Delhi in 2018.
- State health officials detected the presence of VDPV from sewage in Kolkata earlier this week.
- A VDPV is a strain of the weakened poliovirus that was initially included in OPV and that has changed over time and behaves more like the wild or naturally occurring virus.
- According to the WHO, Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease that largely affects children under five years.
- The virus is transmitted person to person and spread mainly through the faecal oral route and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and cause paralysis.
- Of the three strains of wild poliovirus, type 2 and 3 strains have been globally eradicated.
- According to the WHO, as on 2020, wild poliovirus type 1 affects two countries Pakistan and Afghanistan.

### **1.143. INDIA'S TOP 3 MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS TO RECEIVE USD 122 MN FUNDS TO PREVENT EPIDEMICS, DISEASE THREATS.**

- The United States has announced a funding of USD 122 million to the top three Indian medical research institutions to prevent avoidable epidemics, early detection of disease threats, and rapid and effective response.
- The total funding of USD 122,475,000 will, over a period of five years, be distributed to the three top Indian health research institutions -- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the National Institute of Virology (NIV) and the National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE).
- Announced by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the fund will accelerate the progress towards an India which is safe and secure from infectious disease threats through ICMR institutions' focus on emerging and re-emerging pathogens.
- Prominent among these include detecting and controlling zoonotic disease outbreaks through a 'one health' approach; evaluating vaccine safety monitoring systems; capacitating the public health workforce in field epidemiology and outbreak response; and combating antimicrobial resistance.
- These institutions are mandated by the Ministry of Health of Family Health and Welfare (MoHFW) to provide oversight for laboratory confirmation of priority pathogens in India in a tiered manner as well as

collate and analyze surveillance data for public health actions and work closely with the state governments where these institutes are located.

### **1.144. ONE IN EIGHT PEOPLE HAS MENTAL DISORDER: WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION**

- About one in eight people in the world live with a mental disorder as stated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in a landmark report released calling for urgent action on transforming mental healthcare.
- The lack of awareness and access to care remain the most significant obstacles to mental health care.
- Even before the pandemic, in 2019, the number of people living with a mental disorder was nearly a billion, including 14 per cent of the world's adolescents, a number that has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic in the last two years.
- The WHO report revealed that on average, countries dedicate less than 2 per cent of their healthcare budgets to mental health. As a result, just a small fraction of people in need get access to effective, affordable and quality mental health care.
- The report also called to end stigma, discrimination and human rights violations against people with mental health conditions, with 20 countries still criminalising attempted suicide.

### **1.145. SICKLE CELL DISEASE (SCD) CONTINUE TO REMAIN A PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE IN INDIA.**

#### **KEY POINTS:**

- India has the second-highest burden of genetic blood disorder after Nigeria.
- Tribal populations are the worst hit with this disease in India.
- Children Before reaching the age of two, 20% of tribal children with sickle cell disease die, and 30% of children die before reaching adulthood.
- As per doctors, there may be 18 million Sickle Cell Traits (SCT) and 1.4 million SCD patients among the tribal population.
- According to officials, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also working on a road map for the management, control and eradication of Sickle Cell disease.
- The action plan will be implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, State Governments, Organizations working on SCD and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO).
- The disease have a higher prevalence in Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan which is referred to as the **sickle cell belt**.
- This condition is most common in tribal communities in India but is gradually finding its way throughout because of migration into the cities.
- The Tribal Ministry would support the initiative of Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) on research on CRISPER -technology involving gene-editing after consultation with the Department of Science and Technology, ICMR, and Union Health Ministry.
- Social stigma and ignorance around the Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) continue to remain a public health challenge in India.

### **1.146. TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY OFFERS A UNIQUE TREATMENT FOR AIDS.**

#### **According to the researchers:**

- They have developed an innovative treatment that may defeat the virus with a one-time injection, with the potential of bringing about tremendous improvement in the patients' condition.
- When the engineered B cells encounter the virus, the virus stimulates and encourages them to divide, so they are utilizing the very cause of the disease to combat it.
- Furthermore, if the virus changes, the B cells will also change accordingly in order to combat it, so they have created the first medication ever that can evolve in the body and defeat viruses in 'arms race'.



**KEY POINTS:**

- A new study from Tel Aviv University offers a unique treatment for AIDS — a vaccine or a one-time treatment for patients with HIV.
- The study examined the engineering of type B white blood cells in the patient's body so as to secrete anti-HIV antibodies in response to the virus.
- They had been able to engineer B cells outside of the body, and in this study, they were the first to do this in the body and to make these cells generate desired antibodies.
- The genetic engineering is done with viral carriers derived from viruses that were engineered so as not to cause damage but only to bring the gene coded for the antibody into the B cells in the body.
- They have been able to accurately introduce the antibodies into a desired site in the B cell genome.
- All model animals who had been administered the treatment responded and had high quantities of the desired antibody in their blood.
- They produced the antibody from the blood and made sure it was actually effective in neutralizing the HIV virus in the lab dish.
- The **genetic editing was done with CRISPR**, a technology based on a bacterial immune system against viruses.
- CRISPR to direct the introduction of genes into desired sites along with the capabilities of viral carriers to bring desired genes to desired cells. Thus, it helps to engineer the B cells inside the patient's body.
- They use two viral carriers of the AAV family, one carrier codes for the desired antibody and the second carrier codes the CRISPR system.
- When the CRISPR cuts in the desired site in the genome of the B cells it directs the introduction of the desired gene: the gene coding for the antibody against the HIV virus, which causes AIDS.
- Currently, the researchers explain, there is no genetic treatment for AIDS, so the research opportunities are vast.

**1.147. THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MILLETS ON THE THEME 'THE FUTURE SUPER FOOD FOR INDIA' HELD IN NEW DELHI.**

- Union Minister of State for M/o Food Processing Industries, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the National Conference on Millets on the **theme 'The Future Super Food for India'** in New Delhi, organised by industry body ASSOCHAM with the support of M/o Food Processing Industries.
- The conference has been organised to discuss opportunities and challenges in ensuring food and nutritional security.
- Millets have been among the oldest eatables in the country. It is a crop grown from small seeds which can be grown well in dry areas or even on lands with deficient and low fertility thus is known as the superfood of India.
- Due to their short growing season, millets can develop from seeds to ready-to-harvest crops in just about 65 days and this characteristic of the millets is of vital importance in thickly populated regions of the world.
- If stored properly, millets can keep well for two years or beyond. There is a need to mainstream millets to improve India's nutrition outcomes.
- The Government of India has already revised the guidelines to facilitate the movement of the surplus production of millets to other states.
- The provision of inter-state transportation of surplus millets through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is incorporated to cater for advance demands placed by consuming states before the start of procurement.
- The major millets producing states in India include Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

- India is the 5th largest exporter of millets globally.
- The year 2023 will be the international year of millets that will create value generation and promotion of sustainable products in food choices.

### **1.148. ONE HEALTH PILOT' INITIATIVE LAUNCHED IN BENGALURU.**

- **The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD)** will be launched the **One Health pilot** in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The programme is aimed at bringing stakeholders from animal, human and environment health on a common platform to address challenges. DAHD in collaboration with the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)** and The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as implementation partner is implementing the One-Health Framework undertaking project in the states of Karnataka and Uttarakhand, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

#### **About the 'One Health Pilot':**

- The Pilot project in Karnataka would be launched by Secretary **Atul Chaturvedi**, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying. Key dignitaries and stakeholders from the Centre and state level across livestock, human, wildlife, and environment sectors will also be a part of the inauguration.
- The 'One Health India' program initiated by the Department aims to work with stakeholders from various sectors to improve livestock health, human health, wildlife health, and environmental health through technology and finance.

#### **'One Health Pilot': Benefits**

- Human health cannot be viewed in isolation and it is dependent on the environment it lives which includes animals too. The One Health project helps in realizing the interdependencies that animal and environmental health have on human life.
- It will develop a national One Health roadmap based on the learnings of the pilot project implementation.
- This will be useful in preventing zoonotic disease outbreaks in the future and facilitate a better response mechanism. Earlier, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had called for the need of creating vigilance and awareness on zoonotic diseases.
- The pilot project will institutionalize better management, and development of a targeted surveillance plan, integrate a network of laboratories, develop and implement communication strategy across sectors
- It will also integrate data with the digital architecture of the National Digital Livestock Mission.
- Furthermore, it will also help in building a strong social infrastructure that supports the health of the people and the planet.

### **1.149. HEALTHY PUNCH, HIMACHAL MAY DISH OUT APPLES IN SCHOOLS & HOSPITALS.**

- The Himachal Government is considering the inclusion of apple in mid-day meals in schools and anganwadis and in meals served to patients in hospitals.
- According to Mahender Singh, Horticulture Minister, "We are expecting a higher yield this time. The availability of this nutritious fruit will benefit both students and patients. We are also thinking of making the fruit available in small packing of 2-6 kg for sale at hotels. This will not only help the growers, but also benefit the tourists as they will get good quality fruit at reasonable prices.
- Growers welcomed this move from government and want the govt to list procurement norms.
- According to the minister the processing unit at Parala, Shimla would be made functional before July 31. This will ensure that much of the apple procured through the market intervention scheme and taken to Parwanoo be used up at Parala itself.

HIMACHAL PRADESH NEWS

**1.150. AGROFORESTRY EXPERT DR DR BHARDWAJ BAGS GOLD MEDAL.**

- DR Bhardwaj of Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni, has been bestowed with the Indian Society of Agroforestry (ISAF) Gold Medal for 2019.
- Bhardwaj is Principal Scientist in the Department of Silviculture and Agroforestry of the university.
- The award was given during the executive council meeting of the ISAF held recently at Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi.
- Bhardwaj, carrying over 27 years of teaching and research experience, has guided 37 students in the field of agroforestry and silviculture.
- According to the university, he has several research achievements to his credit, including the development of propagation and plantation technology of many tree species of the Himalayan region.
- He has introduced edible bamboo species which are in great demand among the farming community. Several agroforestry models for the state have been developed by him.
- The scientist has also developed regression models for the estimation of the timber, fodder and fuel wood production potential of farmland tree species.
- The ISAF was founded in 1998 to encourage basic, applied and strategic research in agroforestry.

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## SUMMITS

### 1.151. 12TH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OPENED AT GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

#### About the Conference:

- Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, addresses the opening ceremony of the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 12, 2022.
- The Ministerial Conference, which is attended by trade ministers and other senior officials from the organization's 164 members, is the WTO's highest decision-making body, and is generally held every two years.
- **Kazakhstan** was originally scheduled to host 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2020, but the conference was postponed due to the pandemic.
- **The 12th World Trade Organization's (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC12)** opened at WTO headquarters in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- Members of the trade organization will hold discussions on such issues as TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, pandemic response, fishery subsidies, agriculture, food security, as well as the WTO's reform and its future work priorities.

### 1.152. WEST ASIA QUAD: US, UAE, INDIA, ISRAEL TO HOLD FIRST SUMMIT.

- The First summit of the leaders of a new group of four nations — the US, India, Israel, and the UAE — will be held virtually. The first summit will be held during Biden's visit to Israel
- The group is called I2U2 – for India and Israel whose names begin with the letter "I" and the US and UAE that begin with the letter "U" – and it will be focused on West Asia.
- They will discuss security and "areas of cooperation across hemispheres where UAE and Israel serve as important innovation hubs",
- It is focused on expanding economic and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia, including through trade, combating climate change, energy cooperation, Maritime Security and coordination on other vital shared interests,"

### 1.153. 8TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS HOSTED IN EGYPT.

- **The Eighth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians** has been started in **Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt** to address climate change.
- The two-day conference is being jointly organized by the **House of Representatives and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**.
- **Nagaland's first woman** elected as Member of Parliament to Rajya Sabha, **S. Phangon Konyak** is representing India at the Conference.
- She, along with two other young Lok Sabha MPs from India, will be sharing her thoughts on the '**Young MPs for Climate Actions**'.

#### About the Conference:

- The 8th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians provides a platform for young MPs from across the world to exchange learn and define common and innovative strategies to advance youth empowerment.
- This year in Egypt, around 200 young MPs, from 60 countries are participating to discuss strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change and ensure that global warming does not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius in line with the Paris Agreement.



- According to official information shared by IPU, there are **35,177 Parliamentary seats** globally but **just 2.66 per cent of these are held by young MPs.**

#### **1.154. 14TH BRICS SUMMIT HELD IN VIRTUAL MODE.**

- During the meeting, Heads of State discussed intra-BRICS cooperation in areas like trade, counter-terrorism, traditional medicine, health, environment, reform of multilateral institutions and combating covid-19 pandemic.

##### **Theme of the BRICS Summit:**

- BRICS Summit 2022 held under the theme of **“Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development.”**

##### **KEY POINTS:**

- 14th BRICS Summit held in virtual mode in 2022.
- According to reports, a BRICS Plus virtual conference was held as part of the main meeting with ministers from countries, including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Argentina, Nigeria, Senegal, and Thailand.
- BRICS Plus is a new phase in the expansion of BRICS - already known for its combined economic growth potential - that aims to welcome more countries and enhance economic conditions.

#### **1.155. JAMMU AND KASHMIR TO HOST G-20 MEETINGS IN 2023.**

- The G20 countries include **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and the United Kingdom.**
- **Jammu and Kashmir** will host the **2023 meetings of the G20**, an influential group of the world’s major economies.
- J&K government has set up a five-member high-level committee for overall coordination of G20 meetings to be held in the Union Territory.
- Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** was appointed as **India’s Sherpa for the G20** in September 2021.
- According to the Ministry of External Affairs, India will hold the G-20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and convene the first G20 leaders’ summit in 2023.

#### **1.156. COP15: UN BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT MOVED FROM CHINA TO CANADA.**

- The UN convention on biological diversity confirmed that the Cop15 biodiversity conference will now take place in Montreal, Canada, from 5 to 17 December, after it became clear China would not be able to host the event in Kunming due to the country’s zero-Covid policy.
- The UN Biodiversity has announced that the second part of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) will take place between 5 to 17 December.
- The summit due to be held in December is aimed at authorising the final version of the draft UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- The decisions in the second part of COP15 will be taken on how the world will work on reducing the extinction risk that threatens more than one million species, protecting 30% of land and sea and eliminating the funds spent on environmentally-damaging government subsidies as well as restoring degraded ecosystems.

#### **1.157. GERMANY HOLDS THE PRESIDENCY OF THE G7 IN 2022.**

- The G7 is an informal forum of leading industrialised nations, which include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- A number of international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank, are also participating in the Summit.
- As of 2022, G7 countries make up 10% of the world's population, 31% of global GDP, and 21% of global carbon dioxide emissions, according to the Summit website. China and India, the two most populous countries with among the largest GDP figures in the world, are not part of the grouping.
- In all G7 countries, annual public sector expenditure exceeded revenue in 2021. Most G7 countries also had a high level of gross debt, especially Japan (263% of GDP), Italy (151%) and the US (133%).
- The G7 countries are important players in global trade. The US and Germany in particular are major export nations. Both sold goods worth well over a trillion US dollars abroad in 2021.



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## INDEX AND REPORTS

### 1.158. INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AHMEDABAD LAUNCHES AGRI LAND PRICE INDEX.

- The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), in collaboration with agri-land marketplace SFarmsIndia has launched IIMA-SFarmsIndia Agri Land Price Index (**ISALPI**), which will record and present 'quality controlled' data of prices of agricultural land across the country.
- This index is important in terms of benchmarking land prices in rural and semi-urban areas. In such a case, the index will serve as a reliable source that will signal potential conversion of agricultural land into real estate.
- With ISALPI, better data sources for all stakeholders to be able to take informed decisions at national as well as regional levels and support the agribusiness activities.”
- Unlike financial assets, developing an index for land parcels is a complex task because of visible price differences in different listings caused by a slew of factors including the market wide supply-demand factors.
- Currently ISALPI is based on land listing data from six states - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.

### 1.159. THE ASIA UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2022: 4 INDIAN INSTITUTIONS IN TOP 100.

- **Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2022** was released by the **Times Higher Education (THE)**.
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore** continued to be the best institute of the country. It ranked at **42nd place**.

#### Top 4 universities under top 100:

1. Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (42nd)
  2. JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research (65th)
  3. Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (68th)
  4. Indian Institute of Technology Indore (87th)
- **There are 17 Indian universities in the top 200 as compared to 18 last year.**

### 1.160. QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2023 RELEASED.

- **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)**, London-based global higher education has released the **19th** edition of the world's most consulted international university ranking.
- **The QS World University Rankings 2023** ranks the top 900 universities based on 8 key ranking indicators.
- This is the largest ever ranking with 1,418 institutions across one hundred locations up from 1300 in the previous year.

#### Key points:

- The ranking was topped by the United States(US)'s **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** followed by the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom(UK) and Stanford University(US).
- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, Karnataka, ranked 155 gaining 31 places since 2022 ranking and emerged as the fastest rising South Asian university among the top 200 universities.
- 41 Indian varsities have been found place in the rankings.

- Among QS World University Rankings top 200 varsities, The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru (155th) topped among Indian universities, followed by IIT Bombay (172nd) and IIT Delhi (174th).

### 1.161. UNCTAD'S WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT: INDIA RANKED 7TH.

- According to the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, India jumped one position to **7th** among the top recipients of **foreign direct investment (FDI)** in the last calendar year (2021) despite FDI inflows into the country declining.
- In its latest World Investment Report, UNCTAD said FDI inflows into India declined to \$45 billion in 2021 from \$64 billion in the preceding year.
- Outward FDI from India rose 43 percent to \$15.5 billion in 2021.
- While the **United States** (\$367 billion) remained the top recipient of FDI, **China** (\$181 billion) and **Hong Kong** (\$141 billion) also retained second and third position, respectively.
- Among the top 10 host economies for FDI, only India saw a decline in its FDI inflows.

### 1.162. INDIA JUMPS 6 PLACES TO 37TH RANK ON IMD'S WORLD COMPETITIVENESS INDEX.

#### About Institute for Management Development (IMD):

- IMD business school in Switzerland and Singapore released the 2022 World **Competitiveness Ranking**. Its think-tank, Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Center, ranks 63 economies and assesses the extent to which a country promotes the prosperity of its people by measuring economic well-being via hard data and survey responses from executives.

#### Key points:

- India has witnessed the sharpest rise among the Asian economies, with a six-position jump from 43rd to 37th rank on the annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development, largely due to gains in economic performance.
- **Denmark** has moved to the **top** of the 63-nation list from the third position last year, while **Switzerland** slipped from the top ranking to the **second** position and **Singapore** regained the **third** spot from fifth.
- After a stable but stagnant five years, 2022 witnessed significant improvement in the competitiveness of the Indian economy and this is largely due to gains in economic performance (from 37th to 28th).
- **Some of the factors that helped India in improving its Rank:** The labour market, a key sub-factor in the business efficiency parameter, moved up from 15th to 6th, while management practices and business attitudes and values also made major leaps. major improvements in the context of retrospective taxes in 2021, Its re-regulation of several sectors, including drones, space, and geo-spatial mapping, global movement to fight climate change and pledge of net-zero by 2070 at the COP26 summit etc.
- The top five attractive factors of India's economy for business are – a skilled workforce, cost competitiveness, dynamism of the economy, high educational level, and open and positive attitudes.

### 1.163. WGC: INDIA RANKS 4TH IN GLOBAL GOLD RECYCLING.

- According to a World Gold Council (WGC) report, India has emerged as the fourth largest recycler in the world and the country has recycled 75 tonnes in 2021.
- According to the WGC report titled 'Gold refining and recycling', China topped the global gold recycling chart as it recycled 168 tonnes of the yellow metal, followed by Italy in the second position with 80 tonnes and the US at the third rank with 78 tonnes in 2021.
- India was ranked fourth in the list as the country recycled 75 tonnes in 2021.
- According to the WGC report titled 'Gold refining and recycling' from 300 tonnes in 2013, India's gold refining capacity increased by 1,500 tonnes (500 per cent) in 2021.



- The report further noted that the gold refining landscape in the country has changed over the last decade, with the number of formal operations increasing from less than five in 2013 to 33 in 2021.

### 1.164. INDIA COMES THIRD IN RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS IN 2021.

- **India ranked third** globally for total renewable power capacity additions in 2021 with 15.4 GW, behind only **China (136 GW) and the US (43 GW)**.
- According to a report, despite the Covid-19 pandemic's promise of a global green recovery, this historic opportunity has been lost.
- According to **REN21's Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR 2022)**, the world is unlikely to be able to achieve important climate goals this decade, this is because the global clean energy transition is not taking place.

#### Key Points:

- The largest energy crisis in modern history started in the **second half of 2021**, and it was made worse by the **Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022** and an unprecedented global commodities shock.
- The research states that **India increased its hydroelectric capacity by 843 MW in 2021**, bringing the total to 45.3 GW.
- **India was the third-largest market globally** and the second-largest market in Asia for new solar PV capacity (13 GW of additions in 2021).
- In terms of overall installations, it came in at number four (60.4 GW), passing Germany (59.2 GW) for the first time.
- India was in third place overall for installed wind power (40.1 GW), trailing only China, the US.
- In the energy industry, historic increases in generation (7,793 terawatt hours) and capacity (314.5 gigawatts, up 17% from 2020) were unable to keep up with the six percent growth in global electricity demand.

### 1.165. COURSERA GLOBAL SKILL REPORT 2022: INDIA RANKED 68TH.

#### About the report:

- The report is based on the data collected from over 100 million Coursera users from more than 100 countries who learned a new skill during the past year.
- The report benchmarks three of the most in-demand skill areas driving employment in the digital economy – business, technology, and data science.
- The **Global Skills Report (GSR) 2022 by Coursera states** that India's proficiency in data science has reduced from 38% in 2021 to 26% in 2022, leading to a 12-rank drop. In terms of overall skills proficiency, India has slipped 4 places to be ranked **68th globally and 19th in Asia**.
- However, the report reveals that India has improved its technology proficiency levels from 38 percent to 46 percent, improving its position by six spots.

#### Key points:

- **West Bengal** leads the Indian states in terms of skills proficiency with the state showing the highest levels of digital skills proficiency in the country.
- **Andhra Pradesh** is among the top three performing states with high proficiency in business and technology skills.
- For the second year in a row, **Switzerland** had the highest-skilled learners followed by **Denmark, Indonesia, and Belgium**.

### 1.166. GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX 2022 RELEASED.

- The annual ranking of the world's most liveable cities has just been released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), and 2022's Global Liveability Index shows some marked differences from the previous year.
- The EIU, which is a sister organization to The Economist, ranked 173 cities around the world on a variety of factors, including health care, crime rates, political stability, infrastructure and access to green space.

#### 2022's Global Liveability Index: The top 10

1. Vienna, Austria
2. Copenhagen, Denmark
3. Zurich, Switzerland
4. Calgary, Canada
5. Vancouver, Canada
6. Geneva, Switzerland
7. Frankfurt, Germany
8. Toronto, Canada
9. Amsterdam, Netherlands
10. Osaka, Japan and Melbourne, Australia (tie)

#### 10 LEAST LIVEABLE CITIES AROUND THE WORLD IN 2022:

1. Tehran, Iran
2. Douala, Cameroon
3. Harare, Zimbabwe
4. Dhaka, Bangladesh
5. Port Moresby, PNG
6. Karachi, Pakistan
7. Algiers, Algeria
8. Tripoli, Libya
9. Lagos, Nigeria
10. Damascus, Syria

#### Key points:

- The cities in India have fared poorly in the list of the world's most liveable cities. India's national capital New Delhi has been ranked 112th in the list of most liveable cities. While India's financial capital Mumbai is ranked at 117th position.
- The Pakistani city of Karachi and Bangladesh capital Dhaka are among the least liveable cities in the world.

## SPORTS

### 1.167. INDIA WIN FIRST EVER MEDAL AT THE IBSA JUDO GRAND PRIX.

- In Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan, India earned its first ever medal at the IBSA Judo Grand Prix.
- It's worth noting that 18 of 21 countries that competed won medals.
- The Indian Blind and Para Judo Association's **Judoka Kapil Parmar** deserves heartfelt praising for bringing medals to the country.
- It's worth noting that 18 of the 21 countries that competed won medals. Several countries, including Iraq, Switzerland, and India, earned their first medals in the IBSA Grand Prix as a result of these.

### 1.168. FRENCH OPEN 2022: 18-YEAR-OLD COCO GAUFF TO SET UP FINAL WITH IGA SWIATEK.

#### About French Open:

- The **French Open**, also known as **Roland-Garros** is a major tennis tournament held over two weeks at the **Stade Roland Garros** in Paris, France, beginning in late May each year.
- The tournament and venue are named after the French aviator **Roland Garros**. The French Open is the premier **clay court** championship in the world and the only Grand Slam tournament currently held on this surface.
- **Coco Gauff** becomes the youngest Grand Slam finalist since Maria Sharapova at Wimbledon in 2004.
- She is also the youngest finalist at Roland Garros in 21 years.

### 1.169. UNION HOME MINISTER TO LAUNCH 'KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES' IN PANCHKULA , HARYANA.

- 'Khelo India Youth Games-2021' is being organized jointly by the Haryana Government, Sports Authority of India (SAI), and Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from June 4 to 13.
- Round 8,500 players, coaches and support staff from across the country will participate in the fourth edition of 'Khelo India Youth Games2021'.
- Players will show their mettle for a total of 1866 medals which includes 545 Gold, 545 Silver, and 776 Bronze medals. As many as 25 types of sports will be organized at five venues Panchkula, Ambala, Shahabad, Chandigarh, and Delhi.
- Five traditional sports namely Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, Mallakhamb, and Yogasana have also been included in this prestigious competition for the first time.

### 1.170. 2022 FRENCH OPEN:

- **Men: Rafael Nadal won a 14th French Open.**
- He defeated Casper Ruud to become the **oldest male champion** at Roland Garros history, going past Andres Gimeno who won the 1972 edition.
- **Women: Iga Swiatek beats Coco Gauff to win second career Grand Slam title.**

### 1.171. SAKSHI MALIK, MANSI, AND DIVYA KAKRAN WON GOLD IN THE BOLAT TURLYKHANOV CUP.

- **Sakshi Malik**, Rio Olympics Bronze medallist won her **first international gold medal at the Bolat Turlykhanov Cup** in almost five years.
- In the **62 Kg** category, **Sakshi Malik** won against Irina Kuznetsova, via fall.

- In the **57 Kg** category, **Mansi** won against Emma Tissina, by 3-0.
- In the **68 Kg** category, **Divya Kakran** won against Zorigt and Delgerma by scoring more points from both of them.

### 1.172. INDIA BEAT POLAND 6-4 TO CLINCH INAUGURAL FIH HOCKEY 5s TITLE.

- It was first played in preparation for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games.
- Hockey 5s is a super-fast, highly skilful, short format of hockey which is designed to be adaptable to multiple surfaces, environments and space.
- Hockey 5s is an invasion game played between two teams with 4 field players and a goalkeeper.
- **India beat Poland 6-4** in final to clinch the inaugural **FIH Hockey 5s championship in Lausanne in Switzerland.**
- India had topped the five-team standings after the round-robin league stage with 10 points from three wins and one draw. India had beaten hosts Switzerland 4-3 and drawn with arch-rivals Pakistan 2-2.

### 1.173. MUMBAI BROKE THE WORLD RECORD FOR HIGHEST MARGIN OF VICTORY IN THE HISTORY OF FIRST-CLASS CRICKET.

- Mumbai broke the world record for highest margin of victory in the history of first-class cricket by beating Uttarakhand by a staggering 725 runs in their Ranji Trophy quarter-final.
- Mumbai broke New South Wales' 92-year-old Sheffield Shield record when they beat Queensland by 685 runs.
- In the Ranji Trophy, the previous record for highest margin for victory was held by Bengal, who had defeated Odisha by 540 runs in 1953-54.

### 1.174. THE INDIAN WEIGHT LIFTERS GOT TWO SILVER IN YOUTH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN MEXICO.

- India's Akansha Kishor Vyavhare won the Silver medal in 40kg category while Vijay Prajapati finished second in 49kg in 2022 IWF Youth World Weightlifting Championships for men and women in Leon, Mexico.
- **Akansha** lifted a total of 127kg (59kg + 68kg), while **Vijay** lifted 175kg (78kg + 97kg).
- Akansha is a trainee of **Sports Authority of India (SAI) National Centre of Excellence, Aurangabad** and Vijay is a trainee of **National Centres of Excellence (NCOE) Patiala.**

### 1.175. R PRAGGNANANDHAA WON NORWAY CHESS GROUP A OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT.

- **R. Praggnanandhaa** emerged winner in the **Norway Chess Group A open chess tournament.**
- He remained unbeaten through the nine rounds. He finished the tournament with a win over fellow Indian V Praneeth, an International Master.
- Praggnanandhaa finished a full point ahead of second-placed **IM Marsel Efroimski (Israel)** and **IM Jung Min Seo (Sweden).**

### 1.176. HARYANA WON KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES 2021 TITLE.

- Hosts **Haryana** won the **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021** title with **52 gold medals** on the final day. Haryana also won 39 silver and 46 bronze medals, taking their overall medal tally to 137 medals – the highest cumulative haul by any state.



**Key points:**

- **Maharashtra**, meanwhile, managed 45 gold, 40 silver and 40 bronze medals to come second with 125 medals.
- **Karnataka**, with 22 gold, 17 silver and 28 bronze, finished third with 67 medals.

**About the Khelo India Youth Games 2021:**

- The Khelo India Youth Games 2021 started on **June 4** across multiple venues with Haryana's Panchkula hosting the bulk of the events. The Games, which are a part of the Indian government's Khelo India initiative, concluded on **June 13**.
- This was **Haryana's second KIYG title**. Haryana won the inaugural title in 2018 but finished second to Maharashtra in the next two seasons.
- This was the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games. Some 4,700 athletes, including 2,262 women, from all of India's 36 states and Union Territories participated at KIYG 2021.
- Hosts Haryana fielded the biggest contingent with 398 athletes, followed by Maharashtra with 357. A total of 33 states won at least one medal at KIYG 2021 while 28 won at least one gold.

**1.177. NEERAJ CHOPRA SETS NEW NATIONAL RECORD WITH 89.30 METRE JAVELIN THROW.**

- India's javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** set a new national record as he threw **89.30 metres at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland**. **Neeraj Chopra** won the **silver medal** with his throw at the event.
- Chopra's earlier national record was **88.07m**.
- He had won the Tokyo Olympics gold with a throw of 87.58M in 2021.
- Neeraj Chopra is India's first ever Olympic gold medallist in athletics and only the second individual gold medallist at Olympics.
- Finland's **Oliver Helander** won the gold medal at the event with a throw of **89.83 metres**.

**1.178. PM FLAGGED OFF THE FIRST-EVER TORCH RELAY FOR THE CHESS OLYMPIAD.****KEY POINTS:**

- PM flagged off the **First-ever torch relay** for the **Chess Olympiad** ahead of the 44th edition of the event, which is to be held in Mahabalipuram.
- The international chess body, **FIDE** (Fédération Internationale des Échecs), for the very first time has instituted the torch relay, which is part of the Olympic tradition but was never done in the Chess Olympiad.
- The torch will be taken to 75 cities in a span of 40 days before arriving in Mahabalipuram near Chennai.
- At every location, chess grandmasters of the state will receive the torch.
- Leh, Srinagar, Jaipur, Surat, Mumbai, Bhopal, Patna, Kolkata, Gangtok, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Thrissur, Port Blair and Kanyakumari are among the 75 cities.
- In 1956, India participated for first time in Chess Olympiad.

**1.179. SUNIL CHHETRI BECOMES JOINT 5TH HIGHEST GOAL SCORER.**

- Indian Men's football team captain, **Sunil Chhetri** scored his **84th International goal** against **Hong Kong** during the **Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers** and equalled the record of Real Madrid and Hungarian Football Legend **Ferenc Puskás**.
- Sunil Chhetri has scored 84 goals in 129 appearances while Ferenc Puskás (died in 2006 aged 79) scored 84 goals in 85 international matches.
- Sunil Chhetri is the 3rd highest goal scorer in international football among active players, after **Cristiano Ronaldo with 117 goals** and **Lionel Messi with 86 goals**.
- He is also the highest active goal scorer from Asia and India.

**Top 5 International Goal Scorer:**

- Cristiano Ronaldo with 117 goals
- Iran's Ali Daei managed 109 goals.
- Malaysia's Mokhtar Dahari netted 89 goals.
- Lionel Messi with 86 goals.
- Sunil Chhetri and Ferenc Puskás with 84 goals.

**1.180. INDIAN WOMEN'S WRESTLING TEAM WINS UNDER-17 ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP.**

- **Indian women's Wrestling team** has won five medals to claim **Under-17 Asian Championship title** with a total of **eight gold** at **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.
- India lifted the title with eight golds, one silver and one bronze.
- **Japan** came second and **Mongolia** finished third.
- Indian women including **Ritika, Ahilaya Shinde, Siksha, Priya** received **gold** in their respective weight category.

**1.181. CYCLIST RONALDO, FIRST INDIAN CYCLIST TO WIN SILVER AT ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP.**

- At Asian Track Championship, Ronaldo Singh made cycling history by becoming the first Indian cyclist to win a silver medal in a continental competition in the senior division.
- The feat accomplished by Ronaldo was the best in a continental competition by an Indian cyclist.
- Yamasaki won the Gold and Andrey Chugay won Bronze.

**1.182. RANJI TROPHY 2022: MADHYA PRADESH BEATS MUMBAI TO WIN THEIR MAIDEN RANJI TROPHY TITLE.**

- Madhya Pradesh wrote history as they won their maiden Ranji Trophy title, beating Mumbai by 6 wickets in the final at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.
- Under the leadership of Aditya Shrivastava, the team defeated 41-time champions Mumbai. The team was coached by former India wicketkeeper-batsman Chandrakant Pandit.

**History of Ranji Trophy:**

- The Ranji Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket championship played in India between multiple teams representing regional and state cricket associations. The competition currently consists of 38 teams, with all 28 states in India and four of the nine union territories having at least one representation.
- The competition is named after the first Indian cricketer who played international cricket, Ranjit Singh, who was also known as 'Ranji'. The first match of the competition was held on 4 November 1934 between Madras and Mysore at the Chepauk ground in Madras in the final.
- Mumbai (Bombay) have won the tournament the maximum number of times with 41 wins including 15 back-to-back wins from 1958–59 to 1972–73.

## AWARDS

### 1.183. YOUNG WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR RASHMI SAHOO WINS TIMES BUSINESS AWARD 2022.

- Director of Ruchi Foodline, Eastern India's leading food brand and Odisha's No.1 spices company, Rashmi Sahoo has been presented the Times Business Award 2022.

#### About the Rashmi Sahoo:

- While working as director of Ruchi Foodline, she started and established **Frozit – Odisha's first frozen food company**.
- She not only revolutionized the food processing segment in Odisha but also changes the lives of thousands of women by providing employment opportunities.
- Sahoo and Frozit have won various accolades across the world for their innovative food product line, quality and hygiene standards.

### 1.184. INDIAN RAILWAYS AWARDED BY THE UIC INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE RAILWAY AWARDS (ISRA).

- Indian Railways have been awarded by the **UIC International Sustainable Railway Awards (ISRA)** in the category of **"Best use of Zero-Carbon Technology"** for feeding Solar Energy directly to 25 KV AC Traction System on 1st June 2022, in Berlin, Germany.
- **Indian Railways** is observing **World Environment Day on 5th June, 2022** in an appropriate and befitting manner keeping in line with the theme of this year's World Environment Day.

### 1.185. POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED (POWERGRID) WON THE COVETED INTERNATIONAL CSR EXCELLENCE AWARD.

- It is a "Maharatna" Central Public Sector Enterprise.
- It is India's largest Electric Power Transmission Utility.
- Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under Ministry of Power has won the coveted International CSR Excellence Award in the campaign for best social responsibility initiatives, while competing amongst more than 500 nominations in the International CSR Excellence Awards 2022.
- Power Grid will be bestowed the CSR World Leader status and its winning paper titled "Improving Rural Livelihoods and Protecting Environment through farmer-centric Integrated Watershed Management" will be published in the CSR World Leaders Book.

### 1.186. HAMAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NAMED WORLD'S BEST AIRPORT 2022.

#### About the World Airport Awards:

- The World Airport Awards are the most prestigious accolades for the airport industry, voted by customers in the largest, annual global airport customer satisfaction survey.
- They are regarded as the quality benchmark for the world airport industry, assessing customer service and facilities across over 550 airports.
- The survey and awards are independent of any airport control, influence or input. Analysis of the results shows a close correlation to customer numbers using the airports during 2021, a time when varying travel conditions remained in place across many global regions, and with air travel quickly returning across most of the world, more normal times are coming back.

**KEY POINTS:**

- **Qatar's Hamad International Airport** has been named **the World's Best Airport** for the second year running.
- The announcement took place at the **Skytrax 2022 World Airport Awards**, held at Passenger Terminal EXPO in Paris, France.

**1.187. THE CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY (CIET) WINS UNESCO'S KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL-KHALIFA PRIZE.**

- The 2021 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education will be awarded to the "Initiatives for Inclusive and Accessible Education during COVID-19" implemented by the Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), a constituent unit of the NCERT.
- The UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in Education recognises innovative approaches in leveraging new technologies to expand educational and lifelong learning opportunities for all, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goal 4 on education.
- The CIET was proactive in taking learning to the doorsteps of the children through use of DTH TV channels and radio stations, including community radio stations under the PM eVidya programme.
- The PM eVIDYA programme was initiated by the Ministry in May 2020 which unifies all efforts related to digital, online, on-air education to enable multi-mode access for imparting education by using technology to minimise learning losses.
- One of the major initiatives of PM eVidya is 12 eVidya TV Channels based on the line of One Class-One Channel for Classes 1 to 12 to air educational content related to the respective classes.

**1.188. VIVATECH 2020' CONFERENCE: INDIA RECOGNIZED AS 'COUNTRY OF THE YEAR'.**

- Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, **Ashwini Vaishnaw** inaugurated the India pavilion at the technology exhibition Vivatech 2020, held in Paris, France.
- Europe's biggest startup conference, "**Vivatech 2020**" has recognized **India** as the "**country of the year.**"
- This is due to the contribution of the Indian startups to the world.
- Indian start-up ecosystem has been growing very fast. It has been innovating at a rapid pace. There are **over 100 unicorns** which reflects the scale and recognition of Indian ecosystems.
- Around 65 start-ups from India participated in Vivatech 2022 with government support.

**1.189. ODISHA, 'MO BUS' SERVICE RECEIVED THE PRESTIGIOUS UN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD.**

- **Mo Bus**, Odisha-based public transport service has been honoured with a prestigious **United Nations award**, for their role and efforts in helping the world recover better from Covid19.
- According to UN, the public transport service has been recognised for its role in "**promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)**".
- Among the other winners of this year's awards, announced by Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs during a virtual event to commemorate the United Nations Public Service Day (celebrated on June 22), were public service initiatives from **Thailand, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine.**

**Recognition for Odisha:**

- The UN recognition said the "problem" was that "bus services in the city of Bhubaneswar needed improvement", as a result of which "the majority of people used private vehicles, two-wheelers and auto-rickshaw to commute instead of taking public transportation".



- As the “solution”, the Odisha government in 2018 “reorganized the public transit services in the city to provide an integrated, reliable and inclusive public bus service system”. Mo Bus, the UN noted, has incorporated “real-time technologies like live tracking, travel planner and e-ticketing”, and an e-rickshaw system called ‘Mo E-Ride’ has been introduced as a last-mile feeder service.

### **1.190. GLOBAL AIRWARDS BEST DRONE ORGANIZATION AWARD WINS BY IG DRONES.**

#### **About the Airwards programme:**

- Airwards is the first panoptic global awards programme of its kind dedicated to identifying, recognising and championing the breadth of positive drone use cases from around the world which are innovative, safe and having a real-world impact.
- Over 120 global submissions were judged by 38 drone experts and business leaders to award this year’s 18 Airwards main category winners.
- Announced during the second-ever Airwards Winners’ Week (23-31 May 2022), the winners have been recognised by Airwards as the pinnacle in innovative, responsible, and impactful projects made possible with drones.

#### **KEY POINTS:**

- The Delhi-based leading Drone enterprise platform company IG Drones has been felicitated with the “Best Drone Organization – Start-up Category” by Airwards.
- IG Drones has been selected for the award for its approach of helping local communities and giving access to technology to various stakeholders during natural disasters and calamities.
- IG Drones is developing new technology-based disaster response and mitigation to increase the efficiency and efficacy of first responders’ aid in emergency response and catastrophe mapping.
- Using drone and GIS technology, they’ve saved hundreds of thousands of lives throughout national disasters such as the **Assam Floods, Amphan Cyclone, Fani Cyclone, and Jajpur Flood in Odisha, Maharashtra Flood, and Uttarakhand CloudBurst.**

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## STATE CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 1.191. KARNATAKA GOVT. LAUNCHED A NEW HEALTH AND WELLNESS APP AAYU.

- Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has launched a new health and wellness app AAYU to address and help heal chronic diseases and lifestyle disorders through yoga.
- **Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA)** collaborated to develop the App with RESET TECH, an AI-driven integrated health-tech platform that aims to deal with chronic diseases and lifestyle conditions through yoga and meditation.

#### About the App:

- The App would provide users with personalised wellness solutions and offer doctor consultations based on an individual's personal history and monitor its progress enabling them to accelerate healing and recovery.
- The app would provide users with customised wellness solutions and doctor consultations based on their specific histories, as well as track their progress, allowing them to heal and recover faster.
- The App is accessible in various languages and aims to reach and impact over five million chronic disease patients within the next five years.
- The App addresses the root cause of the diseases goes beyond temporary care and helps restore lost health. Also, aims to cure diseases borne out of lifestyle disorders that have plagued people over the past decades.

### 1.192. GUJARAT TO HOST THE NATIONAL EDUCATION MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

- Gujarat will host the two-day National Education Ministers' Conference.
- It will concentrate on the implementation of the **National Education Policy 2020**, school skilling, and digital projects such as the National Digital Education Architecture and the National Educational Technology Forum, among others.
- The state education ministers will also pay visits to **Vidya Samiksha Kendra, BISAG** (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics), NFSU (National Forensic Science University), and the **International Automobile Centre of Excellence**.

### 1.193. PUNJAB GOVERNMENT TO START E-STAMP INSTEAD OF PAPER STAMP.

- The Punjab government has decided to abolish the physical stamp papers in an attempt to bring efficiency and check the pilferage of State revenue.
- Punjab Revenue Minister Bram Shanker Jimpa launched the '**e-stamp facility**'. Following this, stamp paper of any denomination can now be obtained via '**e-stamp**', which includes computerised print-out from any stamp vendor or from banks authorised by the State government.
- The Punjab government will pay a commission of **2%** to the stamp vendors on e-stamps ranging from **Rs 1 to Rs 19,999**, while the general public would get stamp paper at the actual rate. For instance, they will have to pay only **Rs 100** for a stamp paper of Rs 100 and no extra commission will be levied. This step will also help in curbing the stamp paper-linked fraud.

### 1.194. MEGHALAYA WINS BEST PROJECT AWARD AT UN WORLD SUMMIT.

- The **Meghalaya government** key initiative of e-proposal system, part of **Meghalaya Enterprise Architect** has won a coveted **UN Award- World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) prize** at Geneva in Switzerland.
- Secretary General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), **Houlin Zhao** presented the winner award to Chief Minister **Conrad K Sangma** in the WSIS Forum Prizes 2022, held at Geneva, Switzerland.
- Meghalaya contested with projects from Australia, China, Argentina and Tanzania.
- MeghEA is the only project from India to win the Winner Award this year.

#### **About the MeghEA project:**

- MeghEA project is being implemented by Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya. The project has several components such as Government to Citizen or Business services, Government to Employee services and Government to Government services. E-Proposal system, part of the Government-to-Government component, enables faster processing and tracking of schemes.

### **1.195. NATIONAL FOOD LABORATORY OF FSSAI INAUGURATED IN RAXAUL, BIHAR.**

- **At Raxaul in Bihar, the union minister for health and family welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Mr. Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated the National Food Laboratory of FSSAI.**
- Under the bilateral agreement between **Indo-Nepal**, this laboratory was **established to reduce the time of testing of food samples** imported from Nepal to Raxaul.
- The testing of food was a time taking because the food samples with legal sanity were sent to the **National Food Laboratory of Kolkata.**

#### **Key points:**

- It will increase the scope of Nepal to import more food products to India and connect both the countries with each other by trading more efficiently.
- The food laboratory will be accredited by July-August of this year by the **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)**. The laboratory will start testing samples of cereals, fats and oils, spices, fruits, vegetables, and packaged drinking water very soon.
- India will provide assistance to get National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation to the Kathmandu Food Lab if needed.
- **The inauguration of the Food Laboratory in Raxaul was a constant request of the exporters from Nepal.**
- The inauguration of the National Food Laboratory has fulfilled the wishes of the neighbouring country and it shows the commitment of India to improving the relationship between the two countries, making it a strong bond economically and improving the connection between both the countries.

### **1.196. BLUE DUKE DECLARED AS THE STATE BUTTERFLY OF SIKKIM.**

- Blue Duke, a native butterfly species of Sikkim, edged past another contender Krishna Peacock to be announced as the State Butterfly of Sikkim.
- The two butterflies, among the 720-odd butterfly species, had been shortlisted for the State Butterfly nominations.

#### **About the Blue Duke:**

- The Blue Duke represents Sikkim with its two unique colours blue representing the sky and white depicting the snow clad mountains of the Himalayas, it is befitting to Sikkim and its unique identity.
- Blue Duke is found at an altitude below **1,500 metres in the Himalayas.**

- Blue Duke which is also called **Bassarona durga durga** is unique to Sikkim and Eastern Himalayas, first discovered in the State in 1858.
- Blue Duke falls in the **Schedule 2 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** and is a highly protected species of butterfly in the Himalayas.

### 1.197. ANDHRA PRADESH LAUNCHED '14400 APP' TO REPORT CORRUPT OFFICIALS.

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched the '14400' app. This app has been developed by **Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB)**.
- This app is customized for the people to register corruption-related complaints against the officials in the state.
- This app also aims to ensure fool-proof evidence to present before the court. A complaint can be filed through a **toll-free number 14400**.

#### This app has two key features:

- One is to live record audio, photo, or video and lodge a complaint instantly.
- Another method is to send the videos, photos, documents, as well as other proofs and lodge a complaint.

### 1.198. NHAI ENTERS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD.

- **NHAI** is National Highway Authority of India.
- It was constituted by an Act of Parliament in 1988 under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
- It has been set up as a **Central Authority** to develop, maintain and manage the National Highways entrusted to it by the Government of India.
- (NHAI) has created a Guinness World Record for the longest continuously laid bituminous lane of 75 kilometres in 105 hours and 33 minutes on the national highway between Amravati and Akola districts in **Maharashtra**.
- The previous Guinness World Record for the longest continuously laid bituminous was for building 25.275 kilometres of road that was achieved in Doha, Qatar in February 2019 and that task was completed in 10 days.

### 1.199. ASSAM CELEBRATES BAIKHO FESTIVAL FOR GOOD HARVEST AND RAIN.

- **The Baikho festival** is celebrated in the state of **Assam**, which is called as gateway to northeast India. It is celebrated by **Rabha tribes of India**.
- The Baikho festival is celebrated annually. It is celebrated to bring in auspicious harvest season and to fill it with abundant crops and good health.
- This is a celebration of good harvest. It is an ancient tradition. It is predominantly observed by **Rabha Tribe**. However, people from other communities also harmonise in the celebrations.

#### About Rabhas Tribes:

- Rabhas are a Tibeto-Burman community. They reside in Lower Assam in Garo hills and Dooar region of West Bengal. They are among the plains tribe in State.
- They are an agriculture-based community. They have distinctive culture and celebrations.

### 1.200. KERALA CM INAUGURATES CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE IN KOCHI.



- **Kerala** Chief Minister, **Pinarayi Vijayan** has inaugurated a cancer diagnostics and research centre, which is slated to be the country's first oncology laboratory for comprehensive cancer diagnostic services.
- **Karkinos Healthcare's advanced centre** for cancer diagnostics and research will serve as a central lab for analysing specimens at molecular and genomic levels to aid in personalised targeted therapy, predicting possible response to treatment and evaluate response by liquid biopsy.

**Focus of the centre:**

- The focus is on early diagnostic tools, molecular assays for precision medicine, which are not readily available in the country.
- The Tata Group is investing Rs 110 crore in Karkinos while Rakuten Medical, the global clinical stage biotechnology company, Mayo Clinic and Reliance Digital Health, hold minority stakes.

**About the Karkinos Healthcare:**

- Karkinos Healthcare has installed the most advanced high-throughput HPV assay equipment, Cobas 6800, in this centre with the ability to test over 1,200 Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) assays of all high-risk types.
- It has partnered with organisations such as Kerala Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecologic to support the World Health Organization's mission **of eliminating cervical cancer by 2030**.

**1.201. KARNATAKA GOVT LAUNCHED 'FRUITS' SOFTWARE FOR FARMER SCHEMES.**

- **The Karnataka government** has launched **'The Farmer Registration & Unified Beneficiary Information System' or FRUITS** software for Aadhar-based, single-window registration for the schemes.
- FRUITS software will facilitate single registration using an Aadhar card and Karnataka's Bhoomi digitized land record system for authenticating ownership.
- Through the creation of single digital identification through FRUITS, farmers can access benefits of hosts of schemes such as Direct Benefit Transfer under PM Kisan, payment for **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)** for crops, special financial assistance, caste certificate authentication, and ration cards.
- To ensure that the farmers get easy access to benefits distributed under various government schemes, the Karnataka government has launched software for Aadhar-based, single-window registration for the schemes.
- The state departments of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, revenue, food, civil supplies and fisheries departments of the state government are covered under this initiative.

**1.202. GLOBAL STARTUP ECOSYSTEM RANKING: KERALA RANKS TOP IN ASIA IN GLOBAL REPORT.****About the Global Startup Ecosystem Report:**

- The GSER was released in the backdrop of the ongoing **London Tech Week 2022**, which brings together global governments and corporate leaders, inspirational start-up founders and investors to discuss the power of technology for societies.
- The report includes ranking of the leading 140 ecosystems, continental insights, and founder-focussed articles from thought-leading experts.
- Top Asian emerging ecosystems were measured on the basis of talent, experience, long-term trends over the most significant performance factors and the ability to generate and keep talent in the ecosystem.

**KEY POINTS:**

- Providing a boost for **Kerala's start-up ecosystem**, the State has been ranked first in Asia in Affordable Talent in **Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER)**.

- The State has also been ranked **fourth** in global ranking in the GSER, drawn up jointly by policy advisory and research organisation Startup Genome and Global Entrepreneurship Network.
- In the first GSER published in 2020, Kerala was ranked 5th in Asia and 20th in the world.

#### In cities category:

- As per the **report released** by the policy advisory and research firm **Startup Genome**, the city of **Bengaluru** has moved up to **number 22** in the **Global Startup Ecosystem ranking**.
- Bengaluru's tech ecosystem value is at **\$105 billion** which is higher than that of Singapore at \$89 billion and Tokyo at \$62 billion.

#### 1.203. TAMIL NADU LAUNCHED ENNUM EZHUTHUM SCHEME TO BRIDGE LEARNING GAP.

- **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister, **MK Stalin** launched the **Ennum Ezhuthum scheme** to bridge the learning gap that was caused due to the **COVID pandemic among students aged below eight**.
- The scheme aims to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy by 2025.

#### Under the programme:

- The education department will distribute workbooks to students from **Classes 1 to 3** to assess and bridge the learning gap.
- Teachers were advised to opt for interactive learning methods and encourage students to read newspapers and books in the school library.
- The State government has announced a slew of programmes and schemes for the academic year 2022-23, with the motive to improve the quality of education in the State.
- The children will be trained in 3 subjects – **Tamil, English, and Mathematics** in a classroom suitable for conducting lessons that are designed in the format of dance, songs, storytelling, and puppetry, and also videos.

#### 1.204. PM INAUGURATES THE RENOVATED SHREE KALIKA MATA TEMPLE IN GUJARAT.

##### KEY POINTS:

- Prime Minister unveiled the renovated **Shree Kalika Mata temple** at Pavagadh Hill in Gujarat's Panchmahal district.
- At the temple, he also conducted Puja with customary customs. A 'Dhwaja' was raised at full mast atop the shrine by **PM**.
- This majestic Mahakali temple's sanctum sanctorum is composed of gold.
- It is one of the region's oldest temples and draws a huge number of pilgrims.
- The president of the Pavagadh Temple Trust, estimates that almost two crore people visit the temple each year. The temple's reconstruction was finished at a cost of 125 crore rupees.

#### 1.205. INDIA'S FIRST 'BALIKA PANCHAYAT' CONSTITUTED IN FIVE VILLAGES OF GUJARAT.

##### About the "Balika Panchayat":

- "Balika Panchayat" is managed by people in the **11-21 age group** and its main objective is to promote the social and political development of the girl child and to remove the evil practices from the society such as child marriage, and the dowry system.
- The main objective of panchayat is that the girls should move forward in politics. In Balika panchayat, the member is nominated just like Gram panchayat.

##### KEY POINTS:

- The country's first-ever, '**Balika Panchayat**', has started in five villages of **Gujarat's Kutch district**.
- The initiative aims to promote the social and political development of the girls and ensure their active participation in politics.

- The Panchayat has started in **Kunaria, Maska, Motagua, and Vadsar villages of the Kutch district.**
- This initiative has been taken by the Women and Child Development Welfare Department of the Gujarat Government under the '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' campaign.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also planning to begin the girl panchayat across the country.

### **1.206. TAMIL NADU BECAME THE LARGEST STATE IN OUTSTANDING MICROFINANCE LOAN.**

- **Tamil Nadu** replaced **Bihar and West Bengal** to become the largest state in terms of outstanding portfolio of microfinance loans.
- According to MFIN Micrometer Q4 FY21-22, a quarterly report published by Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), the gross loan portfolio (GLP) of **Tamil Nadu as of March 31, 2022 stood at ₹36,806 crore.**
- It was followed by **Bihar (₹35,941 crore) and West Bengal (₹34,016 crore).**
- At the end of Q3FY22, West Bengal topped the chart with the highest outstanding portfolio of loans at ₹32,880 crore, followed by Tamil Nadu (₹32,359 crore).
- The Top 10 States (based on total microcredit universe) constitute 82.4 per cent of total GLP of the industry. West Bengal was followed by Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- According to the report, around 64 per cent of the microfinance portfolio is concentrated in the East, Northeast, and Southern regions.

### **1.207. ACCELERATING RATE OF GROUNDWATER DEPLETION IN PUNJAB, WORRIES FARMERS AND EXPERTS.**

- A National Green Tribunal (NGT) monitoring committee announced recently that Punjab's groundwater will drop below 300 metres by the year 2039.
- Punjab's central and southern districts, such as Barnala, Bathinda, Fatehgarh Sahib, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Moga, SAS Nagar, Pathankot, Patiala and Sangrur, are among the most affected as the average yearly rate of fall of groundwater levels works out to be approximately 0.49 metre per year.
- Punjab's area under paddy, that includes all varieties, is close to 25-27 lakh hectares. Punjab's water resources can only tolerate paddy's area to the tune of 10-12 lakh hectares.
- While agriculture experts and environmentalists suggest phasing out the paddy crop, as one of the main solutions for the groundwater crisis, farmers expect assured purchase of the alternative crops planted as a replacement for paddy.

### **1.208. KERALA GOVT TO ROLL OUT "MEDISEP" SCHEME FOR STATE GOVERNMENT.**

- **Kerala state government** has issued orders regarding the implementation of a medical insurance "**MEDISEP**" scheme for government employees and pensioners and the deduction of premium from the salary of June 2022 and pension of July 2022.
- **MEDISEP scheme** is applicable to government employees, pensioners/family pensioners and their eligible family members and employees and pensioners of universities that receive grant in aid from the state government and the local self-government institutions.

#### **About the scheme:**

- The scheme provides cashless medical assistance through an insurance company selected through the competitive bidding process. As per the scheme, the premium on behalf of the employees and pensioners towards MEDISEP shall be paid by the government in advance and will be recouped from the salary of employees and pensioners.
- The annual premium of the employees and the pensioners will be Rs 4,800 + 18% GST for the policy period of 2022-24, and the monthly premium of Rs 500 would be deducted from the salary/pension.

- The scheme is applicable to universities and local self-government institutions as well.
- The scheme is also applicable to directly recruited personal staff of the chief minister, ministers, opposition leader, the chief whip, Speaker, deputy speaker and chairman of the financial committees.

### 1.209. ODISHA GOVT BAGS FIRST PRIZE IN NATIONAL MSME AWARD 2022.

#### About the awards:

- Awards to States and UTs and Aspirational Districts for their contribution to the MSME, parameters like sector-specific policies & their performance, the efficacy of Facilitation Council, Grievance redressal, Y-o-Y growth of MSME budget, growth of MSME credit, implementation of the cluster approach, Udyam Registration, skill development programs, and awareness conducted, etc. were taken into account.

#### KEY POINTS:

- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Department, Government of Odisha has been awarded first prize in the category **“National MSME Award 2022 to States/UTs for outstanding contribution in the promotion and Development of MSME Sector”** by virtue of various developmental initiatives taken up for the development of MSMEs.
- **Bihar and Haryana** were second and third respectively.

#### Other awardees:

- **Kalahandi** has been awarded third prize in the category **“National MSME Award 2022 to Aspirational districts for outstanding contribution in the promotion and Development of MSME Sector”** as the sectoral development was in the line of award parameters, according to an official statement issued by the state government.
- Similarly, **Sumeet Mohanty M/s Saferisk Insurance Brokers Private Limited**, Bhubaneswar has been awarded first prize in the category **“Award for Service Entrepreneurship – Service Small Enterprise (Overall)”**.
- In addition, **Sibabrata Rout M/s Amarnath Pest Management Technology, Cuttack** has also been awarded third prize in the category **“Award for Service Entrepreneurship – Service Micro Enterprise (Overall)”**.

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## HIMACHAL PRADESH NEWS

### **1.210. AIIMS BILASPUR SIGNED MOU WITH NIEPVD DEHRADUN & CRC SUNDERNAGAR.**

- This MoU signed with the motive to initiate collaboration between the institutes for providing quality Medical care and rehabilitative services for the welfare of specially abled persons (Divyangjan) across the states.
- AIIMS shall provide specialist and super specialist medical care services to specially abled persons at the institute and through outreach camps in the community.
- National institute for the empowerment of persons with visual Disabilities (**NIEPVD**), Dehradun & Composite Regional Centre (**CRC**) Sundernagar shall help in providing rehabilitative services and assistive devices to the specially abled persons.
- Teleconsultation services shall also be made available for better coordination between the institutes.
- The institutes shall plan collaborative research to develop innovative, frugal, low-cost tools and technologies to improve quality of life of specially abled persons.
- The collaboration is expected to lead to comprehensive health care and rehabilitative services and the development of indigenous innovative, low cost tools and technologies for the benefit of the specially abled persons and improving their quality of life not only in the state of Himachal Pradesh but also adjoining states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttarakhand.

### **1.211. PRASAD TO CREATE STATE OF ART FACILITIES FOR PILGRIMS IN CHINTPURNI.**

- The Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Scheme launched by the Ministry of Tourism Government of India will prove to be a milestone in shaping the planned development in Chinnmastika Dham, Mata Shree Chintpurni temple of Himachal Pradesh.
- A sum of Rs. 40.07 crore has been approved for undertaking beautification and developing infrastructure in Chintpurni.
- After full implementation PRASAD scheme will help in nurturing the diverse religious and cultural heritage. The scheme will attract both domestic and international tourists, which will also help in adding revenue for the State.

### **1.212. SHIMLA'S BHATTAKUFFER FRUIT MANDI UNSAFE: IIT, MANDI.**

- The IIT-Mandi has declared Bhattakuffer Fruit Mandi on the outskirts of Shimla unsafe for trading and gathering of people until remedial measures are taken to restore the site that was damaged in a landslide two years back.
- The report has also suggested that no activity be carried out even on that portion of the yard that was not affected in the landslide. The arhtiyas had used the unaffected portion for trading activity last year.
- According to report "Though the remaining portion of the platform is structurally stable, it is still in a potential threat zone in case of a landslide."

### **1.213. GOVERNOR INAUGURATES FIVE DAY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR INVESTIGATION AND SUPERVISORY OFFICERS.**

- The Governor addressed the inaugural session of a five-day training program for Capacity Enhancement of Investigation and Supervisory Officers of Drug Law Enforcement Agencies of Himachal Pradesh organized by Himachal Pradesh Nasha Nivaran Board in collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at HP Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Fairlawn.
- The should be discussion on the ill effects of drugs, so that effective steps can be taken in future and this topic must be discussed with children to make them aware for the future”,
- Shri Arlekar said that drug addiction is a very sensitive issue and it should also be resolved emotionally besides implementing law and policies made by the Government in this direction.

#### **1.214. FLYING RESTAURANT', MANALI'S NEWEST TOURIST ATTRACTION.**

- At a height of more than 160 feet, the restaurant is suspended in the air with the help of a crane. It has become an instant hit among the locals and tourists.
- This is the 12th such restaurant in the country and first in the state.
- Fly Dining is a unique concept that provides a thrilling dining experience. Appetizers, lunches, dinners, games, events, press conferences can be done in the sky.

#### **1.215. HIMACHAL FARMERS TO IMPART TRAINING IN NATURAL FARMING: ACHARYA DEVVRAT**

- Farmers, who have become adept in natural farming, will be sent as master trainers across the country. This was disclosed by Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat at the 'Prakritik Kheti Utkrisht Kisan Sammelan' organised by the Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana (PK3Y).
- Chemical farming was responsible for climate change to the extent of 24 per cent.
- Natural farming technique could save land, cows, environment and water and it would increase the income of farmers.
- The tie-up between the State Marketing Board and the PK3Y to provide better market platform for the natural produce in Himachal Pradesh.
- State had marginal and small landholders and the farmers here use more chemicals to increase productivity. This had badly affected the soil quality and its ill-effect is visible on the human health also.

#### **1.216. HOSPITAL ON WHEELS TO TREAT AILING ANIMALS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.**

- The Himachal Pradesh government is set to launch a state wide veterinary ambulance network, hospital on wheels, which will provide on-site treatment to injured and sick animals.
- Union government has sanctioned ₹7 crore – ₹4.96 crore under the tribal sub-plan and ₹1.44 crore under the Schedule Caste sub-plan components—for setting up mobile veterinary unit (MVUs).
- In the initial phase, 44 MUVs will be stationed at block-level. One veterinary doctor and one para-veterinary worker will be assigned to every ambulance.
- The vans will be stationed at strategic locations to minimise travelling time.
- Equipment needed for diagnosis, minor surgery, artificial insemination, and disease investigation will be installed in the ambulances.
- A round the clock veterinary telemedicine facility will also be launched with the toll-free number 1962.

#### **1.217. CM VISITS BRIJRAJ TEMPLE IN NURPUR.**

- Brijraj Swami temple, a heritage structure at the Nurpur Fort in the town.
- The people from the lower Kangra valley have immense faith in the deity and the temple has also become a tourist attraction. It is located in the foothills and gateway of the valley.

- It is the **only temple** where the idols of Lord Krishna and Meera Bai are installed.

### **1.218. PALAMPUR AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY MOVES TO GET GI TAG FOR SIRMAUR GINGER AND MANDI BASMATI.**

- Palampur Agriculture University has started an initiative to save and register traditional crops or land race plant varieties being grown in remote areas of the state.
- The university has moved to get geographical indicators (GI) tag for **Ginger variety** grown in **Badhana Kalatha** panchayat of **Sirmaur** and **Basmati rice** grown in **Biyala** village in **Sundernagar area of Mandi district**.
- The university is in the process of registering the basmati rice and the ginger under the Plant Variety and Farmers Right Act.

### **1.219. BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC IN MANDI FROM JULY 1.**

- Mandi District Magistrate Arindam Chaudhary said single-use plastic items would be completely banned in Mandi district from July 1.
- No shopkeeper, wholesaler, retailer, hawker and street vendor would be allowed to sell or use any type of single-use plastic goods in the district.
- Mandi District Magistrate issued these directions, in exercise of the powers conferred under **sub-section (1) of Section 3-A of the Non-Bio-degradable Waste (Control) Act, 1995**, and it shall be fully applicable from July 1.
- The state government provides a minimum **support price of Rs 25 per kg** to a person for collection and deposit of plastic waste in collection centres of urban local bodies from rag pickers and households.
- The violation of orders, appropriate action would be taken against the violators under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986**, which includes confiscation of goods, recovery of environmental compensation and closure of operations of industries/commercial establishments.

### **1.220. HIMACHAL CABINET GIVES NOD TO DRONE POLICY.**

- The Cabinet today gave nod to the Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy 2022 with the objective of propagating Drone-enabled technology for heralding economic prosperity and creating employment avenues.
- Drone technology being used to check illegal felling, mining and to deliver medicines in remote and inaccessible areas of the state.
- The policy envisions creating a holistic Drone ecosystem built upon the foundation of Governance and Reforms Using Drones (**GARUD**).
- It aims at harnessing digital sky opportunities through institutional linkages with the National Education Policy, 2020, HP Industrial Investment Policy, HP Start-up/Innovation Scheme, National Skill Qualification Framework for ensuring future readiness of students and empowering them to access the job opportunities in the Drone Sector.

### **1.221. STRENGTH OF HIMACHAL PRADESH HIGH COURT JUDGES UP FROM 13 TO 17.**

- The bench strength of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh has been increased from 13 to 17 judges, consisting of 13 permanent Judges and 4 Additional Judges.

- The proposal for a hike in the sanctioned bench strength was first sent to the Union Law Minister by the then Chief Justice of the High Court Justice Surya Kant on March 1, 2019.
- The judges strength of the High Court has been reviewed and increased from 13 to 17 judges.
- Now as per the enhanced Judge strength of High Court of HP the share of members of Bar quota (Advocates) and Service quota (District Judges) would be 11 and 6, respectively.
- According to sources, Union Law Minister Kiran Rijju had sent a communication to the Acting Chief Justice Sabina requesting therein to send the proposal for filing the vacant posts of judges.

### **1.222. HIMACHAL PRADESH IS THE FOURTH BEST STATE IN FOOD SAFETY.**

- Himachal Pradesh has emerged the fourth best state in the country on food safety parameters with Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra at top three positions.
- Himachal Pradesh has improved its rank in the annual national food safety rankings released by the Food Safety and Standards Association of India from 12th in 2019 and sixth in 2020 to fourth in 2021.
- The fourth edition of the rankings under the State Food Safety Index were released by Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to mark the World Food Safety Day.
- In 2020, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, UP and Himachal Pradesh had topped the charts in that order.

### **1.223. STATE-LEVEL ANTI-DRUGS EVENT TO BE ORGANISED ON JUNE 26.**

- A state-level awareness programme will be organised in Shimla on the occasion of the International Drug Prevention Day on June 26 to create awareness among public about the ill-effects of consuming drugs and substances.
- The Principal Secretary (Subhasish Panda) to CM directed officers to ensure the participation of every section of society in the programme so that it could be taken forward like a campaign.
- Painting competitions, marathons, oath on drug prevention, skits, cultural programme, awareness exhibition and various programmes would be organised on drug prevention themes.
- The programme would also be organised at the District level.

### **1.224. CM LAUNCHES RS 83 CRORE FREE LAPTOPS SCHEME FOR MERITORIOUS STUDENTS FROM MANDI DISTRICT.**

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur today launched the Rs 83-crore scheme to provide free laptops to about 20,000 meritorious students of the state under the **Srinivasa Ramanujan Student Digital Scheme**.
- This feat of the students will motivate other students to excel in academics and win a laptop next time.
- Himachal has made unprecedented progress in the field of education. The state has even surpassed Kerala on several parameters.

### **1.225. BAMBOO VILLAGE PROJECT STONE LAID IN UNA DISTRICT.**

- Rural Development Minister Virender Kanwar laid the foundation stone of the bamboo village project in Ghandawal village of Una district.
- A sum of Rs 4 crore will be spent on the infrastructure which will include a bamboo processing unit for manufacturing various products made from bamboo, training halls with boarding and lodging facilities, a cafeteria, souvenir shops, a bamboo park and a bamboo nursery.
- Bamboo India, a national expert agency, would provide technical knowhow, machinery and training to local artisans. Preference would be given to bamboo produced in Himachal.



- Deputy Commissioner Raghav Sharma said bamboo tooth brush handles would be one of the main items to be produced here.
- Under the 'go green' initiative, plastic products were gradually being replaced by natural products and 8 per cent of the tooth brush market had switched over to bamboo brushes.
- About 40 different species of bamboo would be planted at the bamboo oxygen park where people could enjoy the nature.

### **1.226. BRITISH-ERA KASAULI CLUB COMES ALIVE WITH WEEK-LONG FESTIVITIES.**

- The 125-year-old British era Kasauli Club celebrated its annual week after a gap of two years of Covid pandemic.
- The club was set up in 1880 as a Reading room.
- Initially, it was open only to British civil servants and Army officers posted at Kasauli and in Dagshai cantonment.
- It was rechristened as 'Kasauli Club' on January 1, 1898, by a resolution and was registered on September 21, 1898, at the Registrar's Office, Lahore.
- The club was later renamed as "The Kasauli Club Ltd" and is now governed by the Companies Act, 1956.
- The club celebrates its annual week comprising cultural and sporting events in the form of 'Kasauli Week'.
- This cultural bonanza was introduced by the club on May 5, 1922.
- The cultural week will culminate on June 11 and will see events like live band display, sapling plantation, events like Kasauli King, Kasauli Queen, Kasauli Princess, etc.

### **1.227. WORLD'S HIGHEST POST OFFICE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH GETS LETTERBOX-SHAPED OFFICE.**

- The post office in Hikkim village of Himachal's Spiti valley at 14,567ft, which is believed to be the world's highest post, has got a letterbox shaped office to woo the tourists.
- The tiny post office was located in a historic mud house that was visited by thousands of visitors each year.
- The pictures of Hikkim post office are one of the most widely circulated images from the Spiti valley famous as a 14,567 foot post office.

### **1.228. NATURE INTERPRETATION CENTRE TO COME UP AT KULLU.**

- A Nature interpretation centre is being constructed at 10,280-feet high Jalori Jot, a beautiful tourist spot on Aut-Luhri NH-305.
- The centre will introduce tourists to culture, food and lifestyle of Kullu district.
- The data concerning forests, occupation of people and ancient heritage will be made available.
- Tourists will get information about the local culture of the district, living conditions of the people, the forest wealth, animals, natural species, types of forests, food, ancient culture, etc, at this centre.
- "Tourists coming from the all over the country and abroad will get acquainted with the folk culture."
- The space will be provided to self-help groups. This will boost tourism in the region.
- There are many picturesque places like Serolsar Lake, Mata Budhi Nagin temple, Lambalambari Jot, Raghupurgarh, Tarkasi, Khanag, Chauhani Kamand, Kohila, etc near Jalori Jot.

### **1.229. THREE-DAY PIPLU FAIR INAUGURATED IN KUTLEHAR, UNA DISTRICT.**

- The annual Piplu Fair began at the Nar Singh temple in Piplu village of the Kutlehar Assembly segment.

- The temple is located on the Solasinghi Dhaar.
- The Piplu Fair is held on the day of 'Nirjala Ekadashi'.
- Devotees from Una, Hamirpur and Kangra districts visit the temple during the fair to offer a part of their agriculture produce to deity.
- The fair has been given the status of a district-level fair by the Art, Language and Culture Department.

### **1.230. MANDI DISTRICT AWARDED FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT.**

- The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has conferred 'Certificate of Excellence' award on Mandi district for the District Skill Development Planning 2020-21.
- According to the Mandi Deputy Commissioner (DC), Arindam Chaudhari, Mandi was the only district from the state to make it to the best 30 districts selected from across the country.
- According to the DC, work was being done to strengthen the skill development ecosystem in the district through innovative scheme.
- Emphasis was being laid on skill upgradation of youth, while reiterating the administration's commitment to give impetus to the skill development work at the grassroots level.

### **1.231. THREE – DAY TOURISM FESTIVAL BEGINS AT SERAJ IN MANDI DISTRICT.**

- Jal Shakti Minister Mahender Singh Thakur inaugurated a three-day tourism festival at Janjehli in the Seraj Assembly segment in the Mandi district.
- On the first day, the main attractions of the festival were the tableaux made by various mahila mandals.
- Most these represented the art and culture of the area while others were on themes such as drugs and their ill-effects
- Students of Horticulture College gave the message of environmental protection while the Health Department spread awareness regarding the Covid pandemic.
- To connect unexplored tourist places in the state, the government is developing tourism activities under the **Nai Raahein, Nai Manzileen scheme**.

### **1.232. IN HIMACHAL, POCSO CASES UP 44% IN 6 YEARS**

- Himachal Pradesh has witnessed a 44.8 per cent rise over six years from 223 in 2016 to 323 in 2021 under the POCSO Act.
- According to data procured from the police department, as many as 2,164 persons, including 2,040 males and 124 females, were arrested in 1,683 cases registered under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act from 2016 till 2021.
- In all, 1,804 children, including 1,747 females and 57 males, were victimised.
- According to ASP, Cyber Crime easy access to sexually explicit material and pornographic sites on the Internet and glamorising physical contact in films and serials were some of the reasons contributing to increase in such cases.
- The Himachal police would launch an initiative **"Register 26"**—to record the cases of crime against women and children.
- Vital information about the accused, including their physical, social, economic and emotional profile, details of the crime, gist of the FIR and subsequent investigation would be recorded in the register.
- The POCSO Act was established in 2012 to protect the children against offences like sexual abuse, sexual harassment and pornography.

**1.233. KUTLEHAR IN UNA DISTRICT TO BE DEVELOPED AS HUB OF ADVENTURE SPORTS****ACTIVITIES:**

- Recently, a motor propelled paragliding trial run was conducted from Gharvasada paragliding take off point in Kutlehar Assembly segment.
- The site in Gharvasada village located on the Solasingi Dhaar mountain range was approved and notified about six months ago by the Himachal Pradesh Tourism and Civil Aviation department for undertaking paragliding adventure sports activities.
- While trials for paragliding were conducted earlier by expert pilots from the Adventure Sports Directorate in Manali, the motor propelled para gliders were tested for the first time here.
- According to Rural Development Minister Virender Kanwar the trials were successful.
- Regular paragliding and motor propelled paragliding activities would be launched from the Gharvasada launching site and the vast stretch of plains on the banks of Gobind Sagar Lake in Androuli village has been earmarked as the touchdown site.
- Various types of adventure water sports activities had been tested by experts from the Pong Dam water sports institute.
- Orders have been placed for procurement of boats and other equipment through the Kutlehar Tourism Development Society headed by Deputy Commissioner Una for use in water sports activities in the lake.
- Kutlehar will be developed as a hub of adventure sports activities, which will immensely benefit the local youth in providing alternate livelihood opportunities.

**1.234. NGO TO ORGANISE SPORTS FESTIVAL IN HAMIRPUR.**

- The Him Anchal Education and Welfare Society will organise a Khel Utsav in all gram panchayats of the Hamirpur constituency.
- The Khel Utsav would encourage the youth to stay away from drugs.
- It is a talent hunt programme to assess the potential of the players in sports.
- The games such as volleyball, kabaddi and cricket would be played in the festival.

**1.235. PLAN TO DOUBLE TEA PRODUCTION IN 5 YRS.**

- The Himachal Pradesh Government has launched an ambitious plan to double tea production in the next five years from 10,01,419 kg during 2021-22 to 20,00,000 kg by 2026-27.
- At present tea is being cultivated in 2310.71 hectares of areas in the lower slopes of Dhauladhar mountains in Dharamsala, Shahpur, Nagrota Bagwan, Palampur, Jaisinghpur, Baijnath and Jogindernagar.
- An additional area of 5.6 hectares was brought under fresh plantation during the year 2021-22 and a target has been fixed to bring additional 100 hectares area under commercial tea cultivation in the coming five years.
- Orchard integration of tea is also being explored for doubling farmers' income and offsetting area loss. The tea industry has contributed around Rs 20 crores to the economy of Himachal Pradesh during the last financial year providing direct and indirect employment to around 5,000 people in the state.

**1.236. CM PRESIDES OVER CLOSING CEREMONY OF SARANAHULI MELA AT PRASHAR IN DISTRICT MANDI.**

- CM presided over the closing ceremony of Saranahuli Mela organised at Prashar in District Mandi.

- While addressing a gathering in the premises of Prashar Rishi temple, the CM said that **Saranahuli Mela** has immense importance from spiritual, tourism, entertainment and trade point of view.
- He announced to include Prashar area under Nai Rahein Nai Manzilein scheme.

### **1.237. SECRETARY, DPIIT MEETS HIMACHAL STARTUPS.**

- The Department of Industries, Himachal Pradesh organized an interaction of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India, Anurag Jain with the startup incubators in the state at Dharamsala.
- He also inaugurated an exhibition of Startups in the state, wherein 24 startups showcased their ideas, products, services from different sectors (IT, Health, Food Technology, biotechnology, tourism, environmental science and technology, etc.).
- The Secretary, DPIIT, along with the Director of Industries, Himachal Pradesh, interacted with a group of 8 nodal officers from state incubation centres.

### **1.238. CM FLAGS OFF MOTORSPORT RALLY TO PROMOTE TOURISM IN CHAMBA.**

- Chief Minister flagged off the second edition of “Rally of Chamba”, a motorsport rally, on the police ground under the ‘Chalo Chamba Campaign-2021’.
- 100 motorists from about 18 states participated in this event.
- Deputy Commissioner DC Rana detailed various events being held under the ‘Chalo Chamba Campaign’.
- This rally would give a boost to the tourism development in the area.

### **1.239. BREEDING SEASON ON, FISHING IN PONG BANNED.**

- Fishing in the Pong Dam reservoir in lower Kangra district was banned for the next two month in view of fish breeding season. The ban which comes into effect every year from June 16 continues up to August 15.
- As per information, the Fisheries Department has deployed one flying squad and 18 patrolling teams to check illegal fishing during the breeding season.
- Apart from this, a power motor boat equipped with the latest techniques will also keep a vigil on illegal fishing in the reservoir.
- The patrolling teams will have its makeshift camps surrounding the Pong reservoir area.
- The department has engaged 24 outsourced workers, most of them fishermen, for undertaking this patrolling. Over 2,000 fishermen through 17 fisheries societies are licence holders and earn their livelihood by fishing.
- Sprawling over 24,000 hectares, the man-made water body, which is 42-km long and 19-km broad, is providing livelihood to nearly 2,800 fishermen.
- As per official information, the Pong reservoir is producing Singhara fish species which is around 60 per cent of the total fish production.
- It fetches the highest price among all species in the market. Apart from this, species of Rahu, Katla, Common Carpe and Mahasheer are also produced here which are in huge demand.
- During fish breeding season each fisherman will be paid Rs 4,500 for two month as off-season allowance-cum- compensatory financial relief in which the beneficiary will contribute Rs 1,500.
- The department is also providing free accidental insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh to every fisherman apart from providing quality fishing nets and boats at subsidized price to them.

### **1.240. INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL ‘UNMESH’ BEGINS IN SHIMLA.**

- Three-day international literary festival ‘Unmesh’ began at **Gaiety Theatre**.
- Over 425 writers, poets, translators, critics and distinguished personalities from 15 countries, representing over 60 languages will attend the event.



- Unmesh is being held for the first time and similar functions would be held in different parts of the country.
- The festival is being organised by the Union Ministry of Culture and the Sahitya Akademi with the support of the Himachal Pradesh Department of Art and Culture as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- According to the organisers, **Unmesh' — a celebration of expression** — is the biggest international literary festival in the country so far.
- More than 1,000 books related to the freedom movement will be displayed during the event.

#### **1.241. SHRI GANPATI MANDIR BHATWARI AND DEV SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN MANDIR IN MANDI DISTRICT TO BE DEVELOPED FROM TOURISM POINT OF VIEW.**

- Chief Minister announced that necessary budget provision would be made by the Language, Arts and Culture Department for Dev Shri Ganpati Mandir Bhatwari and Dev Shri Laxmi Narayan Mandir Kot Khamaradha so that it could be developed from a tourism point of view.
- **Dev Darshan Samaroh'** was held at Shri Dev Ganpati Temple at Bhatwari in Drang Vidhan Sabha area of Mandi district.

#### **1.242. HIMACHAL WINS SKOCH E-GOVERNANCE AWARD FOR REVENUE, FINANCE.**

##### **KEY POINTS:**

- The Himachal Pradesh government has won first prize in the finance and revenue categories nationally in the SKOCH State of Governance Report 2021.
- According to CM, State was chosen for the award because of several initiatives taken by the state government by implementing the HP-VAT- IT Project in the state and introducing around 31 online services, reductions and rationalization of business-related compliance burden on taxpayers and other stakeholders.
- Despite covid restrictions, the department has collected around Rs 8,500 crores during the financial year 2021-22 against the collections of around Rs 7,000 crores during the last financial year which is more than 20 percent.
- This substantial increase in revenue is due to proactive measures taken up by the department, providing ICT based hardware and software to the field authorities, imparting regular knowledge, training to the field officers and stakeholders for better compliance in a time bound and transparent manner.
- The department also won the SKOCH award for the implementation of the Excise e-governance project leaving behind other states.

#### **1.243. CM INAUGURATES Rs 2.40 CR PARK IN SHIMLA CITY.**

##### **KEY POINTS:**

- CM inaugurated a park near Oakover, his official residence, in Shimla. The park, which has been constructed at a cost of Rs 2.40 crore under the AMRUT Mission, has facilities such as open gym, playground, ramp for specially-abled and waterfall.
- The park also boasts of a storage tank with a capacity of 1.14 lakh litre to irrigate the plants. Two crore Rupees would be spent on the development of the park in second phase under the Smart City Mission.
- The park has more than 30 species of plants and pine trees in order to conserve the flora.
- Roads are being widened and more parking lots are being constructed to facilitate the resident and the tourists
- The park was an important step toward the beautification of the city.

#### **1.244. FARMERS GIVEN FLOWER PLANT SEEDS IN MANDI.**

- The Enabling Women of Kamand Valley Society (EWOK) and IIT-Mandi are organising farmers of the surrounding areas into farmer producer companies (FPC) supported by NABARD.

- EWOK organises interactive sessions to bring all stakeholders together to address the issues faced by farmers of Mandi district regarding the cultivation of tagetes, a plant.
- The last session was held on June 7. They distributed seeds to 60 farmers.
- The **CSIR IHBT** has provided the oil extraction unit from **Mission Aroma** and **IIT Mandi** has provided **land** to install an oil extraction unit and other support.

#### **1.245. PHASE-I OF SHIMLA SMART CITY PROJECT ALMOST OVER.**

- According to the executing agency, the first phase of the Shimla Smart City project —Which will connect Vikas Nagar to Chhota Shimla through a network of lifts, foot overbridges and skywalk — will be completed by June-end.
- Ropeway and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation (RRTSDC) is executing the project.
- The three-phased project will comprise works of three lifts and three foot overbridges.
- The work on the second phase in terms of designs, etc, has begun.
- The next two phases will be completed in 18 months. Once the project is over, it will ease traffic on the steep, congested and busy Vikasnagar-Chhota Shimla road.
- Besides, the corporation is executing a few other major Smart City projects in the city, including a lift from Lakkar Bazar to the Mall Road and an escalator at Jakhu.

#### **1.246. SHRIKHAND MAHADEV YATRA IN KULLU DISTRICT.**

- The religiously significant and one of the most difficult pilgrimages Shrikhand Yatra to the **18,570 feet Shrikhand Mahadev peak** in Anni of **Kullu district** will be organised from July 11 to 24.
- Devotees reach Shrikhand by trekking about 25 km. The trek takes around 3 to 5 days starting from Jaon in Nirmand.
- Five base camps would be set up during the journey in which facilities of registration, medical check-up, information related to the yatra, rescue teams, emergency equipment, medicines, etc, would be available.
- Many pilgrims have lost their lives in the past while undertaking the strenuous trek.

#### **1.247. WORKS WORTH Rs 63 CRORE DEDICATED AT NIT, HAMIRPUR.**

- Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister, dedicated development works of over Rs 63 crores at National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur.
- He inaugurated a computer centre established at cost of Rs 47.11 crore and e-classroom built at cost of Rs. 16.62 crore.
- Apart from regular courses institute did its best in discharging social responsibility by disseminating technical and digital knowledge for the society.
- The institute had also incubated a number of start-ups that helped youth for entrepreneurship.

#### **1.248. GREY CROWNED PRINIA, A RARE SPECIES OF BIRD FOUND IN MAZATHAL OF SOLAN.**

- In the Majathal wildlife area of Solan district of Himachal Pradesh, a rare species of bird named Gray Croud Preenia has been found.
- The name of this bird is not recorded till date in the records of the Wildlife Department of Himachal Pradesh. This rare species of bird is found in Uttarakhand.
- The current threat to this bird is due to the fire in the pine leaves and this bird could be at risk of burns.
- Apart from this, the cement factory adjoining the forest also threatened this bird.

#### **1.249. LUDDAR MAHADEV FAIR HELD IN HAMIRPUR.**

- The Luddar Mahadev Fair that was discontinued following Covid was organised after the permission of the High Court.

- According to president of the organizing committee, the HC had granted permission with certain conditions and a payment of Rs 11,000 to be deposited to the school welfare fund.
- More than 10,000 from nearby villages participated in the fair.
- This would help in preserving old traditions.

### **1.250. JUSTICE AMJAD AHTESHAM SAYED TO BE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH HIGH COURT.**

- Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed of the Bombay High Court has been appointed Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.
- The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended his name on May 17, 2022.
- Born on January 21, 1961, Justice Sayed did LLB from Bombay University in 1984.
- He was an assistant government pleader, Bombay High Court, original side.
- He appeared in PILs related to mangroves, garbage dumping, free/concessional medical treatment for the poor in charitable hospitals, bio-medical waste and malnutrition on behalf of Union of India/state government.
- A keen sports enthusiast, he was on the panel of several public undertakings.
- Justice Sayed was appointed Judge of the Bombay High Court on April 11, 2007.

### **1.251. DISPOSE OF RTI PLEAS IN GIVEN TIME: CIC**

- According to, State Chief Information Commissioner Narinder Chauhan, around 90,000 applications are received under the Right to Information (RTI) Act every year in the state.
- The RTI Act was playing an important role in strengthening public participation in the democratic process and ensuring transparency and accountability in governance and administration.
- The service providers had also been sensitised and people were also getting benefits of the Act.
- The Documents available in the office should be listed in a systematic manner. The compliance of various financial rules and office manuals should be ensured in office document management.
- He also replied to queries and addressed doubts about various aspects related to the Act while interacting with the officers. He asked them to ensure timely disposal of applications received under the RTI Act.
- The officers were instructed to avoid the tendency of unnecessary secrecy. People should be aware of all decisions that affect their lives.

### **1.252. IIT MANDI AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL COLLABORATIONS ON ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES.**

- IIT, Mandi is located in Kamand valley of Mandi District.
- IIT Mandi and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea have announced plans to explore potential collaborations on academic and research programmes.
- Y J Park, director, Indo-Korean Center for Research and Innovation (IKCRI), New Delhi, and Shri Hyo Hee Lee, the Science and Technology attaché at the embassy of the Republic of Korea, recently visited IIT Mandi.
- The two-day trip includes discussions on potential collaborations between IIT Mandi and the Korean Universities.

### **1.253. HIMACHAL-CADRE IPS OFFICER TAPAN KUMAR DEKA APPOINTED AS THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE BUREAU.**

- The government appointed Tapan Kumar Deka, a 1988-batch Himachal Pradesh-cadre IPS officer, as the Director, Intelligence Bureau, and extended the tenure of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Goel, a 1984-batch Punjab-cadre IPS officer, till June 30 next year.
- As per an order issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Deka will have a tenure of two years. He will replace Arvinda Kumar, a 1984-batch IPS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, whose tenure ends on June 30.
- Deka is currently the head of the IB's operations wing. He has a vast experience in dealing with issues like terrorism and religious radicalisation. He had led operations against Indian Mujahideen and credited with breaking its back.

#### **1.254. AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR GETS ABDUL KALAM AWARD.**

- Dr Janardan Singh, Head of Department of Organic Agriculture and Natural Farming at Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University (HPAU), Palampur, has been conferred with the prestigious Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award for his contribution in the field of teaching and research.
- He was felicitated at the 13th International conference on Agriculture, Horticulture and Plant Sciences that was organised by the Society of Tropical Agriculture in New Delhi.
- He also presented a paper on natural farming at the conference. He has been teaching for over 30 years.

#### **1.255. GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK (GHNP) CELEBRATES 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD HERITAGE TAG.**

- A two-day event 'Vishwa Dharohar Utsav', which was organised to celebrate the ninth anniversary of the day when Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) got the status of world heritage site (WHS) from the UNESCO, concluded at Sai Ropa in Banjar, Kullu.
- The deliberate discussions were held on wildlife conservation and management, ecotourism, community involvement, rescue and release of wild animals, institutional capacity building in wild life and such other related subjects.
- GHNP was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2014, in recognition of its outstanding significance for biodiversity conservation.
- The park protects over 1,000 plant species, including many medicinal herbs, 31 mammal species and 209 bird species, as well as amphibians, reptiles and insects.
- Four of GHNP's mammal species and three of its bird species are globally threatened, including the musk deer and the western horned tragopan.

#### **1.256. SATLUJ JAL VIDUYAT NIGAM (SJVN) BAGS SWACHHTA AWARD 2022.**

- The Award is conferred by Ministry of Power to the CPSUs for their outstanding contribution to the country-wide campaign Swachh Bharat Abhiyan initiated by Government of India.
- All the Public Sector Undertakings under Ministry of Power are evaluated on the basis of activities carried out during Swachhta Pakhwada.
- During Swachhta Pakhwada held from 16-31st May 2022, SJVN had formulated Swachhta Pakhwada Action Plan to undertake various activities across all its project locations & offices in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- This included awareness campaigns, special drive to encourage eco-friendly material instead of plastic, tree plantation drives, installation of dustbins in public places and cleaning up of rivers situated nearby Project's area, distribution of sanitization/personal hygiene materials in local communities etc.



- In addition to cleanliness drives for promoting segregation of waste, vermicomposting, reuse of waste water for agriculture etc. and to increase public awareness motivational speeches, nukaad nataks, competitions and awareness programs were organized.
- Along with short term impact programs, long term impact programs such as construction of multipurpose Check Dam at Nahan, Bio-diversity Park in Shimla, river cleanliness drives are also being executed by SJVN.
- Sh. Nand Lal Sharma is the Chairman & Managing Director of the SJVN.

### **1.257. NATION-BUILDERS AWARD FOR MANDI'S TEACHER:**

- The Avishkar Foundation, Solapur, Maharashtra, declared the Avishkar Achievers Award-2022 felicitating personalities in different categories across the country.
- The Best Nation-Builders Teacher Award has been given to Flying Officer Dr Chaman Lal Kranti Singh, an assistant Professor cum head, department of journalism and mass communication, Vallabh Government College, Mandi.
- He is a member of the Cable Regulation Act 1995.
- He holds the rank of Flying Officer in the NCC Air Force Squadron of Himachal Pradesh.
- He is actively engaged in teaching, research, community development, programme, adventure sports, and institutional training of NCC Air force cadets.

### **1.258. POSTMAN WHO COVERS 32 KM DAILY IN LAHAUL GETS MEGHDOOT AWARD.**

- Prem Lal, a postman from Himachal Pradesh, who covers 32 km daily to give mail to people in the far reaches of Lahaul bagged the prestigious Meghdoot Award of the Department of Posts.
- Instituted in 1984, the award is the highest recognition of the Department of Posts at the national level for overall performance and excellence of its employees. This award is conferred in eight separate categories and carries a medallion, certificate and a cash award of Rs 21,000.
- Posted as a mail runner in Mandi division, Prem Lal covers the Udaipur Shalgran Mail Line of Lahaul, which spans a distance of 32 km. His work involves moving across difficult terrains at an altitude of over 9,000 feet.
- Prem Lal was among the eight awardees, which also saw the government launch 'Dak Karmayogi', an e-learning portal of the Department of Posts to impart digital training to four lakhs rural 'gramin sewaks' of the government.

### **1.259. HIMACHAL PRADESH TO BUY PLASTIC WASTE FROM STUDENTS.**

- With the ban on single-use plastic all set to be implemented nationwide from July 1, the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) has come out with a buyback policy for plastic waste.
- As many as 100 eco club schools — about 10 from rural and urban areas in each district — have been identified for the buyback scheme. Students from Class VI onwards are members of such clubs.
- Being the state nodal agency for the National Green Corps, a programme conceptualised by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the HIMCOSTE has formed eco clubs in 3,000 schools and 100 colleges.
- The waste thus collected will be put to use in road construction through the Public Works Department and also sent to cement plants where it is used as fuel.
- Those heading the clubs will have to coordinate with civic bodies concerned and the block development officer for collection and final disposal of the waste.
- Under the Novel eco scheme, Waste to be bought at Rs 75 a kg; Rs 50 lakh marked for plan and Max 50 kg waste/month to be bought from each club.

**1.260. HEALTHY PUNCH, HIMACHAL MAY DISH OUT APPLES IN SCHOOLS & HOSPITALS.**

- The Himachal Government is considering the inclusion of apple in mid-day meals in schools and anganwadis and in meals served to patients in hospitals.
- According to Mahender Singh, Horticulture Minister, "We are expecting a higher yield this time. The availability of this nutritious fruit will benefit both students and patients. We are also thinking of making the fruit available in small packing of 2-6 kg for sale at hotels. This will not only help the growers, but also benefit the tourists as they will get good quality fruit at reasonable prices.
- Growers welcomed this move from government and want the govt to list procurement norms.
- According to the minister the processing unit at Parala, Shimla would be made functional before July 31. This will ensure that much of the apple procured through the market intervention scheme and taken to Parwanoo be used up at Parala itself.

**1.261. AGROFORESTRY EXPERT DR DR BHARDWAJ BAGS GOLD MEDAL.**

- DR Bhardwaj of Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni, has been bestowed with the Indian Society of Agroforestry (ISAF) Gold Medal for 2019.
- Bhardwaj is Principal Scientist in the Department of Silviculture and Agroforestry of the university.
- The award was given during the executive council meeting of the ISAF held recently at Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi.
- Bhardwaj, carrying over 27 years of teaching and research experience, has guided 37 students in the field of agroforestry and silviculture.
- According to the university, he has several research achievements to his credit, including the development of propagation and plantation technology of many tree species of the Himalayan region.
- He has introduced edible bamboo species which are in great demand among the farming community. Several agroforestry models for the state have been developed by him.
- The scientist has also developed regression models for the estimation of the timber, fodder and fuel wood production potential of farmland tree species.
- The ISAF was founded in 1998 to encourage basic, applied and strategic research in agroforestry.

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## OTHER IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

1. The government's sugar exports ban has come into effect starting till the end of the festive season in October. India is the largest producer of sugar in the world but also consumes most of the sweetener it produces.
2. Two-day National Education Ministers' Conference begins in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
3. Eminent playback singer KK passes away; Vice President, PM, HM and I&B Minister express grief.
4. The Inspector General BSF- Regional Commander BGB level Border Coordination Conference between India and Bangladesh started in Sylhet on Monday. The four day conference will conclude on June 2, said an official press release of the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).
5. The Indian Navy will bid farewell to its two ships INS Nishank and INS Akshay, at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai tomorrow. Both the ships will be decommissioned at Naval Dockyard after 32 years of being at the forefront of safeguarding the maritime interests of the nation.
6. In Asia Cup men's hockey 2022 at Jakarta, team India produced a gritty performance to beat Japan 1-0 and claimed the bronze medal.
7. Flower lovers will now be able to see flowers in the world-famous UNESCO heritage site, Valley of Flowers of Uttarakhand as it has been opened for tourists. All preparations have been completed by Nanda Devi National Park.
8. The theme of World Milk Day 2022 is to "Dairy Net Zero" bring attention to the climate change crisis and how the dairy sector can reduce its impact on the planet.
9. Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhama wins with record margin of 55,025 votes in Champawat Assembly By-poll.
10. Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launches nationwide programmes on World Bicycle Day.
11. Noted Bollywood singer KK (Krishnakumar Kunnath) who mesmerized music lovers for over three decades is no more.
12. India and Senegal sign MoUs for cultural exchange, cooperation in youth matters and visa free regime for officials.
13. President Ram Nath Kovind has reached Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh to participate in the Centenary Celebrations of the Gita Press, the world's largest publisher of Hindu religious books.
14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend a programme on 'Save Soil Movement' at Vigyan Bhawan on Sunday at 11 AM on the occasion of World Environment Day.
15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Japan this evening on a two day visit to Japan to participate in the Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo. Apart from participating in the Quad Summit on Tuesday, Mr Modi will hold bilateral meetings with US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese, and Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida.
16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a global initiative 'Lifestyle for the Environment, LiFE, Movement' tomorrow at 6 PM via video conferencing. The programme will witness the participation of Bill Gates, Co-Chairman, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Climate Economist Lord Nicholas Stern and other noted personalities.

17. PM inaugurates Iconic Week Celebrations of Finance, Corporate Affairs ministries, launches 'Jan Samarth' Portal.
18. India beat Poland 6-4 in final to clinch the inaugural FIH Hockey 5s championship in Lausanne in Switzerland.
19. Rafael Nadal wins French Open title beating Casper Ruud 6-3, 6-3, 6-0.
20. India is aiming to double Marine Product exports from 50,000 crore to 1 lakh crore rupees within next 5 years: Piyush Goyal.
21. Male tiger "Kumbha" dies in Ranthambore tiger reserve. Kumbha who was also known as -T 34 was 16 years old and used to roam around in Kundal, Chidi Khoh forest area of the tiger reserve.
22. French Open: Iga Swiatek Dominates in Final to Win Championship. Swiatek, who defeated Coco Gauff in the final at Roland Garros, has been the most dominant force in women's tennis the past four months.
23. President Ram Nath Kovind will host the Visitor's Conference 2022 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. He will present the Visitor's Awards 2020 in the categories of Research and Technological Development.
24. India successfully tested the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Agni-4. The successful training launch of Agni-4, was carried out from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
25. Home Minister Amit Shah Inaugurated the newly-built National Tribal Research Institute at India Institute of Public Administration Campus in New Delhi. He said, government is taking several measure for the development of tribal communities and help the government in framing the policy.
26. British PM Boris Johnson wins confidence vote initiated by fellow Conservative Party lawmakers over partygate scandal.
27. In Wrestling, India ended their campaign at the Bolat Turlykhanov Cup at Almaty in Khazakstan on the second position with 12 medals. This included a tally of six golds, one silver, and five bronze medals in total. Iran topped the medal tally with 14 medals
28. An elephant rescue centre has been established by the forest department of Bihar at Valmiki Tiger Reserve at West Champaran district of Bihar.
29. The Tamil Nadu government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) for obtaining life certificate from pensioners through doorstep services of the Postal Department.
30. In Rajasthan, a Special Health Care Abhiyan 'Anchal' has been launched in the Karauli district for pregnant women.
31. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is set to roll out 'door-to-door Aadhaar seva'. For this purpose, around 48,000 postmen are being trained.
32. RBI increases repo rate by 50 basis points to 4.90%; forecasts 6.7% inflation for 2023; Real GDP growth rate pegged at 7.2 percent.
33. PM Modi to inaugurate Biotech Startup Expo-2022 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
34. Indian shooter Avani Lekhara strikes gold at Para Shooting World Cup in France with record score.
35. Mithali Raj announces retirement, draws curtains to glorious 23-year-long international career.
36. The Election Commission of India today announced the schedule for the Election of the 16th President of India. the poll will be held on the 18th of July. The counting will be taken up on the 21st of July. The term of office of President Ram Nath Kovind is ending on the 24th of next month.
37. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat tomorrow to participate in 'Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan' programme. He will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of development initiatives worth about three thousand fifty crore rupees at Khudvel, a tribal region in Navsari district.
38. European Parliament votes to ban sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2035 to fight climate change.



39. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approves increase of at least 1.5 times in MSP for Kharif crops for Marketing Season 2022-23.
40. MD of Hindalco Industries, Satish Pai has been appointed as the new chairman of International Aluminium Institute (IAI).
41. Alok Kumar Choudhary has taken charge as the new Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI).
42. President Kovind to attend 6th Convocation of Central University of Himachal Pradesh at Dharamshala.
43. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin unveiled the mascot and the logo named 'Thambi' for FIDE Chess Olympiad in Chennai last evening. 'Thambi' in Tamil means younger brother. The international event will be held at Mamallapuram near Chennai from 28th July to August 10. Over two thousand players from 186 countries will be taking part in the event. The biggest ever contingent from India is playing in this edition.
44. Indian cricket star Virat Kohli has crossed the 200 million followers mark on the social media site Instagram.
45. World Brain Tumour Day is observed every year on 8 June with an aim to create awareness about brain tumours. The theme of World Tumor Day is 'Together We Are Stronger'.
46. QS World University Rankings 2023: IISc-Bengaluru is top research varsity in India.
47. President Ram Nath Kovind has arrived in Bengaluru today for a two-day official visit to the state. He will participate in the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Rashtriya Military School in Bengaluru later in the day. The military school was started by the British in 1946.
48. India, Bangladesh jointly celebrate birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam in Beijing.
49. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Yantra Seva Scheme and flagged off the distribution of tractors and combine harvesters at Chuttugunta Centre in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
50. Dharmendra Pradhan launched India's largest educational metaverse 'Polyversity' & Bharat Blockchain Network.
51. Rajkot in Gujarat, Cachar in Assam and Satara in Maharashtra ranked top three among all participating districts in 2nd edition of Awards for Excellence in District Skill Development Planning (DSDP). Out of 700 districts across the country, 467 districts participated in DSDP Awards.
52. Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the country's first homegrown COVID-19 vaccine "Anocovax" for animals, developed by Haryana-based ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (NRC).
53. Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the National Museum of Customs and GST "Dharohar" in Goa as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic week of the Ministry of Finance, being celebrated from June 6 to 12.
54. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted an India-sponsored resolution on multilingualism that mentions the Hindi language for the first time. The resolution passed encourages the UN to continue disseminating important communications and messages in official as well as in non-official languages, including in Hindi language. The resolution also mentions Bangla and Urdu for the first time.
55. Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated a cancer diagnostics and research centre here, which is slated to be the country's first oncology laboratory for comprehensive cancer diagnostic services.

56. Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations has been appointed as the Under Secretary General of the United Nations.
57. Industrialist and philanthropist, Ratan Tata was presented with Honorary Doctor of Literature by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at Raj Bhavan Mumbai.  
The Honorary doctorate was presented to Mr. Ratan at the First Special Convocation of the HSNL University. The Governor said the honour for Ratan Tata is in effect the honour of the entire Tata family and Tata Group.
58. The 12th World Trade Organization's (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC12) opened at WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. During the four-day meeting, members of the trade organization will hold discussions on such issues as TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, pandemic response, fishery subsidies, agriculture, food security, as well as the WTO's reform and its future work priorities.
59. PM instructs recruitment of 10 lakh people be done by govt in mission mode in next 1.5 years.
60. Centre announces AGNIPATH Scheme for recruitment of youth in the Armed Forces. Over forty six thousand Agniveers to be recruited this year. This is a major defence policy reform introduced by the Government to usher in a new era in the Human Resource policy of the three services. The policy, which comes into immediate effect, will govern the enrollment for the three services.
61. Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has launched "Start-Ups for Railways" in New Delhi. This Start-Ups policy aims to leverage innovative technologies developed by Indian Startups, MSMEs, Innovators and Entrepreneurs to improve operational efficiency and safety of Indian Railways.
62. India will host two-day Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' meeting starting tomorrow. This will be the first meeting hosted by India in New Delhi. It will be accompanied by 12th Edition of Delhi Dialogue.
63. The first ever service of the theme-based Bharat Gaurav Train started its journey from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi yesterday. Indian Railways launched the operation of the theme-based Bharat Gaurav train in November 2021. Its objective was to showcase the country's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places.
64. Indian government has finalised deals with South Africa and Namibia to get the planet's fastest animals, cheetahs that became extinct in India and will be released into the wild at Kuno Palpur, Madhya Pradesh, by the end of 2022.
65. The ultra luxury Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal in Karnataka's capital city Bengaluru was made operational. The Ernakulam Tri-Weekly Express chugged through the station to mark this special occasion.
66. OmniCard becomes 1st RBI licensed PPI to launch cash withdrawal across all ATMs PAN India.
67. Short-Range Ballistic Missile Prithvi-II, successfully tested at Chandipur, Odisha.
68. US central bank has announced its biggest interest rate rise in nearly 30 years to rein in surging inflation. It is the largest rate hike since 1994, and will affect millions of American businesses and households, pushing up the cost of borrowing for homes, cars and other loans in order to force a slowdown in the economy.
69. Indian para-powerlifters Manpreet Kaur and Parmjeet Kumar have won bronze medals on the opening day of World Para-powerlifting 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships at Pyeongtaek in South Korea.
70. Bhubaneswar to host India's group stage matches of FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Football in October. Matches will be held at Kalinga Stadium.
71. World Sea Turtle Day is observed every year on June 16. This day is celebrated to save this aquatic species from extinction. It highlights the importance of sea turtles in the marine system.

72. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed on June 15 every year to raise awareness about abuse and neglect of older persons and raise awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.
73. Danish badminton ace Viktor Axelsen clinched the men's singles title at the Indonesia Masters, beating Taiwan's Chou Tien-chen in straight sets. In the women's singles, China's Chen Yufei clinched the title at the Indonesia Masters.
74. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Jagatguru Sreesant Tukaram Maharaj Shila Mandir at Dehu Village near Pune, dedicated to the 17th-century seer.
75. Defence Minister, Home Minister welcome decision to extend upper age limit for Agnipath scheme from 21 to 23 yrs.
76. Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has proposed setting up of Innovation Bank for new ideas, research findings and technologies to focus on quality in infrastructure development.
77. Seventy-five beaches of the country will be cleaned up to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The coastal clean-up drive will be carried out in the country for 75 days from 3rd of July to 17th of September of this year. The drive is aimed at removing one thousand 500 tonnes of garbage from the coasts.
78. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav addresses Desertification and Drought Day-2022 in New Delhi.
79. Online helicopter booking service portal launched for Amarnath Yatra.
80. Chinese President Xi Jinping will host the 14th BRICS Summit in Beijing on 23rd of June. The summit will be held in virtual format under the theme of 'Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development'. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying announced.
81. 47th Meeting of the GST Council on June 28-29 in Srinagar.
82. Google announced a startup accelerator program for women founders. The program will help them address challenges such as fundraising and hiring. Google for Startups Accelerator India – Women Founders will run from Jul-2022 to Sep-2022.
83. US president Joe Biden is expected to name Arati Prabhakar as the head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).
84. The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and is observed on 16 June.
85. India will get 5G services – 10 times faster than 4G – by March 2023, union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
86. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Brain Cell Research Centre in Bengaluru and also Super Computing Facility, laid the foundation stone for Bagchi Parthasarathy Hospital, unveiled the statue of Dr B. R. Ambedkar at Bangalore University campus in the premises of Dr B. R. Ambedkar School of Economics University.
87. Gustavo Petro elected Colombia's President; Francia Marquez, to be the country's first black woman Vice President.
88. Cricket: India Vs South Africa T-20 International series ends in a draw.
89. Neeraj Chopra clinches gold in 2022 Kuortane Games in Finland.
90. Japan has participated in NATO Summit in Madrid for the first time in June 2022.
91. Former Supreme Court judge Justice (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai has been appointed as chairperson of the Press Council of India, the self-regulatory watchdog for print media.
92. Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud appointed a former chairman of the Jubbaland state election commission, Hamza Abdi Barre as the Prime Minister.
93. International Day for Countering Hate Speech falls on June 18.



94. Eighth International Day of Yoga being celebrated across the world at Mysuru in Karnataka. Over 15 thousand participants are expected to do yoga along with the Prime Minister. Crores of people will participate in various International Day of Yoga programs being organized in India and the world.
95. Jens Stoltenberg is a Norwegian politician serving since 2014 as the 13th secretary general of NATO.
96. Delhi University student Rajiv Goswami setting himself on fire during the Mandal Commission agitation that intensified the protests leading to VP Singh government's resignation, passed away.
97. Renowned US-Canadian author, film-maker, and Zen Buddhist priest Ruth Ozeki has won the Women's Prize for Fiction this year for her novel 'The Book of Form and Emptiness'
98. Red Bull's Max Verstappen narrowly claimed his sixth victory of the Formula 1 season after withstanding pressure from Ferrari's Carlos Sainz in the closing stages of the Canadian Grand Prix.
99. Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri has launched an innovative project National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers (NIPUN) For Promotion Of Upskilling Of 1 Lakh Nirman Workers in New Delhi.
100. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the license of Millath Co-operative Bank Ltd., Davangere in Karnataka.
101. Selling price of bank notes in the denomination of ₹20, ₹50, ₹100 and ₹200 has gone up in FY22. Selling price for 1,000 pieces of ₹50 recorded a maximum increase of around 23 per cent in FY22 over FY21, while that of ₹20 registered the lowest increase of a little over 1 per cent, according to information sourced through RTI from the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd (BRBNML).
102. In the Indian Coast Guard, a new air squadron known as 840 Squadron was established in Chennai, with an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark-III aircraft as its first aircraft.
103. On the occasion of International Yoga Day, the AYUSH ministry has announced to give the 'Prime Minister's Award for Outstanding Contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yoga' for 2022 to Two individuals Bhikkhu Sanghasena from Ladakh, Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues from Brazil and two organisations, "The Divine Life Society" from Uttarakhand and the British Wheel of Yoga from United Kingdom have been chosen for award. They will also receive ₹25 lakh as cash prize, a trophy and a certificate.
104. International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice is observed globally on 21st June. The Summer Solstice is the shortest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere and the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
105. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched communication satellite GSAT-24 from Kourou in French Guiana early this morning. GSAT-24, built by ISRO for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), was launched by French company Arianespace.
106. PM Modi inaugurates Commerce & Industry Ministry's new premises Vanijya Bhawan in New Delhi.
107. The Department of Mining Engineering successfully conducted a three-day conference on Challenges in Safety and Environmental Management in Mines.
108. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his Punya Tithi.
109. International Olympic Day is celebrated on June 23rd across the globe. The day is primarily celebrated to commemorate the birth of modern Olympic Games.
110. New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has appointed Dr. D.J. Pandian as the Director General of its India Regional Office in Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT City).
111. With the aim to appreciate the value of public institutions and public servants, June 23 is observed as United Nations Public Service Day.
112. Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy launched "Jyotirgamaya" festival in New Delhi. Sangeet Natak Akademi organised this festival as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and on the occasion of World



Music Day to highlight the talent of rare musical instruments from all across the country, including street performers and train entertainers.

113. G7 leaders pledge 600 billion for developing countries.
114. Noted lyricist, author and journalist, Chowalloor Krishnankutty passed away.
115. Iran has launched a solid-fueled rocket into space. Defense Ministry Spokesman Ahmad Hosseini said Zuljanah, a 25.5 meter-long rocket, is capable of carrying a satellite of 220 kilograms that will ultimately gather data in low-earth orbit and promote Iran's space industry. Zuljanah is named for the horse of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.
116. The World Bank has approved a project worth ₹1,000 crore for taking rain-fed farming to new heights in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand.
117. In Gujarat, the Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has launched the 17th 'Shala Praveshotsav', the drive to enrol students in primary schools in the state.
118. India recorded 14.28 Mbps median mobile download speeds in the month of May, slightly better than 14.19 Mbps in April 2022. With this, the country is now three notches up in its global ranking and is at 115th position.
119. Prime Minister Narendra Modi leaves for United Arab Emirates after successful visit to Germany. During his visit to the UAE Prime Minister will pay his personal condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former UAE President and Abu Dhabi Ruler. He will also congratulate Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his election as the new President of UAE.
120. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised that India's approach had transitioned from 'women's development' to 'women-led development'. He said this while addressing the G7 Session on food security and gender equality.
121. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expresses grief on the passing away of business tycoon Pallonji Mistry.
122. Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has said that the government will make it mandatory for carmakers to provide a minimum of six airbags in motor vehicles that can carry up to eight passengers.
123. Union Home Minister Amit Shah to inaugurate the National Conference on 'Human Rights in Indian Culture and Philosophy' IN New Delhi. He will also present the NHRC human rights short film competition- 2021 awards. NHRC is organizing the two-day Conference in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar will be the Chief Guest of the Valedictory session.
124. Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar has inaugurated the newly set up incubation facility at Nirma University in Ahmedabad.
125. Recognised as the "bird village" following community-driven conservation efforts, Menar in Udaipur district is set to be notified as Rajasthan's new wetland. This will pave the way for getting the Ramsar site status for this rural heartland of the Mewar region. The two lakes in the village – the Brahma and Dhandh – play host to a large number of migratory birds in the winter season every year.
126. Anil Khanna appointed the acting President of IOA.
127. The Kerala health department has unveiled its largest-ever health insurance scheme named Medical Insurance Scheme for State Employees and Pensioners (MEDISEP) which will be effective from July 1st. As per the scheme, the beneficiary will be entitled to Rs.3 lakh each year.
128. Mo Bus, Odisha-based public transport service has been honored with a prestigious United Nations award, for their role and efforts in helping the world recover better from Covid19.
129. Tata Power Solar has launched India's largest floating solar power project in Kayamkulam, Kerala on a 350-acre water body, backwaters area, having an installed capacity of 101.6 Megawatt Peak.

130. Union minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari has approved the Draft GSR Notification to introduce Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program), wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings based upon their performance in Crash Tests.
131. Tapan Kumar Deka appointed as new Director of Intelligence Bureau.
132. Samant Kumar Goel re-appointed as Chief of R&AW.
133. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for the Government of India, left for Portugal to attend the Lisbon UN Ocean Conference, 2022. On the topic of Scaling up Ocean Action based on Science and Innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stock taking, Partnerships and Solutions, he will give the conference's keynote presentation. The Conference will have participants from more than 130 nations.
134. ICICI Bank launched a digital platform 'Campus Power', first-of-its-kind to address the needs of the students aspiring to pursue higher education in India and abroad.
135. Avinash Kulkarni was selected to head the India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL) recently.
136. India's female discus thrower Navjeet Dhillon clinched the gold medal at the Qosanov Memorial 2022 athletics meet in Kazakhstan.
137. Karnataka State Government has chosen former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna, N.R. Narayana Murthy of Infosys and former Indian badminton player Prakash Padukone for the first edition of 'Kempegowda International Award'.
138. The Vice Presidential Election will be held on the 6th of August. In a statement, the Election Commission of India ECI said, notification for the election will be issued on 5th July and nominations can be filed till 19th of next month.
139. India has successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed high-speed expendable aerial target - ABHYAS, from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Odisha coast. The performance of the aircraft at low altitude, including sustained level and high maneuverability, was demonstrated during the test flight.
140. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has resigned, ahead of today's trust vote in the state assembly. The move comes after the Supreme Court refused to stay the floor-test that was to take place today as directed by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.
141. Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat: Himachal Pradesh Students to visit Rasa Gurukul in Kerala
142. Ferdinand Marcos Jr has been sworn in as the President of the Philippines in Manila today. He succeeded the outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte. Sara Duterte, the daughter of the outgoing president, is being sworn in as vice-president.
143. The Union Government has authorised the State Bank of India for issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches from tomorrow to 10th of July.
144. Indian tennis great, Vijay Amritraj has been named the 2021 recipient of the Golden Achievement Award by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and International Tennis Federation.





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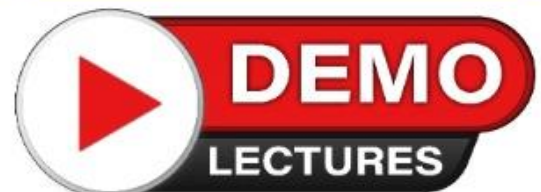
# HPAS 2023

## Batch 5

**STARTING FROM 30TH MAY 2022**

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